THE BASILIAN

APRIL 2021

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4

REFLECTION FOR GREAT LENT 2021

FROM HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS OF SF*

*His Eminence issued this reflection prior to the onset of Lent to the faithful of our Metropolis

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

In a few short days, we will begin Great Lent and our journey to the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. With Clean Monday, we will begin the Great Fast, as Lent is often called, and turn our focus to our spiritual and religious lives. In its hymnology, the Church contrasts the perceived darkness of Great Lent with words of joy. A hymn of Clean Monday states, "Let us joyfully begin the all-hallowed season of abstinence; and let us shine with the bright radiance of the holy commandments of Christ our God, with the brightness of love and the splendor of prayer, with the purity of holiness and the strength of good courage...."

An overarching theme of Great Lent is called bright-sadness – $\chi \alpha \rho \mu o \lambda \dot{\upsilon} \pi \eta$. The atmosphere of the weekday services is penitential, especially as we repeat the prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian day after day, or hear the refrain "I have sinned..." in the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete. This reminder of the distance we experience between God and our self is meant to chasten us and bring us to a state of repentance- $\mu \epsilon \tau \dot{\alpha} v \circ i \alpha$ – of changing our mind, our heart, and our actions.

We prepare to begin Great Lent after one of the most challenging years in anyone's memory. Over 500,000 people in the United States have lost their lives to the Coronavirus. There has been economic devastation. There have been natural disasters. Our churches were not spared from the ripple-effects of the pandemic. Thankfully, in these last few weeks, there has been progress in the re-opening of our society and our churches.

The Psalmist says, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1) I am sure that you are eager to return to church and will be glad when you open its doors and enter. We have been away for too long. Even if the number of participants is reduced, we can look forward to spending time in our Father's house once again, to pray and worship in person, and to participate in the divine services of our Faith.

Great Lent also provides us with the opportunity to place God back in the center of our lives. Set aside your usual routines and concerns and instead prepare, through fasting and repentance, in anticipation of the joyful celebration of the Lord's Holy Resurrection.

Beloved in the Lord, the journey now begins. Let us "walk by faith, not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7) toward the Cross of Christ. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits. And as Saint Paul writes to the Hebrews, "...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

My beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, I know this past year has been difficult, but you have never been alone. As you take these first steps on your journey through Great Lent, may you be renewed in your faith and strengthened in your life in Christ. God bless you!

St. Basil Adult Faith Ministries for 2021

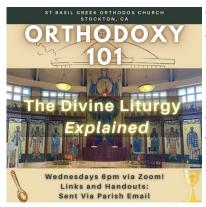
These ministries are open to all, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, and are meant to help us grow in our faith and love for Jesus Christ and to experience more fully and profoundly, His love, peace and purpose for our lives! These ministries will be offered only via Zoom at this time. A link to the Zoom meeting will be e-mailed in advance. For those who can't watch these classes live, we will record the sessions and post them on our St. Basil YouTube page. Our parish e-mail blast will be the primary way of communicating any announcements and links regarding the ministries listed below. If you are not on our parish e-mail blast list and wish to be added, please send your e-mail addresses with your request to be added to: office@gosaintbasil.org

Orthodoxy 101—The Significance of the Divine Liturgy—

Meets weekly via Zoom



< On hiatus April 29th through May 12th >

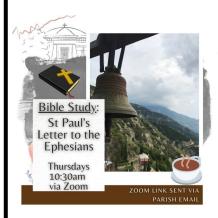


The Divine Liturgy is the main corporate worship service of the Orthodox Church and yet many are unfamiliar with its beauty, depth, symbolism and meaning. This class will explore the historical, spiritual and structural elements of the Liturgy and why all of these items matter to us today. For any questions regarding this ministry, and to be added to the official list of this ministry, please contact Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras at: <u>frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org</u>

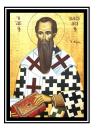
Bible Study—St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews

Meets weekly via Zoom on Thursday mornings

10:30am-11:30am



Growing closer to Christ and experiencing His love, peace and joy is very much connected to the study and application of the Holy Scriptures. Towards that end, this class will reflect on St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews, with the purpose of applying the eternal truths found in his writing to our modern context and life. For any questions regarding this ministry, and to be added to the official list of this ministry, please contact Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras at: <u>frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org</u>



(1)

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

Ph# 209-478-7564 | mjouthas@gosaintbasil.org



Instagram: stbasil_stockton | **Facebook:** @StBasilGOCStockton

	April Meetings							
Day	Group	Time	Group	Time				
Tue 04/06	Hope/JOY	3:30pm	Jr. GOYA	4:35pm				
Tue 04/20	Hope/JOY	3:30pm	Jr. GOYA	4:35pm				

(Those in their 20's & 30's)

'Renewing You' Lenten Book Club

y recommend this book for all who aspire to reach ir potential for God and good in the world."

MAN, Ph.D., author of The Five Low Lange

RENEWING

A PRIEST,

A PSYCHOLOGIST, AND A PLAN

Nicholas G. Louh & Dr. Roxanne K. L

Thursdays Via Zoom 7pm-8pm

March 4th March 18th April 1st April 15th May 6th



RENEWING

We'll Explore:

Together

Make Faith Your Foundation'

'Remodel Your Mind'

'Find Victory Over Your Vices'

'Turn Trials into Triumphs'

'Tend to Yourself'

'Make Over Your Marriage'

'Equip Your Children'

'Share Your Light'

STEWARDSHIP

EVERY PORTION MATTERS

Once upon a time, a festival was to be held in a certain village. To ensure there would be enough wine for the celebration, each member of the village agreed to pour one bottle of his best wine into a large cask. "If I fill my bottle with water," reasoned one villager, "the dilution will be so slight, who will notice?" But when the feast and time for merrymaking commenced, and the cask was tapped, nothing but water poured forth. Every member in the village had reasoned alike: "My portion will not be missed!"



Friendly Reminder > 2021 PLEDGE CARDS

Stewardship pledge cards are still available. Please call Eleni in the church office who can mail one to you. With prayerful consideration, please submit your 2021 pledge card by mail and/or email.

Email: Office@gosaintbasil.org

Church Office: 209-478-7564

2021 Goal	\$ 410,000.00
Pledged to Date:	\$ 150,660.00
Paid to Date:	\$ 69,100.66

Yours in Christ, Lisa Kapogiannis

PC Member / Stewardship Chair

lkapogiannis@yahoo.com

PHILOPTOCHOS

Hello Everyone,

We hope you and your families are doing well.

THANK YOU! to the Spanos Family for their generosity in sponsoring the Makaronatha. Without their help so many couldn't have enjoyed the meal at no charge. Angelina's Restaurant cooked the delicious food--support them & the volunteers who made the drive-thru event run smoothly. A special thank you to Helen Garner for her valuable advice and organizational skills. It wouldn't have been as successful without her.

We would like you to know that despite all that has happened, Philoptochos has continued to hold meetings, and find innovative ways to raise funds in our efforts to help those in need locally & nationally.

Our efforts at this time are focused on raising money for local food providing organizations in our community who have become overloaded with increased demands on their supplies. If you can donate \$5.00 or any amount, please send it to the church office: St. Basil Philoptochos, memo "food".

There is a direct email to us: philoptochos@gosaintbasil.org contact us anytime.

This spring Philoptochos will be holding Board elections and election of chapter officers. You will be hearing more about this, and I encourage all Philoptochos members to run for the Board and for elected office. Of course, I also encourage everyone to become a Philoptochos member.

Please contact Gayle Maduros, philoptochos@gosaintbasil.org.

