THE BASILIAN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



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TIME TALENT TREASURE

~A Special Message from the Louhs

God is generous and kind. He gives us so much, yet to whom much is given, we also know that much is expected (Luke 12:48). We remember in the parable of the bags of gold (Matthew 25:14-46) that we are called to use our gifts (whether money, skills, time, energy, education, intellect, strength, or influence) for good in this world. We are called to do the best we can, with what we have been given. But in this parable, there was one servant who chose to bury his talent in the ground, as an illustration to us of using our God given gifts for earthly pursuits (keeping them for ourselves, idleness, or letting our gifts be bound by fear or failure, worry about what others may think of us, or a fear of the hard work and responsibility involved in using them). But when we use our gifts, we know that it is pleasing to God and we are given more. So, not only do we need to be sure that our God given gifts are not going to waste or bound by earthly cares, but also that our work in this world, the use of our gifts must come from the heart and be an act of love.

After all, all of Christianity comes down to how we use our gifts to love God and to love others. Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment we have been given is to love God and secondly, to love others (Matthew 22:36-40). Therefore, we must aim to use our gifts and to do all things, out of a place of love.

~Continued on page 2

A Special Message from the Louhs ~Continued from page 1...

Love outshines every gift from knowledge to influence and even our unique skills and abilities. Things done without love, profit us nothing.

So today, consider how well you are using your gifts, and consider how often you use your gifts from a place of love. How do we know if we are acting out of love? Remember to filter all you are doing through 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8; "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

~ The Louhs - Marrying Faith and Psychology • thelouhs.com

"Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly, nor under compulsion, for God loves the man that gives cheerfully." (2 Cor. 9:7)

"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"

Offering our gifts to God and His Church is a sacred act, a form of worship, and a response to all his blessings in our life. Every time we make an offering to God, whether big or small, He honors our sacrifice.

This year, we would like to grow the body of Christ at St. Basil and accomplish the following:

- Keep in touch with you more effectively with weekly updates.
- Maintain God's House and our property in Stockton.
- Give back even more to those in need.
- Maintain and establish new ministries to grow the Orthodox Faith.

To achieve these aspirational goals and offer our blessings to God and His Church, we will need to meet our overall stewardship gift of \$335,000, which on average, would be a minimum of \$100 each month (\$1,200 for the year), per steward family. We are grateful for those who are able to contribute more. To date, we have received 52 commitment cards. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship gift and return your stewardship commitment card by February 29, 2024, if you have not already submitted.

When We Bless God With Our Money, God Blesses Us With the Things Money Can't Buy! Our mission has not changed. We continue to be committed to Bring People Closer to God by witnessing, proclaiming, and growing our Orthodox Christian Faith and the Gospel of Jesus Christ through liturgy, ministries, community, and family. Stewardship is how we put our spirituality in action, our faith in action, our theology in action.

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

Donate Here or Use the QR Code



The Greatest Love Story

During the month of February, many celebrate Valentine's Day. It is a day we think of romance, love and relationships. As many will prepare to buy cards and gifts for their loved ones, I hope we will also recall the greatest love story the world has ever known—the one between God and His people, the one between God and His bride, which is the Church (John 3:29, Revelation 21:2)! It is through the Church, which our Lord "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28), where we are most fully united to Christ and experience His abundant love.

The love story between God and His people begins with God's desire to be united to us. God created us out of non-existence into being for the sole purpose of communion with Him, of intimate fellowship with Him. The thing we have to remember is that God didn't have to create us; He wasn't forced to—God created us because He wanted to, because He cherishes us.

God's love is seen in that He not only came to us but that He lowered Himself in the process. The Word of God condescended to us, becoming one of us--the Immortal One became mortal; the King of Glory became a servant and washed the feet of his Disciples; the All-Powerful One was willing to experience pain, sorrow, suffering, mockery, rejection, abandonment and even death for us! It is not a coincidence that we begin the most sacred period of the Church year—Holy Week with services which are called the "Bridegroom services". According to the Scriptures, Christ is the Bridegroom and we, the Church, are His Bride. In addition, the icon of the Bridegroom services is the one depicting Christ with the crown of thorns on His head along with the robe of purple and the reed in His hand, given to Him for the purpose of mocking Him (Matthew 27:27-31).

