



ST. MARY & ST. VERENA

COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



THE MISSION

April 2018

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Yorba Linda, Ca. 92886

www.saintverena.org

Diocese of Los Angeles,
Southern California &
Hawaii

THE MISSION

A monthly newsletter
published by

**St. Mary & St. Verena
Coptic Orthodox Church**
5401 Fairmont Blvd.
Yorba Linda, Ca 92886

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distributed through your
generous support and
contributions.

If you know anyone who
would like to receive this
newsletter, please e-mail
us the mailing address.

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturdays:

- 5:30 - 6:30 PM Beginners & Advanced
 Hymns Classes
- 5:30 - 6:30 PM Servants Meeting
- 5:30 - 7:30 PM Deacons School
- 6:30 - 7:30 PM Church School: PreK-HS
- 6:30 - 7:30 PM Adult Bible Study Meetings
- 7:30 - 8:00 PM Vespers
- 8:00 - 10:00 PM Midnight Praise
- 8:00 - Open Confessions

Sunday:

- 8:00 - 11:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 11:15 - 11:45 AM Children's Hymns Class
- 11:30 - 12:30 PM Agape/Fellowship Hour
- 11:30 - 12:30 PM College & Grads Meeting
- 11:30 - 12:30 PM Young Professionals &
 Young Families Meeting
- 11:30 - 12:30 PM Pre-Servants Meeting

Wednesday:

- 8:30 - 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 - 12:30 PM Seniors' Meeting
- 7:30 - 8:30 PM Adult Deacons' Class

Friday:

- 8:00 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- 6:30 - 7:30 PM Jr. High & High School
 Youth Meetings
- 7:30 - 9:00PM Youth Fellowship

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Schedule changes
are posted at
www.saintverena.org

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Coptic Orthodox Church
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frjoseph@saintverena.org

*Please consider donating via
PayPal on our church website*



Resurrection Joy & Peace

by His Grace Bishop Youssef

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (John 20:19)

Two major gifts our Lord meant to grant us by the Resurrection are joy and peace. But sadly, on this feast day and on many of the following holy fifty days, many of us are not at peace. We may have gone to church and celebrated while inside its doors, but we still have the concerns of the world hanging over our heads. The worries of the soul are not yet dissipated by the Resurrection joy. It is a sad irony: the Church rejoices with exultant hymns and festivity, while we remain "down" on the inside. Even if we managed to taste a little of the glory of the Resurrection Liturgy, by evening the next day the subtle unrest of the heart sets in once again. And we can acutely feel the sting of the knowledge that on the next day, Monday, we will once again be thrown into the strains and struggles of daily life. We mournfully say goodbye to the unique happiness of Pascha week, and the especially exciting hours stretching from Friday morning to 12 A.M. Sunday morning-to enter once again the feastless humdrum of our studies and our jobs.

Yet Christ proves to us that the power of His Resurrection overcomes this; it can reach into the most shadowy corners of human hearts to enlighten them and bring us renewed joy and peace. On the morning of the Resurrection, the disciples were hiding in a small room, scared and confused, with the doors shut tight-and Christ appears and declares to them, "Peace be with you". His Resurrected body is what made it

possible to enter the locked room and restore to them their peace. For many of us, our hearts are still closed shut; it has become very difficult to let in any bit of peace or joy. But if we ask Him, earnestly, He will enter even this heart-which is seemingly closed off to every other comfort in the world.

The Alexandrian scholar Origen once wrote: "We ourselves hold the view that our human nature is in no way sufficient to seek after God and find him clearly without the help of the One whom we seek. God is found by those who-after doing all that is within their power-confess that they are in need of Him. God makes Himself known."

Christ is risen! We will begin to understand the depth and beauty of this declaration when we can say it with positive joy-something like the joy that is manifested in any church after the Resurrection Liturgy has just ended. "Khristos Anesti" rings with musical quality as we greet one another, and there is something in the air at that moment that is indeed quite special. We must fervently ask God for grace if this joy is to remain with us throughout the holy fifty days. Your final exams do not have to be an insurmountable obstacle to this joy, and neither does the stress of your job. From the beginning our Lord knew that His people would always be celebrating the Resurrection in a world that still required their work the next day and that continued to give them trouble. But here is a small miracle wrought by the Resurrection: Our Lord takes our daily spiritual motivation from "death" to "life," and transforms our daily thoughts and emotions from a state of limbo to a state of vibrant joy.

