JANUARY 2024

THE BASILIAN

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



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President's Message

As this year comes to an end, it is time to reflect. With the passing of each year comes the promise of tomorrow. As I think about tomorrow, I see a beautiful new Pavilion standing where a 2500 square foot slab of concrete once lay. I see a new 1500 square foot storage facility where broken-down, pest-infested sheds once stood. I see a new dome atop our beloved St Basil Greek Orthodox Church, like a crown jewel.

But I also see storm clouds on the horizon.

To date, we are approximately \$130,000 short of achieving our Stewardship goal of \$385,000. This is a major concern. This past summer, the Parish Council had to borrow \$60,000 from the Precissi account to pay our bills to keep the lights on, the water flowing and to prevent checks from bouncing. To date, this money has not been repaid.

This cannot continue. If it does, the Precissi account, which is intended for capital improvements, will be depleted. (A capital improvement is the addition of a permanent structure or the restoration of a property that will either enhance the property's overall value or adapt it to new uses). And if it wasn't for the one-time \$130,000 we are receiving from the federal government and the \$30,000 we receive from renting our field to Lincoln Unified School District annually, our 2024 budget would be short \$65,000. Let me repeat that - short \$65,000.

I bring this matter to you all because I believe we can rise to the occasion and become self-reliant for our Operating Expenses primarily, if not exclusively, on Stewardship. I say this because I know how much this parish means to each and every one of you and how much God means to you. I also know that our Stewardship Committee is already working very hard to help us reach our potential for 2024; please take to heart their message for 2024 that they will be sharing with us on Stewardship Sunday, January 21 and via mailing.

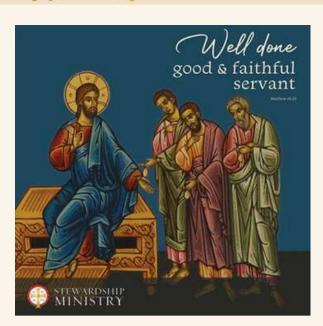
After you hear from our Stewardship Committee, please fill out a Pledge Card and prayerfully consider giving your very best to our beloved parish. I believe with all my heart we can reach our goals and exceed them!

I would like to leave you with these words from the Gospel of *Luke (6:38)*:

"Give, and it will be given to you".

A very and healthy Happy 2024 to you and yours.

Faithfully yours, Peter Koulouris Parish Council President



Donate Here or Use the QR Code



Stewardship 2023

Please consider giving a year-end stewardship donation to support our parish.

Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. It is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally. It is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. What generosity gives can vary: money, time, attention, aid, encouragement and more, but it always intends to enhance the wellbeing of the receiver. LIke all virtues, generosity is in people's genuine enlightened self-interest to learn and practice. --Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson, "The Paradox of Generosity"

Including the following three budget categories: Stewardship, Pledge and Tray, **our total parish income this year (through November 30, 2023) is \$241,652.13. This is equal to 62.8% of our annual goal. To be on target to reach our goal, we should be at 91.7%.**

You can see that we are far short. If you are able, thank you for making a year-end donation. Whether you are able to give an additional \$2.00 or \$20,000, your donation is a meaningful way of being part of St. Basil Parish.

"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"

Stewardship means making a regular commitment of one's Time, Talent, and Treasure to God and His Church.

Sunday, January 21, 2024 is Stewardship Sunday! As we wind down the year and make our final donations for 2023 to meet our goal, let's also take time out to consider our pledge for 2024. Within the next two weeks, each household will receive their Stewardship packet in the mail. Father Pete & Pres. Angie, Pastoral Assistant Gabriel & his wife Iulia Cupsa, the Parish Council Members, and your Stewardship Committee will all prayerfully consider what their family will pledge to His church in 2024. We ask that your family also prayerfully consider your 2024 pledge.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss Stewardship, please speak with anyone on the Stewardship Committee or make an appointment with Father Pete to discuss.

With love in Christ, Your Stewardship Committee

House Blessings 2024

Father Panagiotis will be blessing homes the week of Jan 8th.