ST BASIL 2021 STEWARDS

Adam, Argirios & Eleni Aftias, Nick & Kiki Alexander, Dean & Ruth Aliferis, Spilios & Georgia Allison, Angeliki Anagnos, Angelo & Olympia Anagnos, Popi Anagnos, Steve Anthony, Phyllis Argiros, Jim Bandy, Buck & Mary Carroll Basso, Robert & Marie Berberian, Dea & Ron Bestolarides, Ted & Kelly Bittner, Katherine Blum, James & Terri Borges, John & Sunday Bravos, Jim & Mary Carademos, Ted Chiarchianis, Nick Chiarchianis, Stephen & Jodie Chiarchianis, Tom & Deana Chimiklis, George & Janice Clifford, Emily Cook, Shalen & Anastasia Craig, Michael & Stephanie Devetzis, Tasos & MaryAnn Dominguez, Joseph Dubois. Robert & Rola Economou, Lex & Lindsey Emery, Jessica Enescu, Gabriel

Everly, Fred & Katie Facaros, Steve & Mary Farros, Nick & Jesselyn Fidentzis, Elias & Litsa Fields, Michael & Edna Filios, Bill & Susan Frances, Barbara Frangadakis, Michael & Patti Frank, Charles & Yumi

Fulton, Ray & Anastasia

Galas, George & Kathleen Galas, John

Garner, Aaron & Helen Gatrousis, Veronica Geralis, Mono Giourousis, KF & Sophia Gogna, Joline Goriye, Elia & Rana Gorive. Mrad & Janette Graham. Edward & Sali Graham, Stella Heinrich, Willie & Sylvia Henning, Mel & Terri Henning, Robert Jochimsen. Ken & Maria Johns, Art & Barbara Jouthas, Matthew Jouthas, Themis & Sandy Kandris, Tasso & Gertie Kapalanis, George & Kathy Kapinaris, Kosta & Demertra Kapogiannis, Mark & Lisa Karabinis, Peter & Maria Karapanos, Dimitri & Maria Karelis, Anna Karelis, Joanna Kay, Chris & Kristen Keigly, Alan & Angelina Kluve, John & Elaine Kouchis, Demetra Koutsoulis, Kosta & Vaso Koutsoulis, Nasi & Katie Ksidakis. Dessie Kuchulis, CW & Dena

Laios, Anastasios Leonidou, Alexandra Lewis, Leo & Vasiliki Lofas, Jim & Stacie Louis, Michael & Beth Lucas, Harriet Maduros, Gayle Mandarakas, Litsa Manolatos, Helen Manos, Danny

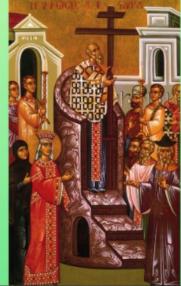
Manos, Diana Manuse, Patricia Maragos, Pecy & Renee Marcopoulos, Ernie & Josie Mariani, Angela Mariani, Gary & Deana Maroulis, John & Debra Mavrogenes, Olga Mitrakos. Peter Palacioz, Kimberly Panagopoulos, Bill & JoAnne Panos. Dina Panos, Elias & Heather Panos, Kosta Panos, Nick & Elena Papadimatos, Lenna Papadogiannis, Dimetra Papadogiannis, Wilma Papas, Chris Papas, Chris Wlliam Pappas, Andy & Jennifer Pappas, John & Paula Pascarella, Don & Cynthia Pascut, George Paul, Christine Peppas, Despina Perlegos, Helen Perris, Manoli & Katina Poullos, Dean & Marie Prescott, Antonia Prucyk, Bob & Katherine Reyes, Jon & Jessica Rishard, PJ Rishwain, Kerie

Rishwain, Raymond & Georgianna Robinson, Jim & Evie Rodarakis, Michael & Rodo Ropalides, Gus Ruhl, Barry & Alexis Schonover, Alexandra Siliverdis, John & Rosemary Sola, John & Evette Sopp, Ernest Sotiras, Fr. Panagiotis & Pres. Angie Spanos, Jim Spanos, Michael & Helen