Like the groom that will give his life for his wife

our Bridegroom—Christ--gives His life to us in the most humiliating and degrading way, showing the depths and the degree of His love for humanity. Like in every great love story, love conquers, and this is the case with Christ who conquered evil and death through His life-giving death on the Cross and His glorious Resurrection from the dead because of His immeasurable love for us.

Everything the Church does is meant to unite us to our God of love! At the 40-day baby blessing we are brought to the Church to be dedicated to God. Baptism unites us to God (Galatians 3:27). In Confession we experience God's love when we come in our vulnerability and brokenness and are instantly embraced by God, who cleanses us, forgives us and wipes away our tears. In Holy Communion we receive our Lord's Body and Blood. Everything the Church does is meant to bring us as close to God as possible.

The Bible itself is a love letter from God. The Divine Liturgy is a love banquet, where we join with the saints and angels in showering our Beloved with hymns of love! In the Divine Liturgy gifts of love are exchanged—our gifts of bread and wine are offered to God who in turn offers the gift of Himself to us. God's love for us is also seen with His desire to make us heirs of His eternal Kingdom where we will reign with Him forever (2 Timothy 2:12).

When Valentine's Day arrives my brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us not only reflect on the greatest love story that the world has ever known; let us also personally enter into and experience this love through the Church, the Divine Liturgy, the sacraments and the Scriptures.

With love in Christ, Fr. Panagiotis

A Message From Parish Council President

Now that the election of the 2024 Parish Council officers is over, I'm happy to announce I was reelected president by unanimous vote. I want to thank my fellow Council members for their faith in me as I assume the awesome responsibilities of my third and final term serving my beloved St Basil family.

I also want to welcome our newest Council Member, Jim Natsis, who was elected Treasurer. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Jim, he has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Santa Clara University and, among other high-level positions, served as Treasurer of Financial Center Credit Union. I know Jim will do a great job as Parish Treasurer.

Tom Chiarchianis was re-elected Vice President and Cynthia Pascarella was re-elected Secretary. Their talents cannot be overlooked or understated. Together the four of us constitute the Parish Council Executive Committee. Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

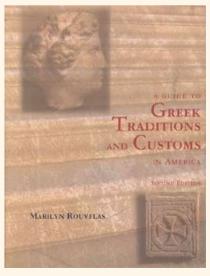
I also want to announce that I will be the chairperson of the 65th Annual Food Festival and look forward to another successful year. Serving with me on the Festival committee are Tom Chiarchianis, Jim Natsis and Peter Maduros.

As we begin the New Year, we are endowed with the promise of tomorrow. and with that promise comes the hope for the future. The future of our Parish is in our hands. If we work together for common goals, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Together, we can make 2024 a year to remember.

Faithfully yours,

PETER KOULOURIS
President
209-762-2020
peterkoulouris1954@gmail.com

St. Basil's Bookstore



A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America is being highlighted by the St. Basil Bookstore for the month of February 2024. The book was compiled and published by Marilyn Rouvelas in 1993. The book was written with the Non-Orthodox Christian and Non-Greek in mind. It is a clear and comprehensive guide to answering all those questions circulating. For instance, "What is Koliva (memorial wheat)?" "What do the ingredients symbolize?" The book provides an easy-to-understand explanation of Orthodox and Greek traditions for the newcomer and for parishioners of Greek American heritage wishing to learn more.

If you are chosen to become a Godparent or witness a marriage (Koumbaroi) you will learn how to plan for a baptism or wedding, bake communion bread or name your baby. There are recipes provided to commemorate major feast days such as Easter and New Year's Day.

Marilyn Rouvelas is also a seasoned author of children's books which have been published and made available by Holy Cross Press: Peter Clashes with Anger, Eleni Looks at Jealousy and St. Anthony the Great! A Guide to Greek Orthodox Traditions and Customs will enable someone new to the Greek Orthodox Community to feel at home quickly as well as to broaden the lives of Greek American Orthodox families.