"When he had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord." (John 20:20)

Annual Easter Picnic

Sunday, April 15, 2018

11:30am

**Yorba Regional Park
7600 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92807**

**Parking Lot #9
Shelter #3**

**SIGN UP AT THE
CHURCH INFO DESK ASAP**

ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT



**SAN DIEGO MARRIOTT
MISSION VALLEY**

Saturday, Sept. 1 - Monday, Sept. 3

- Rated 4.5 Stars on TripAdvisor
- Just completed \$9Million renovation
- Each room has Private Balcony, Mini-Fridge
- Room Microwave available upon request
- Free High-Speed Wireless Internet
- Large heated pool with Jacuzzi
- Poolside loungers, cabanas & hammocks
- Fitness Center
- Evening Turndown Service
- Easy Access to San Diego attractions
- Steps from the Rio Vista Trolley Station

SIGN UP AT CHURCH INFO DESK ASAP



✳ St. Mary and St. Verena Church
Thirteen Family Retreat
September 1, September 3, 2018

San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

Name _____ Date: _____
 Home Phone _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 Home Address: _____
 Street _____ City _____ Zip code _____

Your Name	Name	Relationship to family member	Adult or Child
Family Member		Self	
Family Member			Grade
Family Member			Grade
Family Member			Age /Grade

Room Rate: \$170.00 Night	Three Meals \$80.00/Adult \$55.00 Ages 4-9
-------------------------------------	--

Total # of Nights 2 Nights
 Total # of adults (including yourself) _____ X \$340.00/Room a. \$340.00
 Total # of children for meals: _____ X \$80.00/food (Adult) b. _____
 _____ X \$55.00/food (4-9) c. _____
 Please add a + b + c = Total \$.....

Call Suzann: 714-308-6896
Deadline: 7/31/2018

Calendar of Events: April 2018

Sun, Apr. 1 - Feast of the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem

7:00am - Divine Liturgy

12:30pm - General Funeral Prayers

5:30pm - Eve of Monday Pascha (homily by Fr. Antony Selim)

Mon, Apr. 2 - Monday of Holy Pascha Week

8:00am - Morning Pascha

6:00pm - Eve of Tuesday Pascha (homily by Fr. Michael Fanous)

Tue, Apr. 3 - Tuesday of Holy Pascha Week

8:00am - Morning Pascha with His Grace Bishop Kyrillos

6:00pm - Eve of Wednesday Pascha (homily by Fr. Joseph Boules)

Wed, Apr. 4 - Wednesday of Holy Pascha Week

8:00am - Morning Pascha

6:00pm - Eve of Thursday Pascha (homily by Fr. Anthony Mikael)

Thu, Apr. 5 - Covenant Thursday

8:00am - Morning Pascha

5:30pm - Eve of Friday Pascha (homily by Fr. Shenouda Ghattas)

Fri, Apr. 6 - Great & Holy Friday

8:00am - Great Friday Pascha

11:30pm - Apocalypse Night Pascha with His Grace Bishop Kyrillos

Sat, Apr. 7 - Bright Saturday

4:00am - Divine Liturgy with His Grace Bishop Kyrillos

7:30pm - Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Resurrection

Sun, Apr. 8 - Feast of the Resurrection

Mon, Apr. 9 - Feast of Prophet Aaron

Tue, Apr. 10 - 7:00pm - Monthly Women's Group Meeting

Fri, Apr. 13 - 6:30pm - Jr. High & High School Youth Fellowship Event

Sat, Apr. 14 - Feast of Saint Mary of Egypt

Sun, Apr. 15 - Thomas Sunday

- Feast of Saint Joachim, the father of the Holy Theotokos Saint Mary

11:30am - Annual Easter Picnic (see page 5)

Fri, Apr. 27 - Diocese Apologetics Conference on Cosmology (see page 10)

Sat, Apr. 28 - Youth Trip to the King Tut Exhibit at the California Science Center

