

History of the *Joy of All Who Sorrow* Orthodox Church on the Westside of Los Angeles, CA

The *Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church* was born out of love for God and a desire to serve the Westside neighborhoods of Los Angeles. The mission began in Venice Beach as the *Bookstand on the Strand*, which evolved into a one-car garage chapel for worship. An influx of communicants and ever-expanding hope for a permanent Orthodox presence on the Westside drew many to embrace this effort. Soon, the mission grew into a two-car garage chapel at the home of Fr. John Tomasi, and eventually landed on a busy street in Culver City, California.

In 1999, *Archangel Michael Orthodox Bookstore* was established, also in Culver City, which housed a small, often-used sanctuary, in a cozy 1,200 square foot building. The bookstore continues to stock hundreds of books, icons, lampadas, incense and burners, as well as gift items from around the globe. In the autumn of 2000, the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) formally accepted the mission under its wing with its new name: *Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church*.

For over 12 years, the *Joy of All Who Sorrow* parish resided in its third location (on Sepulveda Boulevard in Culver City), and has moved to its fourth, now in Marina Del Rey, CA, just north of the 90 Freeway. We are always hoping to find a permanent location that will allow our parish to expand and grow perpetual roots in the Westside of Los Angeles. People of all ages come into our community to pray for one another and for the world in these challenging times. Benefactors, as founders in this endeavor, are welcomed to contribute! No gift is too small, for we believe that with *faith as a grain of mustard seed....nothing shall be impossible* [Matt. 17:20].

You can find us on **Facebook@JoyOrthodoxLA**. Please “like” and “follow” to view our many live-streamed services. We also have a YouTube page where you will find all classes and various postings. Simply **Subscribe** and click on the bell to receive notices of video postings.:

For Fr. John’s Homilies and “Studies in the Faith” classes offered, see:

“Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church,”

<http://www.youtube.com/@joyofallwhosorrow00> (Please Subscribe to our channel!)

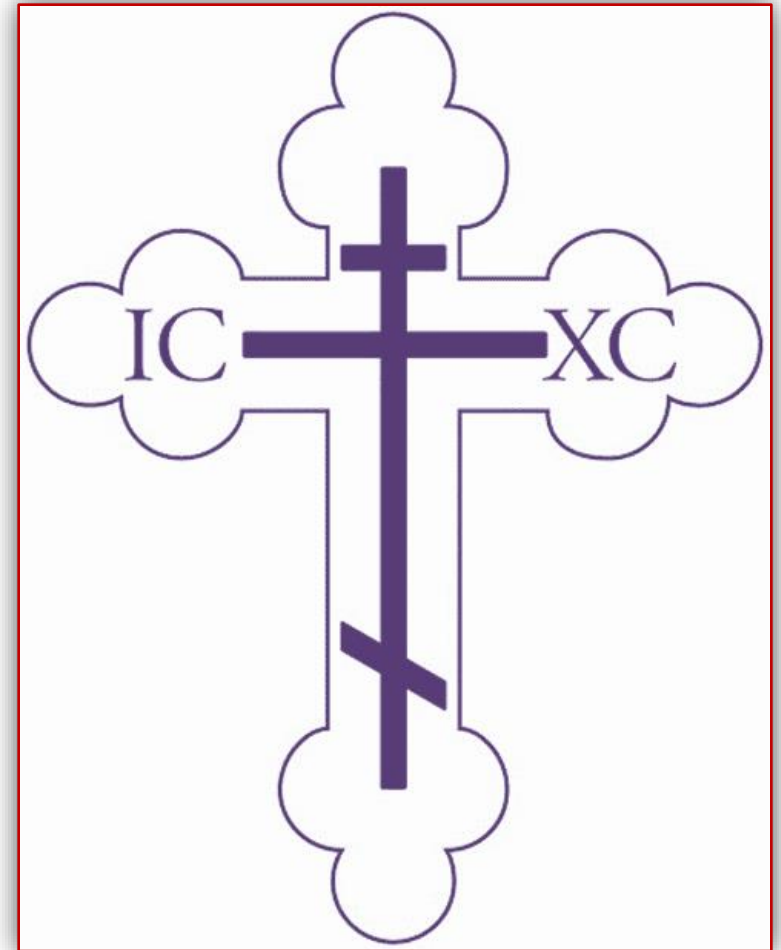
**Joy of All Who Sorrow (OCA) & Archangel Michael Orthodox Bookstore
4161 Lincoln Blvd, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292**

**Church/Bookstore: 310-391-9911 To Leave a Message: 310-849-9451
www.joyofallwhosorrow.org // [facebook@JoyOrthodoxLA](https://www.facebook.com/JoyOrthodoxLA)**

All Donations are Tax Deductible

JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW ORTHODOX CHURCH (OCA)

**Church Bulletin & Announcements
February 24-March 2, 2025**



WELCOME!