Spanos, Thomas Stamos, Bill & Maria Tierney, Mark Jr. Tounou, Shamla Trachiotis, Dean & Phyllis Trucco, Mimi Tsampis, Paul & Christine Tsirelas, Eraclis & Marianthe Tsirelas, Joann Tsirelas, John Tsirelas, Niki Valenzuela, Juan & Kelly Vasiliou, Donna Veziris, Rodama Vicijan, Miro & Nada Victor, Jerry Von Trachtenberg, David & Camille Walkowiec, Kathy Walton, Steve Wiebe, Christine Wiesner, Timothy & Lindsay Wigt, Pete & Valli Wolf, Carla Xanttopulos, Dean & Tara Xanttopulos, Ethel Xanttopulos, Nick & Rhonda Xenos, Bobbe Younnel, Creighton & Bertha Zahos, Elpida Zarefakis, Maria

Sunday of the Holy Cross April 4th

Pastoral Visit from His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea Chancellor of our Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco



8:15am Orthros

9:30am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy







During the Lenten Season, flowers are used to decorate the church, icons, and the Epitafio. If you would like to donate towards these flowers, please call Eleni 209-478-7564 Checks may be made out to St. Basil Church, memo: Lenten Flowers

"Quarantined Cuties"



Sami I Hanania Born 3/28/2020 to Mysa and Iyad Hanania



Maximus John Wiesner Born 4/15/2020 to Lindsay and Tim Wiesner



Alexander Lucas Xanttopulos Born 7/2/2020 to Tara and Dean Xanttopulos



Ezekiel Stephen Martinez Born 7/7/2020 to Angelina and Stephen Martinez



Olivia Stavroula Davis Born 8/27/2020 to Evanthia and Casey Davis



Constantine Vasili Koutsoulis Born 9/22/2020 to Rita Koutsoulis



Evangelia Dimitrios Giourousis Born 10/1/2020 to Georgia and Dimitrios Giourousis



Gia Filomila Dickey Born 12/24/2020 to Nicole and Tom Dickey



Joshua Takuro Henry Frank Born 12/24/2020 to Yumi and Charles Frank



Theodore Edmund Sotiras Born 10/29/2020 to Pres. Angle and Fr. Pete Sotiras



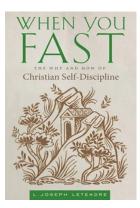
Alexander Joseph Manuse Born 1/22/2021 to Karina Manuse

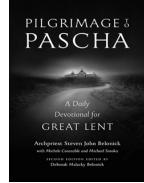
Please enjoy the sweetness of these precious babies born to our St. Basil families throughout this past year.

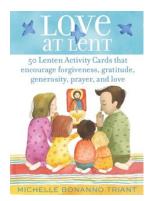
May God bless and keep them!

Contact Pres. Angle for more information on the MOMS ministry anglesotiras@gmail.com

BOOKSTORE







There are two new books available for purchase: *When You Fast-The Why and How of Christian Self-Discipline* by Joseph Letendre. Another book is: *Pilgrimage to Pascha – A Daily Devotional for Great Lent* by Archpriest Steven J Belonick with Michele Constable and Michael Soroka. In addition to these books, I always recommend *Great Lent: Journey to Pascha* a classic by the late Fr. Alexander Schmemann.

While I have been in social refuge during the pandemic, many parishioners have reached out to me for assistance in obtaining books, religious items or icons. I have ordered items and had them mailed directly to their homes in the spirit of social distancing. Please do not hesitate to contact me to reserve an item already purchased and/or to order any books or icons to assist you in growing in your faith. Contact me by email: <u>patriciamanuse@gmail.com</u> or text/call me at (209) 337-5401.

> His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos cordially invite you to attend

> > United in Peace and Love

Donations will be accepted LIVE during the event, or you can give online now at www.sfphiloptochos.org TODAY!



