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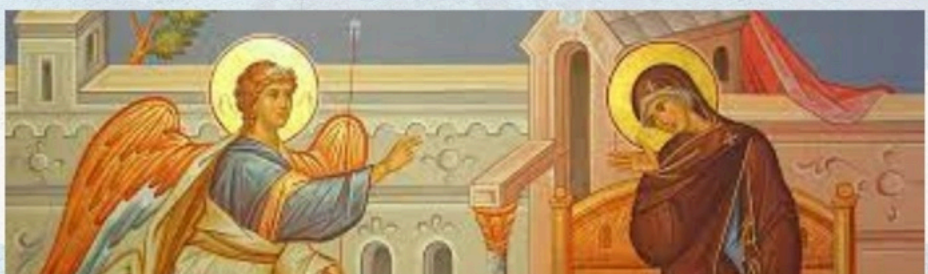
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# ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS & GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

## CELEBRATION AND LUNCHEON

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025**

**SAVE THE DATE**



# Stewardship

## WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Stewardship supports the Orthodox Christian practice of consistent, cheerful and purposeful giving of time, talent and treasure in support of our Church and its ministries to help further the word and teachings of Jesus Christ. On a personal level, it supports and showcases a life being lived in Christ. Stewardship creates and fosters a spirit of generosity and giving for the Glory of God. When we are generous and give freely of our time, talent, and treasure we proclaim, preserve, and practice our Orthodox Christian faith and make a difference in our parish and community. Stewardship furthers Christ's message within ourselves, our families, and our communities. This creates a spiritual atmosphere of worship, engagement, fulfillment, and inspiration that we can offer to the world, following the example set by God Himself of love, service, and giving.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STEWARD?

Stewardship is a personal responsibility and prayerful commitment that each and every Christian makes in order to support the Church. Stewardship helps us understand that God is the true owner of our possessions, and each of us is accountable to God for the acceptable care and use of those possessions. According to the Bible, a steward is one who responsibly manages the gifts entrusted to them for the perpetuation of the Lord's work. A steward honors and glorifies God.

## WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF STEWARDSHIP?

Orthodox Christian stewardship has these key elements:

- Leitourgia (Worship) - Literally means "Work of the people" (also where the word "liturgy" comes from). It is the active participation of the people in the Work of God
- Koinonia (Fellowship) - Gathering together and giving glory to God as a Parish Family
- Diakonia (Service) - Offering our best to Christ by helping those around us
- Martyria (Bearing Witness) - Living a life in Christ and being an example for others

## HOW DOES STEWARDSHIP HELP THE CHURCH?

Money is a necessary tool for ministry. Every act of giving, no matter the size, makes a difference. Generosity is contagious. The Church's mission of salvation and evangelism depends directly on our generosity. Our Parish's many ministries, including Sunday Church School, Music Ministry, VIP Ministry, GOYA, HOPE, JOY and Choir Ministry, are all funded by our stewardship.

Stewardship is vital to our Church and, among many things, helps to:

- Provide religious services and sacraments
- Provide religious counseling
- Provides visitations to the hospitalized and shut-ins
- Minister to the community outside of our Church walls
- Offer help and support to those in need
- Support those who serve us
- Support our Metropolis
- Keep our Church grounds and buildings in good condition

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT STEWARDSHIP?

### GIVING TO GLORIFY GOD

"We thank you, our God, and praise your glorious Name ... for all things come from you and we have only given back what is yours already." (I Chronicles 29:13-14)

### GIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY

"And He (Jesus) looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So, He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had." (Luke 21:1-4)

### GIVING CHEERFULLY

"Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly, nor under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:7)

### GIVING FREELY

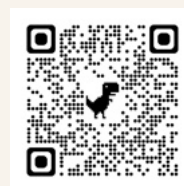
"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (II Corinthians 9:6)

### GIVING HUMBLY

"Let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing." (Matthew 6:3)

### GIVING REGULARLY

"On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income." (I Corinthians 16:2) \*htsnchurch.org



Donate



Submit



# St. Basil's Dome Renovation Project

## Donate Today!



Be part of St. Basil Parish History for up to 200 years! Your great-great... grandchildren will know you helped make our beautiful dome possible! We approved the stainless steel Titanium Nitride (bronze) color coating that will, as Evie Robinson said at the Parish Assembly, shine like a “halo” over our church - a sign and beautiful silent witness to our community.

Contact Peter Koulouris ([peterkoulouris1954@gmail.com](mailto:peterkoulouris1954@gmail.com)) or Jim Natsis ([jim.natsis1@gmail.com](mailto:jim.natsis1@gmail.com)) for more information.

Use the QR code below to make your donation today!



Online Giving or Use the QR Code

***ST BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH DOME - ST BASIL GOC DOME (SQUARE.SITE)***



ST. BASIL'S LENTEN RETREAT

**ORTHODOX MINDSET -  
LIVING ORTHODOXY  
DURING LENT AND BEYOND**

SATURDAY,

**March 8th, 2025**

In the Church Hall

Address: 920 W March Ln, Stockton, CA 95207

**SCHEDULE**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

10:45 - 11:15 AM Registration

11:15 - 12:15 PM Session 1

12:15 - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 PM Session 2

2:00 - 2:15 PM Break

2:15 - 3:15 PM Session 3



*\$10 Registration*



*Presented by:  
Dr. Jeannie  
Constantinou*

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

RSVP to St. Basil's Office ([office@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:office@gosaintbasil.org)/ 209 - 478 7564) by  
March 1st, 2025



# St. Basil's 2025 Parish Oratorical Festival



On March 2nd, St. Basil hosted our parish's 2025 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. We had 4 participants total. From the Junior Division (grades 7 through 9) we had Justin Sotiras, who will advance to the 2025 Division Oratorical Festival. In our Senior Division (grades 10 through 12), we had: Abed Hanania, Bassam Hanania, and Sofia Agranovich. Sofia will advance to the District Oratorical Festival. The District Festival will occur on April 27, 2025 at Annunciation Church in Sacramento. We encourage families to attend Annunciation that day, to support our speakers. Sunday School classes have been cancelled.