FACE MASKS: All are welcomed to wear face masks at our worship services if that makes them feel more comfortable, and for the safety of all who attend. We ask that you stay home if you are sick. Thank you for keeping our church safe from harm!

ONGOING CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS: We continue to live-stream our services on Facebook. Feel free to *like* and *follow* Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church, Marina Del Rey, CA, on Facebook: @JoyOrthodoxLA. The bookstore also has its own Facebook page to *follow*:

Facebook@ArchangelMichaelOrthodoxBookstore

All of the classes offered, and homilies (sermons) given during Divine Liturgies, will appear on YouTube at “Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church”: <http://www.youtube.com/@joyofallwhosorrow00> (Please Subscribe to our channel!)

Our Website: www.joyofallwhosorrow.org

SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY BEGINS AT 10:00 a.m. All Sunday and weekday services are held at 4161 Lincoln Blvd., Marina Del Rey, CA, 90292.

BOOKSTORE HOURS: Bookstore hours are Wed.-Sat., 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., and on Sundays until 2:00 p.m. Off-hours visits can also be arranged by calling Matushka Deborah at 310-849-9451. Additionally, the bookstore is open and available after all services in the church. Ask choir members or altar servers for assistance.

ONLINE GIFTSTORE: Visit our *new* online store: orthodoxgiftstore.com.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & CLASSES: February 24-March 2, 2025

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, February 25 | Cheesefare Week Fast—No Meat Permitted https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89363517686?pwd=rLdScCGxsZCbDJDVtT3ybX0sQNEZ5y.1 7:00 p.m. Reader’s Class Via Zoom (Link Above) |
| Wed., February 26 | Cheesefare Week Fast—No Meat Permitted 6:00 p.m. Vespers (<i>Saint Cyril</i> +869) Live on Facebook 6:30 p.m. Akathist to St. Nicholas “ “ 7:00 p.m. “Studies in the Faith” Class “ “ |
| Thursday, February 27 | Cheesefare Week Fast—No Meat Permitted 7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Live on Facebook 6:30 p.m. Akathist |
| Friday, February 28 | Cheesefare Week Fast—No Meat Permitted 6:00 p.m. Vespers (<i>Commemoration of All Ascetics</i>) |
| Saturday, March 1 | Cheesefare Week Fast—No Meat Permitted 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy (<i>Tentative</i>) Live on Facebook 5:00 p.m. Resurrection Vigil (<i>Forgiveness Sunday</i>) “ “ |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Sunday, March 2 | Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday |
| 10:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy Live on Facebook Tone 3 Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14 Gospel: Mat. 6:14-21 |
| 11:30 a.m. | Forgiveness Sunday Vespers (Approx. time) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **THE WEEK OF CHEESEFARE Monday-Saturday, Feb. 24-March 1**
The week before Great Lent begins, the Orthodox faithful begin a pre-fast wherein all refrain from eating meat of any kind. The church permits all dairy products, eggs, fish, oil, and wine during this time of preparation.
- ❖ **FORGIVENESS SUNDAY, March 2, 2025**
Forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. At the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Forgiveness, we hear the words of Christ: “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses...” (Matt. 6:14-15). Then, at Vespers, we hear the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimenon: “Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!” At this time, we begin to enter into Lenten worship with the *Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian*, and with prostrations; herein we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation in the church. As we approach one another with words of reconciliation, the choir sings the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.
[\[Forgiveness Sunday - Orthodox Church in America\]](#)
- ❖ **THE FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT: Monday-Friday, March 3-7**
The first four days of Great Lent are a special time of penitential prayer and reflection. Each evening in the church (starting at 6:30 p.m.), the compline prayers include the *Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*. Each of the faithful should plan to attend these services, if possible, in order to attune oneself to Great Lent at the outset. For many centuries, the *Canon of St. Andrew of Crete* has been an intrinsic element of worship, especially during the first and fifth weeks of Great Lent. Books about this are available in the bookstore.
- ❖ **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM THE LOS ANGELES FIRES (to donate online, please visit: <https://saintsophia.org/fire/> Our prayers for those affected by Southern California fires should continue daily for many months. Dear Lord, bless the suffering in our cities!**
- ❖ **ELECTRONIC WAYS TO DONATE TO OUR CHURCH:** See our new QR Codes in the church and bookstore! For *no-fee* Zelle instructions, go to: <https://www.zellepay.com/how-it-works> and for Tithely: <https://get.tithe.ly/start>. (Our church may be still listed as Culver City). To use your Ralph’s purchases, visit <https://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program>