Kids 'n Cancer Camp Agape

> A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Ladies Philoptochos Society

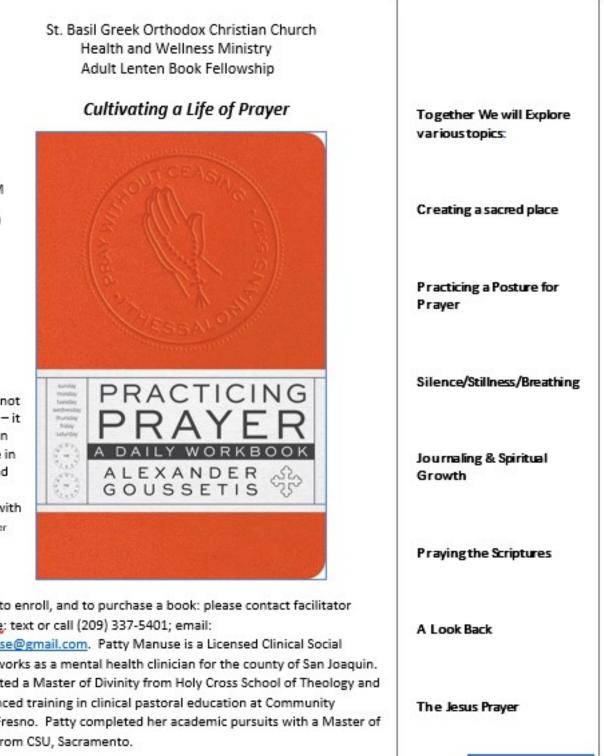
to benefit the Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry

Sunday, April 11, 2021 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PST

Testimonials Entertainment

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE FROM His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

Register for this complimentary event at: www.sfphiloptochos.org or by calling 415-431-2600 by April 6, 2021.



Via Zoom 6:30-8:00 PM (link in Email) April 8

Thursdays

April 15

April 22

May 06

"This book is not about prayer - it is an invitation to participate in a personal and dynamic relationship with God." (Alexander Goussetis)

For more

information, to enroll, and to purchase a book: please contact facilitator Patty Manuse: text or call (209) 337-5401; email: patriciamanuse@gmail.com. Patty Manuse is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and works as a mental health clinician for the county of San Joaquin. Patty completed a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross School of Theology and earned advanced training in clinical pastoral education at Community Hospitals of Fresno. Patty completed her academic pursuits with a Master of Social Work from CSU, Sacramento.

My Orthodox Notebook

"My Orthodox Notebook" is an opportunity for a brief reflection during our day. It is an email and attachment



(link to the blog site) that provides a short quote, reflection, and resources as footnotes. It is updated every Wednesday and Friday.

To be added to the email list, contact:

mjouthas@gosaintbasil.org

The quote will be from either Holy Scripture, Writings of the

Saints, hymnography/prayers, or information/history of the Church with a short reflection with resources noted for further reading (if desired).

Please bookmark the link to the blog site:

https://myorthodoxnotebook.blogspot.com/

It is my hope and prayer that through the intercessions of the Theotokos, the Ever-Virgin Mary and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that this is and continues to be something enjoyable, that inspires discussion in the home, and is edifying.

In Christ,

Matthew Jouthas | Pastoral Assistant mjouthas@gosaintbasil.org

SEEKING ROOM RENTAL

SUBMITTED BY: Vicki Papachristos

Ethel Zarkas (58 yrs old), our longtime parishioner, seeks to rent a room by May 1st in a home or apartment, preferably from a fellow parishioner.

Ethel has been living with her son and family who are moving out of town. Ethel wishes to remain in Stockton.

Ethel does housekeeping, laundry, and some outdoor work, which she hopes will offset her rent. She's on a fixed income and has a modest budget. She will consider renting from a non-parishioner with a referral from a parishioner.

Ethel is currently on a waiting list for Section 8 housing. Due to her fixed income, she was told it could take up to several years.

This might be a perfect opportunity for someone living by themselves, who could use her assistance and in addition receive some extra income.

If you're interested or know someone that would be willing to rent her a room, please reach out to Vicki Papachristos at 209-406-9248. Thank you!

MISSION IN ALBANIA



The Orthodox Children's Home of Hope in Albania is a special place. It is truly a safe Christian environment for children from broken and troubled families to find loving, caring people to nurture them and their families. I have been the missionary liaison for the Home of Hope for about 10 years. This means I accepted the responsibility to host OCMC mission teams and try to develop a long-term network of friends who care about and pray for this difficult and incredibly valuable ministry.

