



# ST. MARY & ST. VERENA

COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



THE MISSION  
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Yorba Linda, Ca. 92886

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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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**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  
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# GUARANTEES FOR PURE LIVING

*by His Grace Bishop Moussa*

Some young people think that the life of purity has nowadays become impossibility. There are actually mighty forces urging humans to fall: instinct with its pressing calls, which are not hushed into silence; society with its endless stumbling; and the devil as an evil prince working in this world against God and holiness, exerting every effort to undo God's plan from creating human kind, and His blessed targets concerning humans.

The widespread tune nowadays is that of the spirit of the age. " Society today runs to keep up with the contemporary development in the scientific, intellectual and progressive fields. The ecclesiastical community works hard to grasp the changes occurring in this generation and the different propensities activating these changes, such as the propensity for rational pride; anxiety; intellectual bluntness; permissively; moral laxity... etc.

Yet, there is a deception by which Satan tries to steal into the hearts of our young people today. It implies that this age is different from the previous ones in such a way that holiness has become an illusion. Thus, the devil suggests that there is no need to toil to reach this holiness!

## **Great Facts:**

The first fact which is beyond any doubt is that every society in its time is a modern one. First Century society was modern compared to the society which existed before Christ ... etc.

The second fact is that the change occurring in societies does not touch the essence of matters at all , but it is an intellectual, scientific, political and social change. Yet, it is impossible - as far as sin and holiness are concerned - that any society should differ from a previous or following one. This is an entirely Spiritual matter and the spirit is eternal, immortal not subject to time or development but beyond both of them.

The third fact is that the essence of human kind is unchangeable: the instincts are the same as they were long ago, the fallen nature is the same one inherited -of Adam; Further, the perennial ambitions and divine conscience are things that do not alter from one generation to another except according to the individual's honesty in using or neglecting them.

The fourth fact is that if we suppose the easiness of failing and the difficulty of salvation in our age, we should not forget that "Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more ." (Rom5:20). The salvation of human kind does not depend upon human kind alone, it is in God's hand when it stretches to pick up and save the person who seeks the truth with a toiling heart and an honest will.

If we asked contemporary young people to live in Sodom or Gomorrah, they would have found no difference between their circumstances and the circumstances of the most modern communities though there is a forty-century overlap between the two cases, We may also remember how holiness was flourishing in the Apostolic Age, though it

coexisted with an astoundingly widespread magic and idolatry with their disgraceful filthy rites. Hence, there is nothing new under the sun. The new thing is our languid intention -as young people- to live for Christ; hence we search for excuse to anesthetize our consciences when they deviate.

### **Definite Guarantees:**

Now we need to apprehend certain guarantees, which support us- as young people - in our holy struggle against sin to the point of shedding our blood:

#### **1- The work of God's Grace:**

Certainly our human efforts, however great, they cannot add even one cubit to our stature. This conclusion we draw from our daily experience. Certainly also the forces of evil are mightier than our ability to face them with our feeble humanity.

Therefore came the "stewardship of God's grace" to solve the problem and abolish the horrible contrast existing between a most holy God and sinful human beings. Grace is an inner divine work through which humans become partakers in the divine nature. Grace is an infinite power flowing within humans, therefore, the instinct is controlled, the mind enlightened and the whole being humbled. Grace is a divine healer who heals the soul ridding it of its perversions and pains.

Hence, the young man who entrusts himself to the work of grace feels a true change in the soul; senses; thoughts; feelings; and inclinations. We cannot realize the magnificence of this miracle but by experiencing it. Grace is a powerful energy that elevates the soul above the molestations of body; the temptations of the world; and the nothing of the enemy of good. Grace is, simply; God dwelling within humans. The means by which we get this grace are; obedience, true acceptance of the Lord Jesus as a prince of life as well as perpetual fellowship with Him as a practical expression of this choice; by prayer, gratification by the Bible, and continuous union to His holy Body and Blood.

If we have an iron will to live according to Christ, let us interpret it into a practical way by an actual fellowship with Him and practical obedience to His teachings. Here comes the role played by struggle, through which we receive the grace necessary for our salvation.

Now, Come on dear friend!! Approach the Master! Pour yourself under His feet! Surrender your poor dead life to Him! Then be sure, each time you pray, you will get new hyssop to wash your sins, you will get new ammunition to fight in the evil day!

