



VISION OF ST. PAUL CHURCH

What is it?

- An Orthodox Church under the auspices of HG Bishop Youssef
- One of 8 new churches in the SUS Diocese
- With services and hymns in English
- With an entryway for Americans unfamiliar with Orthodoxy
- With a culture of welcoming newcomers
- With a more organized service, activity, and membership structure



What it is not.

- It is not a Protestant Church with an Orthodox name
- It does not change the faith of the church in any way
- It does not dilute the faith of the church to “lighten” the full Orthodox experience
- It does not change the emphasis or importance of sacraments
- It does not make the faith “easier,” just more “accessible”
- It does not change church rites, liturgical length, fasting regulations, feast dates, church tunes, dress of the priest, etc.

Church Membership

- **Attendee** - A non-member of the church that has attended the church at least two times.
 - **Orthodox Attendee** - A baptized Orthodox person that is not a member.
 - **Catechumen Attendee** - A non-Orthodox attendee that is currently enrolled in the St. Paul Catechism Program.
- **Member** - A baptized Orthodox person who has completed the St. Paul Membership Course or a convert who has been baptized after completing the St. Paul Catechism Program. Orthodox newcomers that intend to join the church may participate in all activities as full members as long as they register to attend the upcoming membership course. Minor children of church members are considered members until they turn 18 years old. Then they will need to attend the membership course either before or immediately after their 18th birthday to maintain their membership.

The Harvest

- Weekly meeting designed for people to “come and see.”
- “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
(Matthew 9:37-38)
- Format:
 - Spiritual Songs
 - Topic/Bible Study
 - Snacks/Refreshments
 - Social time & Connection



Leisure Groups

- Small groups created by members
- Open to all attendees
- For socialization
- Build bonds and integrate newcomers
- Fixed online registration periods throughout the year
- Examples: Recurring events such as playing basketball every week, or one-time events like going to a play, etc.



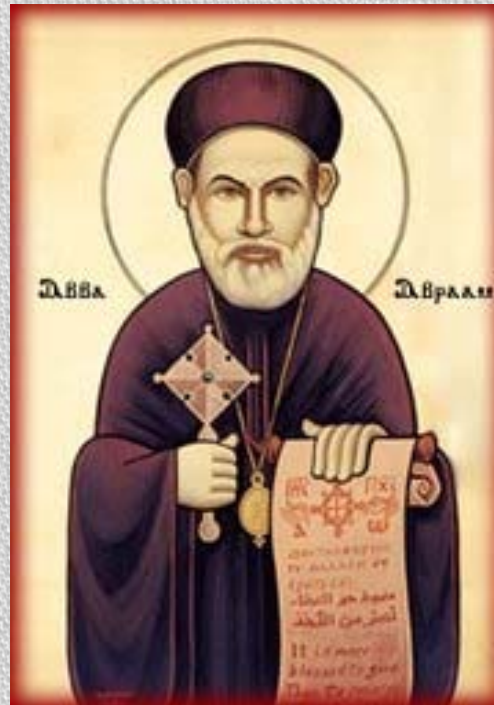
St. Pachomious Cenobiums

- Small groups created by members to host in their homes
- Open to members only
- Spiritual (Bible Study, book club, spiritual discussion, etc.)
- Fixed online registration periods throughout the year
- Designed to reinforce the teachings of the church in a less formal setting.



Friends of St. Abraam Community Service

- Existing service structure and members
- Focus on serving the same local organizations repeatedly to develop a long-term relationship through consistent service
- Expand service opportunities to provide options for younger ages
- Open to all attendees



St. Simon the Tanner Prayer Meeting

- Open for all attendees to join together and pray with the Agpeya as well as their own personal prayers.
- It is open to newcomers and non-Orthodox members that want to learn more about how Orthodox people pray.



St.Takla.org

St. Clement of Alexandria University

- Organization under which all church educational programs function
- All instruction is in the form of courses
- Courses have start/end dates
- Most require registration during designated registration periods
- Both official enrollment and auditing options available



St. Clement of Alexandria University

- Course Administrators are responsible for overseeing the needs of students and to ensure that courses follow the standard guidelines including providing a course syllabus, assignments, etc.
- Three branches:
 1. **St. Ephraim Hymns Academy** - Hymnology
 2. **St. Habib Girgis Youth Academy** - “Sunday School”
 3. **St. Athanasius Theological Academy** - Theology

St. Ephraim Hymns Academy

- Courses designed to teach church hymns in English
- Each course is taught by a member of the St. Ephraim Chorus
- Chorus members are responsible to lead Liturgy and teach hymns
- Courses are only available to church members and students may either enroll in or audit the courses.



St. Ephraim Hymns Academy

- “Sing praises with understanding!” (Psalm 46:7 LXX).
- Courses are taught with the purpose of imparting to the students the means to achieve a spiritual connection with God through the chanting of hymns... not just to teach the mechanics of chanting hymns
- 50% of class time is dedicated to the meaning, history, purpose, and contemplations of the hymn being studied, and 50% of the time on teaching students to chant the hymn

St. Habib Girgis Youth Academy

- Responsible for teaching the basics of the Bible and the Orthodox faith to children and youth from Pre-K to 12th Grade.
- One course per grade level
- Courses follow a standardized curriculum and adhere to the University requirements.
- Courses are only open to church members and cannot be audited. Assignments are required.

Saint Habib Girgis the Archdeacon

المقدّيس الأرشيدياكون حبيب جرجس



St. Habib Girgis Youth Academy

- Orthodoxy is action, not just knowledge.
- Partners with the Friends of St. Abraam to provide age-appropriate service opportunities both inside and outside of the church. Every course requires that each student participate in at least one in-church, and one out-of-church service per year



St. Athanasius Theological Academy

- Provides a wide range of theological instruction through various courses:
 1. **Bible Study Program** - A study of the entire Bible and Deuterocanonical books.
 2. **St. Paul Catechism Program** - Several-month program that is required for all catechumens prior to baptism and membership into the church



St. Athanasius Theological Academy

3. **St. Paul Membership Course** - Intended for Orthodox attendees to become members of the church. It provides a general overview of the Orthodox faith (as a refresher) and describes all the various services the church provides to help orient newcomers.
4. **St. Timothy Servants Preparation Program** - A series of courses on the Bible and the Orthodox faith geared towards preservants. Completion of this program is required to become a servant in the St. Habib Girgis Youth Academy.
5. **St. Justin Martyr Apologetics** - Courses designed to teach apologetics that are geared towards members of the St. Justin Martyr Apologists group.

Diocese-Level Services

- All 8 churches will work together towards the following:
 - Website and mobile application
 - English movies about the saints of the church
 - English documentaries about different aspects of the faith
 - Wiki
 - Encyclopedia
 - Pastoral guide from each major religion (or atheism) to Orthodoxy
 - Orthodox Scriptural commentary on each verse of the Bible
 - E-books
 - Hymns for reference and teaching (collaborate with coptichymnsinenglish.com)