The pandemic really impacted the children at the Home They had barely recovered from the November 2019 earthquake when the whole country suddenly went into a 4-month full lockdown quarantine. Living on the campus of the Shen Vlash Monastery and Theological Academy was a mixed blessing. They could go outside, but they were also extremely isolated. They didn't have the necessary equipment for online learning and struggled to keep up and stay interested in their les-

sons. Their playground was old and rusty and the equipment was broken. By December, a deeper sadness had begun to settle on them.

And then friends from America stepped at Christmas to help. OCMC missionary candidate and former Home of Hope team member Elaine Piniat and the OCMC staff and I began a Christmas appeal to raise funds for a much needed new playground. God blessed our efforts and so many people responded, by the beginning of March we had installed the new playground. We also decided, since travel to and from Albania wasn't possible, to hold a digital camp. Again, this was such a blessing. We raised funds to install the needed equipment (Smart TV, upgrade internet, laptop, camera, microphone) in order to hold a digital camp, but also assist with online learning. This past week-end we held a camp with the theme "Caring for Creation". It was such a joy to hear the children laugh, sing, dance and enjoy the playground and nature. Thank you to all to helped to make this blessing a reality. Please keep the children and this ministry in your prayers.



www.ocmc.org > Support Missions

With love in Christ Our Lord,

Anastasia Pamela Barksdale, MDiv OCMC Missionary and



Executive Director of the Spirit of Love Foundation

FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Tsoureki & Koulourakia

Tsoureki \$10 Koulourakia \$8 a dozen

APRIL 25 2021 11:30PM - 1:00PM PREORDER BY APRIL 16 209-478-7564

A Bake Sale Fundraiser to benefit the Philanthropic projects of Philoptochos



					April	2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:30am Bible Study	6:00pm Salutations	n
4	5	9	7	00	6	10
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Bishop <u>loannis</u> of Phocaea to celebrate	6:00pm Great Compline	3:30pm HOPE/JOY 4:35 Jr GOYA	6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy	10:30am Bible Study	6:00pm Salutations	10:00am Philoptochos General Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	6:00pm Great Compline		6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy	10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm YA Lenten Book Club	6:00pm Akathist Hymn	10:00am Philoptochos Board Meeting
18	19	20	21	22	23	Lazarus Saturday 24
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	6:00pm Great Compline	3:30pm HOPE/JOY 4:35 Jr GOYA	6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy	No Bible Study		8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Palm Sunday 25	Holy Monday 26	Holy Tuesday 27	Holy Wednesday 28	Holy Thursday 29	Holy Friday 30	Holy Saturday 1
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy			9:30am Presanctified Liturgy 3:00pm Holv	9:30am Liturgy of St. Basil 7:00am Passion of	9:00am Royal Hrs. 3:00pm Removal	9:30am Liturgy of St. Basil 11:00om Pre-
7:00pm Bridegroom Service	7.00pm Bridegroom Service	r.uupm Bridegroom Service	Unction 7:00pm Bridegroom Service (Unction to be offered after)	our Lord	7:00pm Lamentations	Resurrection Service Resurrection Orthros and Liturgy to follow
2	May 3rd	May 4 th	May 5 th	May 6 th	May 7th	May 8 th
Great & Holy Pascha 11:00am Agape Service	St George 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	NO FASTING THIS WEEK	St. Irene the Great Martyr 8:40am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	No Bible Study Final YA Lenten Book Club 7pm	<u>Theotokos</u> of the Life-Giving Spring 8:40am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church	Non-Profit Org.
920 West March Lane	U.S. Postage
Stockton, California 95207	PAID
	Permit No. 171
Return Service Requested	Stockton, CA

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Website: www.gosaintbasil.org Parish Facebook: <u>@StBasilGOCStockton</u> Parish Instagram: stbasil_stockton

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Phone (Church): 209.478.7564 Fax: 209.323.3879 E-mail: office@gosaintbasil.org

> Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras E-mail: frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org

St. Basil Church Bulletin and BASILIAN: gosaintbasil.org/communication