Please call the Office to schedule a House blessing 209-478-7564

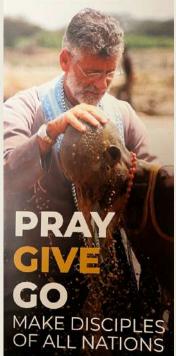
Outreach & Evangelism

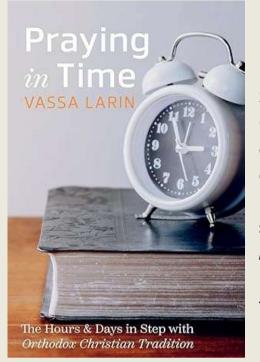


Welcome Anthony, Danielle and Jarod!

St Basil's Outreach and Evangelism Team has two new members, Anthony and Danielle Vasquez. They will be spearheading the OCMC efforts to at St Basil's to support Orthodox Missionaries in Alaska, Albania, Fiji, South Pacific, South America, South Africa, Romania and South Korea to name a few! Keep an eye out for the OCMC table during Coffee Hour. Stop by and pick up information how we can follow in the apostle's footsteps spreading the Gospel of God's truth and love. Also, new member Jarod Chacon will be in the Narthex caring for the Pamphlet Rack.







St. Basil's Bookstore

St. Basil's Bookstore aims to be a hub for exploring Orthodox Church teachings and spirituality. The store offers a variety of ecclesiastical items, including icons and candles. Patty Manuse, the coordinator, assists with personalized orders. The store promotes gift shopping and stocks new books, like *"Praying in Time: The Hours & Days in Step with Orthodox Christian Tradition."* by Sr. Vassa Larin. It is highly recommended by a parishioner who has this to say, "It is about the awareness and integrating The Hours into our present day lives. I had always wanted to integrate a more formal awareness of prayer and God with

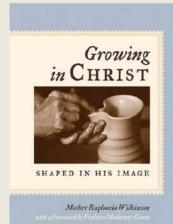
the hours throughout my day but, was never successful because of the pace of my daily life. Sr. Vassa was able to distill down the lengthy prayers to very short verses that encapsulate the meanings behind The Hours. It had a dramatic effect on my awareness of God and the times of day which are spiritually meaningful, enabling me to carry formal prayer into my day without becoming 'a monk' at work. I still am not successful every day at every one of the hours for prayer, but by setting my alarm for each of the hours, I am reminded to pray and reflect briefly during those times. I am thankful that God is patient and loving as we try to keep our awareness of Him, and this book helped me with that.

The Ladies Book Club is currently reading "Growing in Christ: Shaped in His *Imaage*" by Mother Raphaela. Here is what Presbytera Angie has to say about the book: "Mother Raphaela offers beautifully written practical wisdom towards living the Christian life. This book is a simple and sweet read, part of a set of 3 books. Mother Raphaela teaches that how we participate in our church communities is crucial in demonstrating our love of neighbor. She offers compassionate commentaries that draw on the ancient wisdom of Orthodox spirituality and shows how it applies to our contemporary world.

Frederica Matthews-Green says, "Mother assesses all the failings and spiritual detours that keep us from having the character of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Patty Manuse is a knowledgeable resource who can guide customers in choosing books for spiritual growth and selfhelp. The store also features children's activity books, including ones from a local monastery.

Contact Patty at patriciamanuse@gmail.com.



Christmas Concert performed by 'Doxologia' at St. Basil

On December 8th, the all male Romanian chanting group Doxologia, headed by our own Gabriel Cupsa along with his friends from Romania, Deacon Paul, Marian and Alin, performed a Christmas Carol Concert at Saint Basil's. Before this group performed, some of our youth and adults performed a few English carols. After this short performance, Doxologia had prepared four sets of carols, first the apolytikion of the Nativity was done by Dimitra in Greek, then in English by Gabriel and finally in Romanian by Doxologia. The second set consisted of Christmas **Bvzantine** hvmns. Third. Doxologia performed what they are most well known and well versed in, Romanian choral chant. Finally, the group closed the concert with a few traditional, in a different sense, carols with instruments, receiving a standing ovation before going into the hall for sweets and fellowship, as well as the opportunity to purchase a CD with carols recorded by Doxologia.

December 12th marks the feast day of Saint Spyridon, and as Doxologia was still in Stockton, they chanted the Divine Liturgy in the Romanian choral style. What a liturgy it was! Their chanting was so prayerful and being in Romanian, was quite a treat to hear during the worship of our Lord.

We thank Doxologia for their performance of the concert as well as the Divine Liturgy and pray for their safe return to Romania.