**latest calendar updates are posted at
www.saintverena.org**

St. Mary & St. Verena Church

Holy Pascha Week Schedule - 2018

Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, April 1

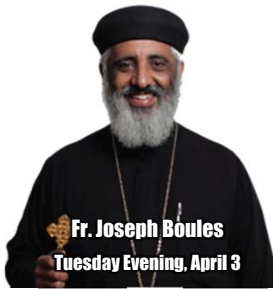
Divine Liturgy 7:00 am - 12:30 pm
General Funeral Prayers 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Sunday Evening Pascha 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Holy Pascha Week (Monday April 2 – Thursday April 5)

Monday – Wednesday Morning Pascha 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Monday – Wednesday Evening Pascha 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Thursday Morning Pascha, Laqan & Liturgy 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday Evening Pascha 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm



Fr. Antony Selim
Sunday Evening, April 1



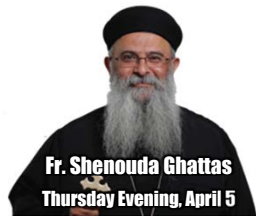
Fr. Joseph Boules
Tuesday Evening, April 3



Fr. Anthony Mikael
Wednesday Evening, April 4



Fr. Michael Fanous
Monday Evening, April 2



Fr. Shenouda Ghattas
Thursday Evening, April 5

Great & Holy Friday

April 6
8:00am - 6:00pm

Apocalypse Night & Bright Saturday

His Grace
Bishop Kyrillos
April 6 11:30pm - April 7 6:00am

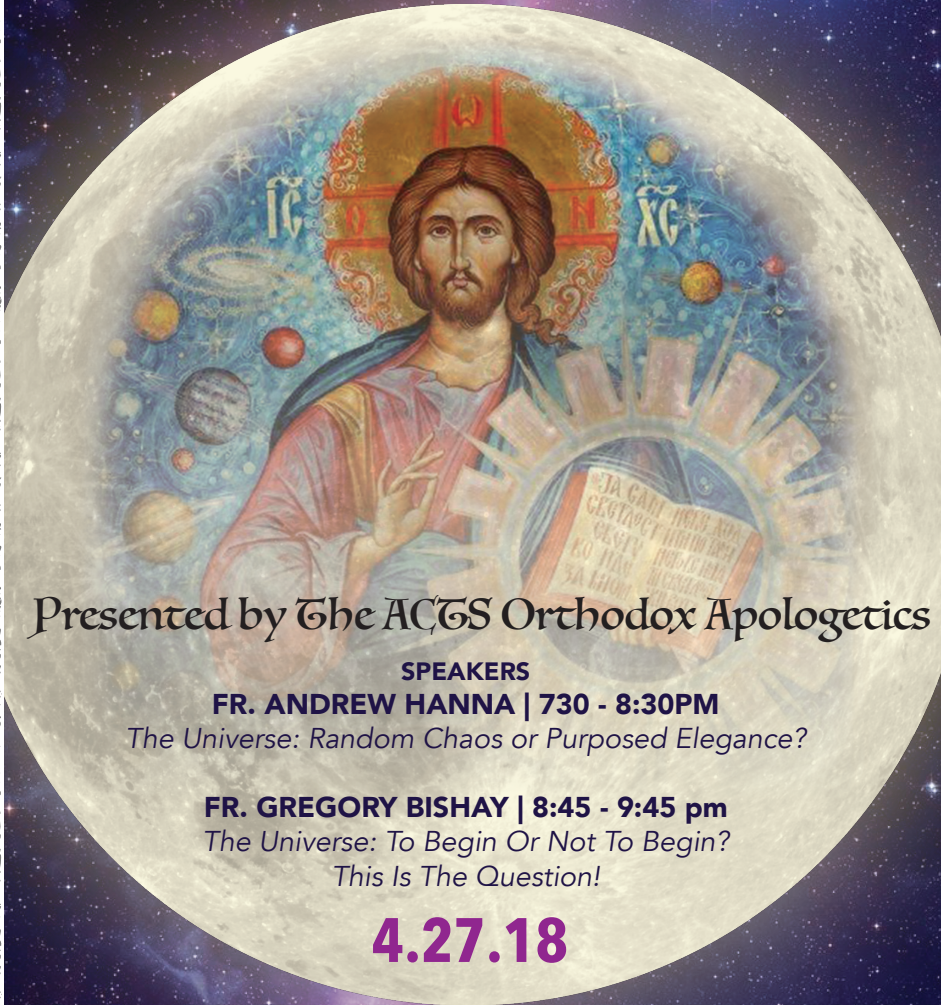
Resurrection Feast

April 7 7:30pm -
April 8 12:30am

Our Brand New YOUTH LOUNGE!!