#### **2- Hope:**

Beware: of surrendering to the enemy's trickery, "No use" Let your answer be, "No use of me, but all the use is in the Lord God Who redeems my soul from death and my life from the Pit." Be strong by the over-whelming love that fills Jesus' heart for you and trust the infinite tenderness flowing out of Him towards you- you the weak and enslaved Be sure! Get up! He is calling you! Don't wait! Don't surrender to your past, nor to your weakness, nor to your enemy's deceptions! Jesus is always waiting for you! He rejoices for the repentant's return whatever his past maybe.



**3- Full Life:**

Among the most serious dangers threatening your purity, dear friend, is the vacuum. I don't mean only the vacancy of time, but the trivial life, that is with no mission, no responsibility and no aspirations. Take your mission, as a worker of Christ, from the hands of the Lord. You should respond to His eternal love and search for His children who are far off from Him. Your responsibility as a student is to bear witness for the Lord by your honesty and holy ambitions till your life becomes full of blessed aims and pure hopes designed at serving God and His children. Place before your eyes sacred aims such as: + Practicing constant prayers. + Grasping the Holy Bible. + Grasping the spirit of Church, i.e. its holy fathers, history, doctrines and prayers. + Grasping the spirit of the age; and its thoughts & culture in order to use all this for the service of Christ and for seeking the souls that have gone astray and attract them: to the Shepherd. + Take an interest in your studies and work. Study willingly and anxiously. Don't study merely to achieve success in exams only. You should rather aim at increasing and developing your love for work so as to do it efficiently and pleasantly.

Be sure that occupying your heart with pure aims pours purity within you, while triviality of life and vacancy of heart are of no avail.

**4- Psychological Serenity:**

You may notice that one does not resort to alcohol, drugs or smoking unless he is stressed. He resorts to such things as a sort of wrong pursuit for happiness. It is the same with purity: psychological misery resulting from academic or social failure or financial troubles makes the soul resort to instinct as an easy means of compensation. Therefore, as Christian young people, we have to possess- through the grace of Christ- the serene soul that deals positively with the clashes of daily life.

In this way, our undisturbed inner life goes beyond such troubles, rather take them as lessons for the future. This turns failure into success; financial problems into a means to experience Christ's honest hand upon His children; the death of one's parent or brother into an open window on heaven through which we see God's compassionate hands, eternity and the falseness of this age. In this way, our souls can enjoy serenity in the hands of God, so that we no longer need compensation through harmful pleasures.

**5. Honest life:**

You have to be honest in all the aspects of your life: academic; social; spiritual, etc. Your motive in following Christ must be pure, placing Christ, not His gifts, as your target. You have to be alert and strict feelings and affections, so as to reject getting involved into a relationship you may ulteriorly think sacred only to expect for yourself a pure life.

Be precise in your senses; thoughts; and inclinations so that they may not become the devil's access to your heart. Be sure that God who sees your struggle from heaven, will not forsake you but will support you with His outstanding power. Preoccupy yourself with God, then will be unravelled from your organs easily.

Our fight is not against sin to overcome it as with Christ to possess Him. And if we possess Christ, we then gain everything.



# ST. LUKE ACADEMY

5401 FAIRMONT BLVD, YORBA LINDA • 714-312-6641 • SAINTLUKEACADEMY.ORG

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO,  
AND WHEN HE IS OLDER HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.  
*PROVERBS 22:6*



**NOW ENROLLING! Daycare, Preschool & Kindergarten**

It is with great zeal and joy that we announce the opening of ST. LUKE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ACADEMY!

By the grace of God, we have this great opportunity to provide children with a strong education within a Christ-centered environment, where they may also receive Orthodox Christian teachings. Planting seeds in young children in a Christian environment will yield future leaders and amazing professionals; "for the Lord gives wisdom, and from His face come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

*We look to you for your fervent prayer and endowing support of this endeavor that is the first of its kind.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

- STEAM-Focused education in a safe caring Christian environment.
- Provide a comprehensive curriculum enriched by core Christian principles
- Promote academic success and foster spiritual growth

For more information about the academy and to offer your support, please visit:  
[WWW.SAINTLUKEACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTLUKEACADEMY.ORG)