Greek Dance Program

If you are interested in our St Basil's Greek Dance Program please join us on Sunday, January 7th following the Divine Liturgy during coffee hour. Our beloved dance program is open to all children aged 5 and up. Please contact Maria Karapanos for more details (209)559-5101 or maria@karapanos.net



Adopt-a Family ministry

A big THANK YOU to all who donated to our Adopt-a Family ministry this year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to complete both the needs and wants lists for all the children, as well as include a \$250 gift card for each family to use towards purchasing to christmas dinner. What a beautiful witness to Christ's love for our neighbor.







As we drew nearer to our Lord's blessed Nativity, our Pastoral Assistant Gabriel wanted to bring the joy of this feast to the homes of the parishioners of Saint Basil's. And what better way to bring this joy than by singing Christmas Carols! On December 15th, they visited the Oakmont Senior Living Facility, where they performed carols for both the memory care facility and the general seniors residing there. Following this, they continued their caroling journey by visiting Father Pete and Presbytera Angie's home, where they shared more carols, fellowship, and enjoyed dinner together.

The next day, the group went to four home's of those at Saint Basil's living in Lodi, bringing joy to their households through the chosen carols. The carols chosen for these visits were meant to be a bit more theological in meaning, distinguishing them from the more commercialized songs commonly heard during this time of year.

We extend our blessings to all those who participated in the group, as well as those who graciously invited and hosted our carolers. It is our hope that the performed carols brought happiness and joy to their homes.

GOYA Christmas Party



<u>Teen Night</u>: Christmas Edition on Dec. 9 @ Jeries and Diana Hanania's home. Our youth and Fr. Pete had a blast as they discussed the significance of our Lord's Incarnation as well as playing a lively game of White Elephant Gift Exchange Game.





Hope/Joy Ministry



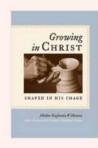
St. Basil's Hope and Joy Meeting on Dec. 3 in the Fireside Room: Christmas Caroling and conversations about the reason for the season with Father Pete and Gabriel.



Women's Book Club Dinner and Fellowship

NEXT MEETING : WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 6:00-8:00 P.M. LOCATION: TBD

Join us once a month for a potluck dinner and book club for women focused on Orthodox Spirituality, the lives of the Saints, and other various reads, promoting growth in our faith, relationships and lives.





Please contact Pres. Angie for more information: angiesotiras@gmail.com

ST. BASIL VIP MINISTRY

VIP is our SENIOR MINISTRY and it is an opportunity to gather the distinguished and beloved members of our parish for fellowship, a meal and to hear a presentation on the faith or a topic of interest.

Please join us for the next session: <u>Tuesday, January 23</u> 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M. in the Church Hall.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship aims to offer men (both Orthodox and non-Orthodox) a place to develop and strengthen friendship, offer support to live the life in Christ and to reach our Godgiven potential.

Next Gathering:

Thursday Night, January 25 7:00-8:30 P.M. Location: TBD

> FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FATHER PETE:

frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org





From a Small Seed, a Mighty Tree Has Grown

In East Africa, we have seen tremendous growth from when there were just a handful of clergy and one bishop covering all of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Over the years, through the support of donors like you, the Church is being firmly established - clergy are being trained, evangelism and outreach ministries are being sponsored, churches, schools, and clinics are being built, wells are being drilled, and teams of volunteers and missionaries have been sent to help water the early seeds of the faith that had been planted. Through the steadfast prayers and support of Orthodox Christians like you, the number of parishes in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda has grown, requiring the spiritual direction of ten Orthodox bishops (four in Kenya, and three each in Tanzania and Uganda) in different dioceses.

What's more, many of the ten bishops in East Africa, now serving hand in hand with missionary bishops from abroad, are African born. A critical reason why so many in the African Orthodox Church have been able to rise to vocations of spiritual leadership is because of the theological education offered through a handful of seminaries that have been established and sustained in Africa, distance learning offered through the St. Stephen's Program, opportunities to study in Greece and the United States, and ongoing mentorship.

To help support the Church in Africa's continued growth, the faithful like you are working through the Mission Center to establish three more seminaries in Africa. The parable shared by Christ in Matthew 13:31-32 has proven true: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."



Indeed, a great tree of African Orthodoxy has grown from the seed that was first planted so many years ago. The tree continues to grow thanks to you.