The Feast Day of our patron Saint, Basil the Great



January 1st marks the Feast Day of the Circumcision of our Lord as well as our patron Saint, Basil the Great. On this day, our Spiritual Shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, led us in worship for the Hierarchical Liturgy. Also joined with His Eminence was His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, Fr. Dino from St. Katherine's in Elk Grove, Fr. James from Annunciation in Sacramento, Fr. Vincent from St. Demetrios in Weston, Massachusetts, as well as Archdeacon Justin from Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church in Castro Valley, and of course our own Fr. Pete.

During the service, our Altar servers received a special blessing from His Eminence, bestowing the official rank of Acolyte. His Eminence also elevated Fr. Panagiotis to the rank of Economos, for being a faithful steward of the mysteries of Christ, awarding him a pectoral cross. Following this was the Doxology for the New Year. After the service, there was a reception in the hall with the traditional cutting and distributing of the Vasilopita to our ministry leaders as well as the faithful. We thank His Eminence and His Grace and all of the clergy celebrating with us for a beautiful Liturgy and wish them many years.













Affirmation of Office







On Sunday, January 7, following the Divine Liturgy, the Parish Council members were called to recite the Oath of Office. Afterwards, they proceeded with the Election of Executive Officers in the Fireside Room.

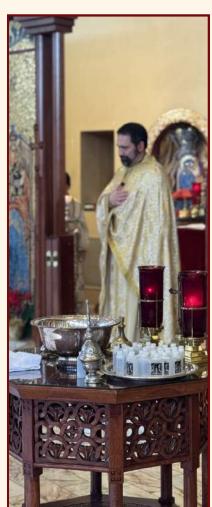
Congratulations on being selected to serve on the 2024 Parish Council!

Blessing of the Water -January 6









Family Night at St. Basil's

A 6-week series Wednesday nights from 6-8 pm at St. Basil's! Starting Feb. 7 - March 13

All Ages Invited!



VESPERS 6:00 pm



DINNER

6:30 pm



DISCUSSION

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Break-out sessions for adults and youth!

February Discussion topics include:

Feb. 7 - Establishing and sustaining a regular pray life

Feb. 14 - Learning how (and loving) to read the Bible

Feb. 21 - How do we view other Christian faiths?

Feb. 28 - Ordination

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:

Tuesday, February 13

11:30 am - 1 pm

in the Church Hall.

Greek Dance Program

If you are interested in our <u>St. Basil's Greek Dance Program</u> please join us on most Sundays, 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





ST. BASIL'S HOPE & JOY MINISTRY

Kindergarten and Elementary School Ages

Sunday, February 4Following Coffee Hour
In the Fireside Room, 12-1 pm





TEEN NIGHT



All teens in middle and high school are invited one Saturday a month to gather together for a night of fun, faith-building, and discussion about teen life and all subjects of interest!



Next Gatherings:
Saturday, Feb. 3 and March 2, 6-8 pm
Location: TBD

Grades 6 to 12 (Middle & High School) are welcome!

For info. contact Gabriel Cupsa: gabriel@gosaintbasil.org (857) 361-6138



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Next meeting: <u>February 11</u>, Following Coffee Hour, in the Fireside Room.

All young adults 18 and above are welcome to join us as we gather once a month for fellowship, chatting about faith, life, and all subjects of interest!

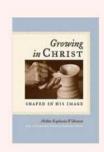
Women's Book Club Galentine's Dinner

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 6:00-8:00 PM

LOCATION: FR. PETE AND PRES.

ANGIE'S HOME

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



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 God-given potential.

Join this wonderful group as we reflect on Dr. Albert Rossi's "All is Well" book. You don't have to read the book to join.