## GOALS OF ST. LUKE ACADEMY ARE TO HELP CHILDREN:

- Establish a strong Christian foundation
- Develop a positive self-image
- Engage the five senses
- Employ STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)-focused approach for growing intellectually utilizing hands-on activities.
- Learn to express themselves effectively
- Become independent and creative thinkers
- Learn healthy socialization skills
- Build a positive and healthy relationship between the academy and the home

## Calendar of Events: October 2018

**Fri, Oct. 5** - *Feast of the Prophet Jonah*  
- *Feast of the Saint Maurice*

**Sat, Oct. 6** - *Feast of the Annunciation of the Birth of Saint John the Baptist*  
- CEF College Application Workshop at U.C. Irvine

**Sat-Sun, Oct. 6-7** - Youth Backpacking Trip

**Fri-Sun, Oct. 12-14** - Diocese Graduates & Young Professionals Convention (*see page 11*)

**Sat, Oct. 13** - Jr. High & High School Youth Field Trip

**Sun, Oct. 14** - ACTS Coptic Education Fundraising Banquet (*info at [www.coptic.education](http://www.coptic.education)*)

**Mon, Oct. 17 - 7pm** - Monthly Women's Group Meeting

**Mon, Oct. 22** - *Feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist*

**Sun, Oct. 28 - 8am** - *Divine Liturgy with His Grace Bishop Kyrillos*  
- **11:30am** - *Young Adults Meeting with His Grace Bishop Kyrillos*

**Wed, Oct. 31 - 5:45pm** - *Vespers* for the Feast of Saint Luke  
- **6:30pm** - Annual St. Luke Fellowship Night

**latest calendar updates are posted at**  
**[www.saintverena.org](http://www.saintverena.org)**

### **St. Mary & St. Verena Church**

offers her condolences to the families of the reposed:

#### **Mr. Samir Salama**

husband of Mrs. Nadia Sidhom  
father of Mrs. Niva Makar  
father of Mr. Bassem Salama

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









# Annual Church Festival







# Annual Family Retreat

# Young Adults Beach Bonfire



Congratulations to our newly ordained deacons:  
**Reader Gregory Boules**  
**Chanter Jonathan William**





**Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. George & Nancy Mikhail  
on the baptism of their son  
Joseph Mikhail**



**Pre-School Sunday School Class  
Field Trip**

## كيف تستخدم عينك

## لقداسة البابا الأنبا تواضروس الثاني

باسم الآب والابن والروح القدس الإله الواحد آمين. تحل علينا نعمته وبركته من الآن +  
وإلى الأبد آمين

أقرأ بنعمة المسيح جزء من أنجيل معلمنا متى البشير الاصحاح السادس (24: 19)

“19 لَا تَكْنُزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزًا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ حَيْثُ يُفْسِدُ السُّوسُ وَالصَّدَأُ، وَحَيْثُ يَنْفُبُ السَّارْفُونَ وَيَسْرِفُونَ. 20 بَلْ اكْنُزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزًا فِي السَّمَاءِ، حَيْثُ لَا يُفْسِدُ سُوسٌ وَلَا صَدَأٌ، وَحَيْثُ لَا يَنْفُبُ سَارْفُونَ وَلَا يَسْرِفُونَ، 21 لِأَنَّهُ حَيْثُ يَكُونُ كَنْزُكَ هُنَاكَ يَكُونُ قَلْبُكَ أَيْضًا. 22 سِرَاجُ الْجَسَدِ هُوَ الْعَيْنُ، فَإِنْ كَانَتْ عَيْنُكَ بَسِيطَةً فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ نِيرًا، 23 وَإِنْ كَانَتْ عَيْنُكَ شَرِيرَةً فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ مُظْلِمًا، فَإِنْ كَانَ النُّورُ الَّذِي فِيكَ ظَلَامًا فَالظُّلَامُ كَمْ يَكُونُ! 24 لَا يَفِيدُ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَخْدِمَ سَيِّدَيْنِ، لِأَنَّهُ إِمَّا أَنْ يَبْغِضَ الْوَاحِدَ وَيُحِبَّ الْآخَرَ، أَوْ يُلْزِمَ الْوَاحِدَ وَيَحْتَقِرَ الْآخَرَ. لَا تَقْدِرُونَ أَنْ تَخْرِمُوا اللَّهَ وَالْمَالَ”