Cliff & Georgia Adams Angelo & Olympia Anagnos **Steve Anagnos Phyllis Anthony** Dea & Ron Berberian Danny Bestolarides Jim & Mary Bravos Michael & Edna Fields Mono Geralis Stella Graham C.W. & Dena Kuchulis Alexandra Leonidou Gayle Maduros

Basilian Angels

Gary & Deana Mariani Pete & Penny Panos Harriet Paraskevopoulos Katina Perris Dean & Marie Poullos Kerie Rishwain Raymond & Georgianna Rishwain Alexis & Barry Ruhl **Tracey Sittig** Michael & Helene Spanos Fraclis & Marinathe Tsirelas Steve Walton Pete & Vali Wigt

Memorials

January

Christodoulos (Chris) Manos, 5 years Andonis Tsirelas, 3 years Polinikis Tsirelas, 3 years

Please call the office to schedule a memorial. Call Demetra Veziris for Koliva (wheat for memorial service) at (209) 607-3068 TEWARDSHIP

Argirios Adam Melpomeni Adam Cliff & Georgia Adams Nick & Kiki Aftias Vadim Agranovich & Inna Zvorkina Dean & Ruth Alexander Spilios & Georgia Aliferis Yiota Aliferis Kiki Allison Angelo & Olympia Anagnos James Anagnos Popi Anagnos Steve Anagnos **Buck & Mary Bandy** George & Jihan Bandy Pamela Barksdale Robert & Marie Basso **Becky Bennetto** Dea & Ron Berberian Andrew & Amanda Bestolarides Paul & Stephanie Bestolarides **Ted & Kelley Bestolarides** Jim & Terri Blum Nick Bokides John & Sunday Borges Jim & Mary Bravos James & Angela Brusa Ted Carademos

Steve & Jodie Chiarchianis

Tom & Deana Chiarchianis George & Janice Chimiklis Emily Clifford Joseph Compton Michael & Stephanie Craig George Crosthwaite Robert & Rola DuBois Jessica Emery Gabriel & Emily Enescu Fred & Katie Everly Mary Facaros Chuck & Dawn Faris Nick & Jessie Farros Elias & Litsa Fidentzis Georgios Fidentzis Michael & Edna Fields Bill & Susan Filios Demetri & Megan Filios **Barbara Frances** Michael & Patty Frangadakis CJ & Yumi Frank **Ray & Anastasia Fulton Rick & Debbie Gaines** Drs. Eddie & Elena Garcia Helen & Aaron Garner Veronica Gatrousis Mono Geralis **Emanuel Geralis** Bill & Angela Gibson

Kostantinos & Sofia Giourousis Dennis & Noel Goehring Yonael Gorfu Elias & Rana Goriye Mourad & Janette Goriye Edward & Sali Graham Stella Graham Abed & Sabah Hanania Jeries & Diana Hanania William & Sylvia Hanania William & Sylvia Heinrich Eric & Ashlyn Howard Kristi Hyllen Ken & Maria Jochimsen Barbara Johns Sandra Jouthas Tasso & Gertie Kandris George & Kathy Kaplanis Anna Karelis Joanna Karelis Elaine Karles Robert & Katherine Kassab Alan & Angelina Keigley John & Elain Kluve Demetra Kouchis Peter & Lori Koulouris **Elefteria Koutsoulis** Kosta & Vaso Koutsoulis Nasi & Katie Koutsoulis

Living a STEWARDSHIP

Ghazwan Krnfli & Barea Ghandour Frank & Astrini Natsis Dessie Ksidakis C.W. & Dena Kuchulis Anastasios Laios Nick & Kathy Leles **Stephanie Leles** Alexandra Leonidou Leo & Vasiliki Lewis Jim & Stacie Lofas Dina Panos Michael & Beth Louis **Gayle Maduros** Litsa Mandarakas Helen Manolatos Danny Manos **Diane Manos** Patricia Manuse Angela Mariani Chris Papas Gary & Deana Mariani Michael & Jill Mariani Ellece Papas Paolo Mariani John & Deborah Maroulis Mark & Joanne Marro Olga Mavrogenes Elizabeth Mazzeo

Michael Mckiever Peter & Mary Mitracos Solomon & Christine Mourad James & Diane Mousalimas Tyler Musser

