



St Michael Orthodox Christian Church

Whittier, California | StMichaelWhittier.org | 562.692.6121

V. Rev. John W. Fenton, Pastor [Pastor@stmichaelwhittier.org]
Sdn Simon Yoo, Pastoral Assistant [PastorAssist@stmichaelwhittier.org]

A Western Rite Vicariate Parish in The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop JOHN
Auxiliary Bishop of the
Western Rite Vicariate

St Luke the Evangelist

Mihi autem

XX SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

18 October 2026

THE SEVENTY Jesus sent out were sent to proclaim the Lord's peace in the face of all sorts of physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional crises. They were to announce that God's kingdom was near; that peace on earth had arrived; and that people simply needed to believe that the invisible Father with His angels and saints is more real and present than what we see or hear.

According to tradition, St Luke was one of those seventy. So he had heard Christ first-hand, and dispersed His saving Gospel. But as a scholar, that was not enough for Luke. So he interviews the Blessed Virgin Mother, as well as St Paul, to give us an icon in brilliant colors of Our Lord and the peace He is and brings.

The icon that St Luke paints, both with his pen and with paint, is that Christ is the good physician who heals us, inside out, by reconciling us to God.

TODAY'S COMMEMORATION

THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO SUFFER well up with deep sentiments of longing for heaven. It is as if we are the nobleman of Capernaum longing and yearning for the health of his sick son. Yet the health we yearn for is not only the physical well-being of someone dear, but chiefly the healing of our soul and the souls of all relatives, friends, acquaintances and enemies.

We strain with a true and contrite heart to hear Our Lord say, "Your soul lives." And as we hear, we confess our sin and admit our unworthiness to stand in the Lord's house; yet we also dedicate ourselves to do, without hesitation, whatever is necessary to attain the kingdom of heaven. Our prayer is immediately answered as Our Lord gives us a foretaste of that happy day when we will not be alone in singing hymns of praise for the mercy and grace that He generously bestows upon us on earth.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR GUESTS! We are delighted that you are worshipping with us this morning. We encourage you to participate during the Mass (as you feel comfortable). The red book in the pew rack contains the hymns posted on the hymn board. The order of service is in the pamphlet located on the lectern at the front door. **You are invited into the Parish Hall (next door to the church) for coffee, conversation, and teaching (known as Didache).** Because of the divisions which sadly exist amongst Christians, we ask that non-Orthodox refrain from approaching the altar. If you have any questions about our parish or are interested in the Orthodox Church, please feel free to contact Father John (frjohnfen-ton@gmail.com; 313.282.6153).

THIS WEEK AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
Abstain on Friday

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
ST LUKE, EVANGELIST
PENTECOST XX

Lauds 9:15a
Mass 10:00a
BreakFast 11:30a
Church School 12:30a
Didache, Children
Choristers 1:20p
Parish Council 1:00p

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
Feria
St Frideswide, Virgin
Parish Office Closed

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
Feria

Lauds & Terce 9:00a
Parents & Littles 11:00a

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
Feria
St Hilarion, Abbott
Ss Ursula & Companions, Mm

[Rosary on Zoom](#) 7:00p

Sunday Readings: [2 Corinthians 8.16-24](#); [Luke 10.1-9](#)

Intentions: Meghan Jaussen (b. 10/18); Edward Sywulka (b. 10/19); Gavino Barron (b. 10/21); Luke Tai (n. 10/18); Ethan Tai (n. 10/18); David & Autumn Ricksecker (m. 10/21); Byron Davila; Luigi Occhino; Ricardo Borbon; Ladyminster Monastery

LUNCH: Oct 18— Team Ren B; Oct 25— Catered Meal

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
Feria

Lauds & Terce 9:00a
Women's Group 5:00p
Vespers 6:30p
Men's Group 7:00p

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
Feria

Lauds & Terce 9:00a
Fall Gathering 5:00p
Vespers 5:30p
Address by Bp Anthony ... 6:00p
Dinner 6:30p

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24
St Raphael, Archangel

Mass 8:00a
Address by Bp Anthony 9:00a
BreakFast 9:30a
Meetings 10:00a
Workshop & Activities 2:00p
Vespers 5:00p
Catered Dinner 6:00p

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your contribution to the Parish is not about ‘paying your fair share.’ It’s an opportunity to share in God’s work by offering some of the “all” that He gives us. – Bp John

Enrollment of More Catechumens! Immediately before Mass, Hector Banda with Mariel, Leia & Eva Alvarez will be enrolled as catechumens.

Weekday Masses Cancelled. Fr. John & Matushka Julie will be on vacation this week. He returns Friday evening, 10/23, for the reception of His Grace Bishop Anthony and Vespers for the DLAW Fall Gathering. In case of an emergency, please text or call Fr Fenton’s personal number: 313.282.6153.

October is Rosary Month. It is a pious and laudable practice to recite daily at least part of the Rosary during October. To help you keep this commitment, [Rosary on Zoom](#) is offered every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sdn Brondt leads the rosary and invites you to join him. Just [click on this link](#).