كيف تستخدم عينيك ” في واحد نظرة عينية على الدوام هي نظرة سلبية وأن شئتم كثيراً ما تكون سوداوية وفي واحد نظرتة لأى شيء يكون فيها الطابع الإيجابي. أمانة العذراء مريم لما حضرت عرس قانا الجليل، حصل ان المشروب خلس. وراحت أمانة العذراء بمنتهى الهدوء قالت عبارات قليلة جداً وفي واحد ممكن يبص للموقف ده على انه من مواقف الضعف انتم فضحتونا مفيش حاجه نقدمها هي قالت بس “ليس لهم خمر” اللي هو عصير العنب الطازج. ثلاثة كلمات بسيطة لان الموضوع مش عابز يوسع ولا ينتشر. نظرتها كانت بمنتهى البساطة “ليس لهم خمر” أزاي نعالج الموقف بأقل عدد من الكلمات. في واحد يرتك وفي واحد يتخض وفي واحد يرمى اللوم على الآخرين انت لية معملتش حسابك؟ ويعمل حكاية كبيرة والمسيح رد عليها ” مَا لِي يَا امْرَأَةٌ؟ لَمْ تَأْتِ سَاعَتِي بَعْدُ” وكان المسيح يقصد ساعة الصليب وردت هي الرد الجميل بتاعها “الذي يحسب أقصر عظة في” مَهْمَا قَالَ لَكُمْ فَاَفْعَلُوهُ” ،وحتل الموقف بمنتهى الهدوء وأخر واحد من الضيوف عبر الأسبوع أنقدم له مشروب الضيافة. عينك بتقول أية في الحدث أظن في مثل مصري بيقول ” فلان بيعمل من الحبة قبة ” وفي واحد يمسك حاجه صغيرة ويهمل ويكبر فيها يخلى الحبة الصغيرة مثل حبة الأرز ، تبقى قبة كبيرة

يقولك ” الكوباية مليانه ولا فاضية ” لو فيها جزء من المية وتقدمها لواحد نص الناس يقولوا فيها قراطين مية والنص الباقي يقول لك فاضية وعلى هذا الأساس يكون حكم نظرك على الأمور

حكمك على الأمور بيبكون أزاي؟ تعالى ندخل في الموضوع ونبدأ بالله الذي خلق الأنسان وخلق الأنسان على صورتنا وشبهنا وخلق الأنسان له عين وأذن وجميع الحواس

كلها مقدسة. وصارت لما نقول على صورة الله ومثاله وهذا أمر نسبي طبعاً بنتخذ صفات الطهارة والقداسة والبر صورة روحية ، وكنيستنا لما بتعلمنا نقرأ الإنجيل كثير لية؟ علشان نعرف وعلشان أعيننا تتقدس وتصير طاهرة ولما تعلمنا نقول أبانا الذي فى السموات ونرفع أعيننا لفقو علشان نرى السماء ومنظرها ينطبع في عينك وتصير عينك عين سماوية وليست . ترابية والصلاة متبقاش مجرد واجب.

ولما بيقول الشمس أسياها الجلوس قفوا والى الشرق انظروا كل هذه الأفعال لكي ما تجعلك . تقدر عينك وجميع حواسك

علشان كدة لما نقرأ ادم وحواء قبل الخطية لم يكونوا يعرفوا أنهم عريانين وبعض الخطية صار فيهم الخجل والخوف وصار اختباء ادم من الله فنادى الرب الإله ادم وقال له: أين أنت؟؟ فقال: سمعت صوتك في الجنة فخشيت، لأني عريان فاخترت

الله خلق الطبيعة الجميلة فيها أشجار لغذاء الانسان والحيوان. ولما نبص كدة لشجرة تحمل ثمار فاكهة يكون شكلها جميل. لكن هذا المنظر امام حواء وادم كان منظر معطل. وبدأت عينهما تنفتح ” أحقا قال الله لا تأكلا من كل شجر الجنة؟

وبقيت الثمرة اللى ربنا خلقها للطعام كانت مبعث للخطية وتبدأ سلسلة كبيرة من خطايا الأنسان من أدم وحواء. وتبدأ العين تكون هي المدخل الأول للخطية. علشان كدة من اساسيات الحياة الرهبانية في مصر أنها نشأت في الصحراء ولم تنشأ في الوادي جنب نهر النيل. قالوا الاباء وعلمونا ان ” المشي في الصحراء والبرية يميت الشهوات ” هتشوف شوية رمل. مفيش حاجه تنير أي شكل من اشكال الشهوات