Jim & Niki Natsis Wasfi & Dallas Nazraween Alex & Popi Nicolaou Jonathon & Angela (Mariani) O'Connor Steve & Angelina Ortegon-Martinez **Kimberly Palacioz** Anna Panagakos JoAnne Panagopoulos Nick & Elena Panos Pete & Penny Panos Elizabeth Panos-Mazzeo Vicki Papachristos Lenna Papadimatos Dimetra Papadogiannis Wilma Papadogiannis Chris William Papas Andrew & Jennifer Pappas John & Paula Pappas Harriet Paraskevopoulos Paul Paraskevopoulos Don & Cynthia Pascarella George Pascut **Olga** Patterson **Despina** Peppas **Georgia Perlegos**

Helen Perlegos Jeff & Betty Perlegos Jeff & Jessica Perlegos Jeff & Panagiota Perlegos John & Patty Perlegos Katina Perris **Giannis Polizogopoulos Dean & Marie Poullos** Antonia "Toy" Prescott Paris & Calliope Proestakis **Robert & Kathy Prucyk** Jon & Jessica Reyes Paulette "PJ" Rishard Kerie Rishwain Ray & Georgianna Rishwain Jim & Evie Robinson **Gus Ropalidis Barry & Alexis Ruhl** Nicolas & Brittany Ruhl Theoni V. Salcedo Stephen Saturno Alexandra Schoonover John & Rose Mary Siliverdis George & Pat Simpfenderfer **Tracey Sittig** John & Evette Sola David & Jennifer Sorour Nagai & Laila Sorour Sally Sorour

STEWARDSHIP

Living a

Fr. Pete & Pres. Angie Sotiras Spanos Family Jim Spanos Michael & Helene Spanos Milagros Stamos WIlliam & Maria Stamos Althea Tatarakis Shamla Tounou Phyllis Trachiotis Paul & Christine Tsampis Mike Tsarnas Eraclis & Marianthe Tsirelas

Joann Tsirelas John Tsirelas John & Laura Tsirelas Niki Tsirelas Juan & Kelly Valenzuela Donna Vasiliou Anthony & Danielle Vasquez Rodama Veziris Nada & Steven Vicijan Jerry Victor D. & C. Von Trachtenberg Kathryn Walkowiec Steve Walton Christine Weibe Tim & Lindsay Wiesner Pete & Vali Wigt Bizuayehu Woldeabe Carla Wolf Leah Xanttopulos Bobbe Xenos Creighton & Bertha Younnel Elpida Zahos Maria Zarefakis Mathew & Eleni Zarefakis

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(209) 951-2100 Fax

Ted H. Bestolarides, CPA

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FAITH-BASED

Weddings Baptisms First Communions Quincenerias Memorials FUNDRAISERS Crab Feeds School Sports Dance, Cheer, Gymnastics or Band Youth Groups **OTHER EVENTS** Birthdays, Sweet 16 Anniversaries Reunions Art Show, Gallery Exhibit

Meetings, Conferences Chamber of Commerce Events

January 2024

Saturday	6 Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Devine Liturgy Blessing of Waters to follow.	13	20	27	Ω.
Friday	 5 Eve of Theophany 8:00am Royal Hours 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy Blessing of Waters to follow 	 12 Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat (Jan 12- 15) 	4 19	4 26	FEB. 2 7 Presentation of our Lord 8:20am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Thursday	4	1	18 Sts. Athanasius and Cyril 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	25 Men's Fellowship, 7-8:30pm Location: TBD	FEB. 1
Wednesday	n	4 10	 * 17 \$t. Anthony the Great 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Ladies Night Book Club Location: TBD 	4 24	93 •
Tuesday	2	6	9L	23 VIP Senior Luncheon 11:30am-1:00pm	30 Three Hierarchs 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Monday	St. Basil the Great 1 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Hierarchical Liturgy [Please note later start time) Reception to follow (Office Closed)	8 House Blessings this week	15 MLK Jr. Day (Office Closed)	22	29
Sunday	 Strict Fast Wine & Oil allowed. Fish, Oil & Wine allowed 	7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	14 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	21 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Stewardship Sunday	28 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy

St Basil Greek Orthodox Church 920 W. March Ln. Stockton CA 95207

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Pastoral Assistant Gabriel Cupsa gabriel@gosaintbasil.org