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place **Sunday, 15 November**. This meeting fulfills the corporate requirements for the State of California. During this meeting, Parish Council members for 2026 will be elected, the 2026 budget will be presented for approval, and various matters pertaining to the welfare of the parish will be discussed. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Register for DLAW Fall Gathering. With the blessing of Bp ANTHONY, St Michael is hosting the 2026 Fall Gathering. This will be a wonderful weekend of prayer and life with other Antiochian parishes in the Diocese of Los Angeles.

- ✓ Register for the Weekend using this [link](#)
- ✓ Optional Saturday dinner must be paid additionally
- ✓ Offer your time by signing up [here](#)
- ✓ Help provide brunch or lunch for Saturday using this [link](#)

We are seeking singers to join us for our annual **Service of Nine Lessons & Carols** which will take place on Saturday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. If you or someone you know loves to sing and would like to join the special choir for this event please send an email to choristers@stmichaelwhittier.org or talk to Music Director Edward Sywulka. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday November 22nd at 2 p.m.

Kitchen Renovation. The kitchen is closed while it undergoes extensive renovation. Please look for announcements about helping with this much needed project.

A Building Fund has been established by the Parish Council. This fund is to help us [finance upgrades](#): expanded seating in the church, and expanded seating in the courtyard.

Support our Future Priests. Of the 36 students studying in 4 seminaries, 9 come from Western Rite parishes. These men “are preparing to become the priests who will baptize and chrismate our children, teach the faith, celebrate the Divine Mysteries, counsel families, comfort the suffering,

visit the sick, reconcile the penitent, and proclaim the Gospel of Christ to a world that desperately needs His truth and mercy.” (Metropolitan SABA) **Please submit your contribution in an envelope marked “Seminary Fund.”**

Is there someone you’ve not seen in a while? Please contact him or her, and encourage them to join you at Mass.

Pray for our Catechumens. The following catechumens are preparing to be received by the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation: John, Isaac, Vector, Genesis, Justin, Gabriel, Eliana, Adam, Arriana, Pietro, Robert, Chance, Andrew, Chandra, Christian, Ryan, Anntoinette, Donny, Ruben, Samuel, Jose, Gabriella, Liam, Noah, Enzo, Jesús, David, Christian, Gavino, Matthew, Emily, Dominic, Raquel, Rodrigo, August, Megan, Theodora, Justeen, Jemma, Ana, Talia, Henry, Lydia, Hector, Mariel, Leia & Eva. Please remember them in your daily prayers.

Prayer Intentions may be sent to prayers@stmichaelwhittier.org

STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY MASS is celebrated Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; Tuesday through Saturday at 9:00 a.m.; & Holy Days as announced.

COMMUNICANTS ARE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have been received by the Sacrament of Chrismation, regularly partake of the Sacrament of Penance, and abide by the Church’s fast.

NEW MEMBERS are received by Baptism, Chrismation, Transfer or Profession of Faith. Instruction in the Orthodox Faith and the Sacrament of Penance are required for those new to the Orthodox Faith. Please ask the Pastor for further details.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Private Confession) is available on Saturdays from 4-5:00 p.m., or by appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING is available to any Orthodox Christian who is suffering in body, mind or spirit. Emergency requests are welcome. Please contact Fr John.

PASTORAL COUNSELING based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the Pastor. An appointment is necessary.

COUPLES DESIRING HOLY MARRIAGE should contact the Pastor before finalizing the wedding date. Biblical instruction in Holy Marriage is required. All marriages at St Michael’s are conducted by the Pastor according to Church’s usual order.

SICK & HOMEBOUND are visited regularly by the Pastor. Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is an integral part of St Michael’s Church, offering the following opportunities for study in the Christian Faith. **Didache** (di•dah•kay), a study in the basic doctrines of the Faith, is offered on Sundays after the meal. **Father’s Bible Study** meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. **Learning from our Holy Fathers** meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to discuss a brief excerpt from the fathers of the church. **Catechesis** examines the teachings and liturgy of the Orthodox Faith, and is presented to inquirers, catechumens, and parishioners, with days and times arranged according to one’s schedule.

2026 PARISH COUNCIL: Jen Hudson (2027); David Ricksecker (2026); Simon Yoo (2026); Willy Ren (2027); Michael Meza (2027); Patricia Stephens, alt. (2027); Patrick Silva (2028); Christian Vandever (2028); *Chris Camareno (Tres.) (*=non-voting)

THE DEFENDER is the parish newsletter. Contributions of upcoming events, parish memories, poems, or reflections are welcome. Please contact Sdn Brondt in person or by email: williamkamffer@icloud.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS: Altar Guild, Society of St Benedict, Antiochian Women, Men’s Group, Child Care, Gardening Committee, Latin Club.

STAY INFORMED: To receive this bulletin, the monthly newsletter, and other important announcements via email, send any email (even a blank one) to stmichaelwhittiernews+subscribe@googlegroups.com