First Coptic Conference on Cosmology



Presented by The ACTS Orthodox Apologetics

SPEAKERS

FR. ANDREW HANNA | 730 - 8:30PM

The Universe: Random Chaos or Purposed Elegance?

FR. GREGORY BISHAY | 8:45 - 9:45 pm

The Universe: To Begin Or Not To Begin?

This Is The Question!

4.27.18

CHURCH OF ST. VERENA AND THE THREE HOLY YOUTH, ORANGE, CA 92869



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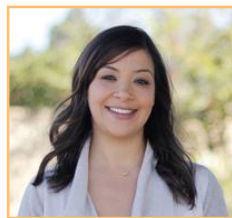
(714) 312-6641 WWW.SAINTLUKEACADEMY.ORG

ACCEPTING AGES 18 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 6:30AM - 6:00PM
FULL- & PART-TIME



school director
GRACE LEE

MEET OUR STAFF!

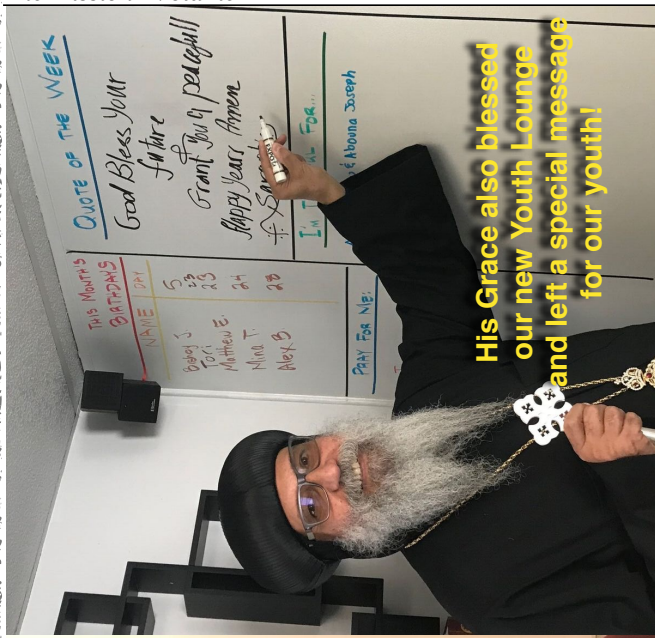


office manager
VICKY ELMASRY





We were blessed to have His Grace Bishop Saraphim celebrate the Feast of the Cross with us!



His Grace also blessed our new Youth Lounge and left a special message for our youth!



His Grace also blessed our Seniors Meeting!

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

St. Mary & St. Verena Church congratulates

**His Holiness Pope Tawadros II
His Eminence Metropolitan Serapion
His Grace Bishop Abraham
& His Grace Bishop Kyrillos**

on the Glorious Feast of the Resurrection

*May our Lord preserve your lives
for many years and peaceful times.*

*Wishing all of the blessed children of our church
a Joyous Feast of the Resurrection*

*May our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ keep the power
of the Resurrection alive and strong in all of our lives.*

St. Mary & St. Verena Church
offers her condolences to the families of the reposed:

Mrs. Mervat Halim

sister of Mr. Romany Ghabrial, husband of Mrs. Randa Ghabrial

*May the Lord repose their souls
and comfort the families through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

قسم الأسئلة والمقالات).. وعندما أقول أنصاف العلماء، إنما أبرئ العلماء الكاملين في معرفتهم.

نصف الحقيقة أن الجسد قد تمتص الأرض بعض عناصره، ويتحلل جزء منه، وقد يتداخل في أجساد أخرى. والنصف الثاني أن المادة لا تقنى. فأينما ذهب الجسد، فمكوناته موجودة، ومصيرها إلى الأرض أيضاً.. والله غير المحدود يعرف تماماً أين توجد عناصر الجسد، ويقدر على إعادتها مرة أخرى إلى حالتها، الله بقدرته اللانهائية. وبخاصة لأنه يريد هذا، ولأنه قد وعد به البشرية على السنة الأنبياء. وفي كتبه المقدسة.