This book seeks to help achieve peace of mind in Christ. Dr. Rossi uses stories from his own life to illustrate the basic principles of watchfulness and prayer. The final chapter is a moving tribute to Dr. Rossi's close friend of many years, Fr. Tom Hopko, whose Fifty-Five Maxims are also helpful in learning to say at all times, "All is Well."

Dr. Rossi is a practicing Orthodox Christian who has studied Eastern and Western spirituality and modern psychology. He is currently Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, as well as a practicing clinical psychologist in the state of New York.

"LIVING ORTHODOXY"

The challenges of proper worship and belief in a world in which anything goes

A Lenten Retreat with Dr. Eve Tibbs



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church presents a Lenten Retreat

When: Saturday, March 30th

Time: Registration 8:30am; Retreat begins at 9:15am, ends at 3:00pm

Place: St. Basil Spanos Hall - 920 W. March Lane, Stockton

Free Lenten breakfast and lunch provided.

RSVP to office 209-478-7564

MORNING

"THE CHURCH: A FOREST AND A SINGLE TREE"

One Body. One Eucharist. One Faith. Why do we worship the way we do?

"HUMBLY CHRISTIAN AND BOLDLY ORTHODOX"

Christianity East and West
Embracing the Orthodox Difference

AFTERNOON

"GREAT LENT: A NEW HOPE"

The Annunciation: "May the Force Be With You"
The Akathist Hymn: The greatest epic of all time.

""SEEING THE GOSPEL"

The God Who "wants to be seen" (St. John of Damascus)
Icons of Holy Week and Pascha



Fellowship and Hospitality
Coffee Hour is a special part of that tradition.

COFFEE HOUR SERVES TO:
encourage fellowship
catch up with friends
welcome newcomers

encourage conversation

Hosting is simple!
bring snacks & juice
brew coffee
set out food & beverages
clean up

Please volunteer to host a Coffee Hour! Call the office at (209) 478-7564

Thank You 2024 Stewards



Your gifts are a testimony of your dedication to your own spiritual growth and the spreading of our beloved Orthodox Faith. Your commitment enables our Parish to grow her ministries and carry on her mission To Bring People Closer to God.

Kiki Allison Angelo & Olympia Anagnos Mary Ann Barrous Jim & Terri Blum Michael & Christina Boettger James & Angela Brusa

Stephen Chiarchianis **Tom & Deana Chiarchianis** George & Janice Chimiklis

Stephanie Craig

Gabriel & Iulia Cupsa

Fred & Katie Everly

Michael & Edna Fields

Bill & Susan Filios

CJ & Yumi Frank

Helen & Aaron Garner

Kaia Gardemeyer

Emanuel Geralis

Edward & Sali Graham

William & Sylvia Hanania

William & Sylvia Heinrich

Kirstin Herron

Kristi Hyllen

Tasso & Gertie Kandris

George & Kathy Kaplanis

Robert & Katherine Kassab

Peter & Lori Koulouris

Ghazwan Krnfli & Barea Ghandour Shamla Tounou

Chris & Renee Livanios

Krystalo Mandarakas

Michael Mckiever

Jim & Niki Natsis

JoAnne Panagopoulos

Vicki Papachristos

Mark & Lenna Papadimatos

John & Paula Pappas

Don & Cynthia Pascarella

George Pascut

Despina Peppas

Ray & Georgianna Rishwain

Barry & Alexis Ruhl

Theoni V. Salcedo

John & Rose Mary Siliverdis

John & Evette Sola

Nagai & Laila Sorour

Fr. Pete & Pres. Angie Sotiras

Jim Spanos

Michael & Helene Spanos

WIlliam & Maria Stamos

Mike Tsarnas

Eraclis & Marianthe Tsirelas

Joann Tsirelas

John Tsirelas

Niki Tsirelas

Juan & Kelly Valenzuela

Donna Vasiliou

Anthony & Danielle Vasquez

George Velis

Rodama & Vasilios Veziris

Kathryn Walkowiec

Steve Walton

Carla Wolf

Bobbe Xenos

Elpida Zahos

Maria Zarefakis

Reminder: send in your commitment card.