ومثال آخر لذلك:

+  
+  
+

### نوح وأبنائه

فرأى حام أبو كنعان عورة أبيه، فأخبر أخويه وهما خارجاً، فأخذ سام ويافت ثوباً، وألقياه “ على أكتافهما. ومشيا

حام عينه شافت حاجة ميصحش تشوفها وعين سام ويافت منعت نفسها وضبطت نفسها عينك بتشوف الأمور أزاى؟

### داود النبي +

.... داود النبي يستريح ويستريح ثم يطلع يمشى على السطح

وبعدا يطلب أن يكون أوريا الجثي في المقدمة وتكون النتيجة أن يموت في الحرب وقد كان . ”ويوبخه ناثان النبي “أنت هو الرجل المخطئ

بدأت السلسة من نظرة العين حينما لم يحفظ عينيه وبدأت هذه السلسة طريق سقوطه وان كنا بنحتفل بتوبته حينما قال ” خطيبي امامي في كل حين ” ونصلى مزمو التوبة اللى هو قدمه بدموع ،عينك بتتظر للأمور أزاى ؟

ولذلك أيها الأحياء معظم خطايانا وراجع نفسك معظمها ان لم يكن كلها بدأت بالعين والقليل بالأذن.



### بعض المشاهد الإيجابية للعين +

داود النبي وأحنا بنصلي مزامير باستمرار ” اليك رفعت عيني يا ساكن السماء ” الله عليك يا داود عينيه دائماً في السماء علشان كدة زى ما قولت لكم عينيه سماوية وعارف انك صاحب القدرة ومش عايز انساك يارب عارف ان يدك قوية وذراعك رفيعة وأيديك يارب تقدر تعمل كل حاجة شوف كدة

### دانيال النبي +

دانيال لما أترمى في جب الأسود والملك نادى عليه فينك ويرد ” إلهي أرسل ملاكة وسد افواه الأسود

هو انت شفت الأيد؟ عينه شافت كدة وفى واحد كده يقف خائف ومرتعد الهى ارسل ملاكة وسد افواه الأسود اليك رفعت عيني ياساكن السماء رفعت عيني للجبال من حيث يأتي عوني

والجبال في الكتاب اللي هما ابطال الايمان لما ابص لقصص الشهداء يقول رفعت عيني للجبال

### بطرس الرسول +

بطرس الرسول لما كان شايف المسيح قدر يمشى على المية طيب المياه ليها كثافة ومحدث يمشى عليها وكل قوانين الفيزياء اللي عارفنها ترفض ذلك ولأن عينيه كانت تستمد هذه القوة من شخص المسيح قدر يمشى ولكن لما عينيه أتعدت عن شخص المسيح سقط ” ناظرين الى رئيس الايمان

وده سبب حامل الايقونات في كنائسنا ويحطولنا وسطه صليب والقديسين شمال ويمين وطول ما أحنا واقفين جهة الشرق عينينا على هؤلاء كأنهم الصف الأول في السماء الصف الأول القديسين اللي سبقونا على السماء اللي ينادونا نبقى معاهم

زي ما بيقول لنا الجزء اللي قريته ” سِرَاجُ الْجَسَدِ هُوَ الْعَيْنُ، فَإِنْ كَانَتْ عَيْنُكَ بَسِيطَةً فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ نَيْرًا، وَإِنْ كَانَتْ عَيْنُكَ شَرِيرَةً فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ مُظْلَمًا، فَإِنْ كَانَ النُّورُ الَّذِي فِيكَ إِظْلَامًا فَالظُّلَامُ كَمُ يَكُونُ

ايه رأيك خذ عهد امام الله قول له يارب أنا هرفع عينيا ناحية السماء وعاييز يارب تكون عيني ايجابية . إذا كانت عينيك بسيطة نقية ايجابية جسدك كله يكون نيراً وإذا كانت عينك شريرة يكون جسدك كله مظلماً

اوعى تكون عينيك هي مدخل للظلام والسلبيات والخطية والساقطات اجعل عينيك بسيطة ونقية واجعل عينيك دائماً ايجابية في كل عمل صالح وأذكر دائماً اختبار داود ” رفعت عيني الى الجبال من حيث يأتي عوني

لأهلنا كل المجد والكرامة من الآن والى الابد أمين



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