إذن القيامة في جوهرها، تعتمد على الله تبارك اسمه. تعتمد على إرادته، ومعرفته، وقدرته

فمن جهة الإرادة: هو يريد للإنسان أن يقوم من الموت، وأن يعود إلى الحياة. وقد وعده بالقيامة والخلود. وتحدث عن القيامة العامة بصراحة كاملة وبكل وضوح. وما دام الله قد وعد إذن لابد أنه ينفذ ما قد وعد به.

ومن جهة المعرفة والقدرة: فالله يعرف أين يوجد عناصر الأجساد التي تحللت، وأين توجد عظامها. ويعرف كيفية إعادة تشكيلها وتركيبها. كما يعرف أيضاً أين توجد أرواح تلك الأجساد، ويسهل عليه أن يأمرها بالعودة إلى أجسادها، ويسهل عليها ذلك. وهو يقدر على هذا كله، جل اسمه العظيم، وتعالى قدرته الإلهية. وبكل الإيمان نصدق هذا..

إن الذي ينكر إمكانية القيامة، هو بالضرورة ينكر المعجزات جملة. وينكر الخلق من العدم. وينكر قدرة الله، وقد ينكر وجوده أيضاً. مثال ذلك الصدوقيون الذين يقولون إنه ليس قيامة، ولا روح، ولا ملاك" (أع 23: 8). حقاً، إن عدم الإيمان بأمر ما، يؤدي إلى عدم الإيمان بأمر أخرى كثيرة.

أما المؤمنون، الذين يؤمنون بالله، ويؤمنون بالمعجزة، ويؤمنون بعملية الخلق من العدم، يؤمنون بالقدرة غير المحدودة التي للخالق العظيم، فإن موضوع القيامة يبدو أمامهم سهل التصديق إلى أبعد الحدود.

كتاب لماذا القيامة - إمكانية القيامة

البابا شنودة الثالث

إن كان العقل عاجزاً أمام فهم القيامة وكيف تكون، فإن الإيمان بالله وقدرته قادر على استيعاب ذلك. فنحن نؤمن أن الله قادر على كل شيء ولا حدود لقدرته الإلهية. ومهما كان الأمر صعباً أمام الملحدين أو غير المؤمنين، أو أمام الذين يعتمدون على الفكر والعلم وحدهما، فليس شيء عسيراً أمام. "إن غير المستطاع عند الناس، هو مستطاع عند الله" (مر 10 : 27).

إن عملية قيامة الأجساد، أسهل بكثير جداً من عملية خلقها من قبل. الله الذي أعطاهها نعمة الوجود، هو قادر بلا شك على إعادة وجودها. هو الذي خلقها من تراب الأرض، وهو قادر أن يعيدها من تراب الأرض مرة أخرى.. بل ما هو أعمق من هذا، أن الله خلق الكل من العدم. خلق الأرض وترابها من العدم، ثم من تراب الأرض خلق الإنسان.

أيهما أصعب إذن: الخلق من العدم، أم إقامة الجسد من التراب؟! إن الذي يقدر على العمل الأصعب، من البديهي أنه يقدر على العمل الأسهل. والذي منح الوجود يقدر بالحري على حفظ هذا الوجود.. فالذي يتأمل القيامة من هذه الناحية، إنما يتأمل القدرة غير المحدودة التي لإلهنا الخالق، الذي يكفي أن يريد، فيكون كل ما يريد، حتى بدون أن يلفظ كلمة واحدة. أو يصدر أمراً.. إنها إرادته، التي هي جوهرها أمر فعال قادر على كل شيء..

نسمى القيامة إذن معجزة، ليس لأنها صعبة، وإنما لأن عقلا البشرى القاصر يعجز عن إدراكها وكيف تكون.. ولكن الإيمان دائرته أوسع وأعمق.. يقبل ذلك بسهولة معتمداً على الوحي الإلهي.

لذلك فالقيامة هي عقيدة للمؤمنين.

الذي يؤمن بالله وقدرته، يستطيع أن يؤمن بالقيامة. والذي يؤمن بالله كخالق، يؤمن به أيضاً مقيماً للموتى. أما الملحدون وأنصاف العلماء، فلا يصل إدراكهم إلى هذا المستوى. إنهم لا يؤمنون بالقيامة، كما لا يؤمنون بالروح وخلودها، كما لا يؤمنون بالله نفسه (اقرأ مقالاً عن هذا الموضوع هنا في موقع الأنبا تكلا في



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