Basilian Angels

Dea & Ron Berberian
Michael & Edna Fields
Alexis & Barry Ruhl
Michael & Helene Spanos
Steve Walton



Become a "Basilian Booster"

Support our Mission by off-setting the cost of printing and distributing our monthly Newsletter!

We would love to put your business card or business info in the Basilian. Very simple process.

Cost is \$240.00 per year.

Contact Basilian Editors via email: basilian@gosaintbasil.org

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I'm Here to Help

My online resources are available any time.

Email: Kristie@LoansByKristie.com

Website: LoansBvKristie.com



KRISTIE ANAGNOS

LOAN ADVISOR . ELK GROVE BRANCH . NMLS #1325833

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ENGEL&VÖLKERS

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Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church Hall Rental



Our remodeled rental facility holds up to 380 people with an expandable partitioned wall for smaller events.

Call Veronica Gatrousis @ 925-368-6556 or email HallRental@gosaintbasil.org

920 West March Lane Stockton CA www.gosaintbasil.org

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

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Acolytes: Chris Papas

Father Pete (frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)

Altar Guild: Demetra Veziris (dveziris8@gmail.com)

Basilian: Michael and Edna Fields (basilian@gosaintbasil.org)

Buildings and Grounds: Rick Gaines (office@gosaintbasil.org) and Chris Papas (pcpapas44@aol.com)

Bible Study: Fr. Pete (frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)

Chanters: Demetra Veziris (dveziris8@gmail.com)

Choir: Vicki Papachristos (gemmabella209@yahoo.com)

Greek Festival: Peter Koulouris (peterkoulouris1954@gmail.com)

Groundskeepers: Vasili and Demetra Veziris (vveziris@comcast.net)

Hall: Tom Chiarchianis (59tommyc@gmail.com)

Ladies Book Club: Pres. Angie (angiesotiras@gmail.com)

Men's Bible Study: Father Pete (frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)

Myrhh bearers: Terri Blum (blumterri@yahoo.com)

Outreach and Evangelism/Vision: Terri Blum (blumterri@yahoo.com)

Parish Council: Peter Koulouris (peterkoulouris1954@gmail.com)

Philoptochos: Donna Vasiliou (Dvasiliou@gmail.com)

Preschool: Brittany Ruhl

Project Mexico: Carla Wolf (carlawolf75@gmail.com)

Veronica Facinella (faihtkeeper@msn.com)

Scholarship: George Chimiklis (gchimiklis@yahoo.com) and

Kathy Walcowic (kwalk3@sbcglobal.net)

Sunday Religious Education: Anastasia Cook (anastasiaz21@gmail.com)

Young Adult Ministries: Father Pete (frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org) and

Gabriel Cupsa (gabriel@gosaintbasil.org)

Youth Greek Dance: Maria Karapanos (maria@karapanos.net)

Youth Safety: Michael Fields (mafields12@msn.com)

February 2024

Saturday	3 Teen Night (Middle & High School) 6:00pm-8:00pm; Location; TBD	St. Haralambos the Holy Martyr 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	17	24	March 2 Teen Night (Middle & High School) 6:00pm-8:00pm; Location: TBD
Friday	Presentation of our Lord 8:20 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	6	4 16	4 23	March 1
Thursday	ਜ	Ladies Book Club/Galentine's Dinner, 6:00-8:00pm	St. Anthimos of Chios 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Relic to be brought out) Men's Fellowship, 7pm Location: TBD	22	29
Wednesday		Family Night Returns! 6:00pm-8:00pm	Family Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	Family Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	28 Family Night 6:00pm-8:00pm
Tuesday	Jan 30 Three Hierarchs 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	9	13 VIP (Senior Ministry) 11:30-1:00pm	20	27
Monday		S	12	President's Day (Office Closed)	26
Sunday	 Strict Fast Wine & Oil allowed. Fish Oil & Wine allowed No symbol Fast Free 	8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy HOPE/JOY (Elementary School Ministry in Fireside Room) following Coffee Hour	8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Young Adult Meeting after Coffee Hour	8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy

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

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