# VIP Ministry

Tuesday, February 18, 2025



Our Senior Ministry came together once more for fellowship, enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Don and Cynthia, and listened to a reflection delivered by Father Pete on the topic of God's Love.

# Teen Night

Friday, February 21, 2025



On Friday, February 21st, our middle and high schoolers had a night of fun and faithful discussion. As we kicked off the Lenten season, our youth, along with Father Gabriel and Father Pete, discussed the importance of Lent and forgiveness Sunday and what it means for us as Orthodox Christians. This was followed by many board games and much laughter. Our teen night ministry was full of joy and happy faces.



# Hope/Joy Ministry

Friday, February 28, 2025



On February 28th, our Hope and Joy ministry had a fun time filled with fellowship and games. Father Pete, along with Father Gabriel, spoke to our youth about the Lenten season and the importance of prayer during this time of year. In addition to playing games, the church hall was filled with joy as they learned about Lent and enjoyed various activities.

## Men's Fellowship

Thursday, February 27, 2025





**S T . B A S I L ' S**

# **HOPE & JOY MINISTRY**



Kindergarten through fifth grade!

**Friday, March 21, 2025**

In the Church Hall, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Dinner, activities and discussion!**

## **MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**MEETS WEEKLY EVERY THURSDAY  
MORNING**

**11AM - NOON IN THE FIRESIDE  
ROOM & ZOOM**

Join us for fellowship and studying God's Word as we reflect on 1st Letter to the Corinthians and how the wisdom found in this Gospel will grant us greater clarity and peace.



*St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church Stockton, CA*

**LITURGY OF THE  
PRESANCTIFIED  
GIFTS**

**WEDNESDAYS - 6:00 PM  
FRIDAYS - 9:00 AM**

**Starting Wednesday,  
March 5th, 2025**

*Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense (Psalm 142).*



# MEMORY ETERNAL

Living with Grief as  
Orthodox Christians



## STS. MARY AND MARTHA GRIEF MINISTRY

*Led by Patricia Manuse, LCSW*

**Friday, March 7, 2025 &  
Friday, March 21, 2025**

**12 noon to 1 PM**

**Location: Fireside Room & Zoom**

We are planning to have a grief support group, based on the book "Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians" by Sarah Byrne-Martelli.

The group provides a confidential and nurturing environment focused on mutual support, understanding strategies and skills of the grieving process and coping with loss.

If you are interested in participating, please register below or contact Patricia at [patriciamanuse@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamanuse@gmail.com)

## CATECHISM CLASSES

Every Monday evening, after the Great Compline Service.

**Starting Monday, March 10, 2025,  
7:00 p.m.**

Please note that there will be no class on Monday, March 24, 2025.

If you wish to be added to the Catechism list, please contact the Church Office ([office@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:office@gosaintbasil.org) or 209-478-7564).



# ST. BASIL'S 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, March 18, 2025

11:30 am - 1 pm  
in the Church Hall.



ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STOCKTON, CA

# St. Basil Ministry Leadership and Team Opportunities!



Chant Ministry  
Events Coordinator(s)  
Gifts & Talents Coordinator(s) and Ministry  
Mailing Team Ministry  
Meal Train Coordinator(s) and Ministry  
Office Volunteer Ministry  
Philanthropy Coordinator and Ministry  
Prison Ministry Coordinator(s) and Ministry  
Prosforo Ministry  
Reader's Ministry  
Ride to Church Coordinator(s) and Ministry  
Technology Ministry  
Visitation and Phone Ministry  
Youth Ministry Coordinator(s) and Team

If you are interested in being the lead or just being part of any of these ministries, please contact Fr. Pete ([frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)), or Fr. Gabriel ([frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org)).



# Community News

Philoptochos donated Melamakarona to support Hutchins Street Square Foundation's , Cioppino Feed fundraiser, February 21st. Attended by **Terri Blum** and her daughter **Heather Bennett**.



**Paul D. Bestolarides**, M.A. was recently interviewed and published for an LA magazine (Bold Journey Magazine), highlighting his creative work in film and sharing his insights. He just completed a feature film which is entered in several film festivals. Paul is an Independent Filmmaker and college professor. He is the son of Steve and Doreen Bestolarides and Danny's little brother.



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

## Agape

A Celebration of Love

"Whoever received one little child like this in My name receives Me." Matthew 18:5

Visit [www.sfphiloptochos.org](http://www.sfphiloptochos.org)  
to make a secure  
donation **TODAY!**

To benefit our Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry

**Sunday, April 27, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. PDT**  
Newport Beach Country Club  
One Clubhouse Drive | Newport Beach, CA 92660

**RSVP Date:**  
**April 20, 2025**

While enjoying an afternoon of fabulous music, delectable food, and good friends, guests will have the opportunity to purchase Mystery Hat Boxes filled with exciting gifts and participate in an Opportunity Drawing!



Register at [www.sfphiloptochos.org](http://www.sfphiloptochos.org) or  
by calling 415-431-2600 by April 20, 2025

Cost: \$100 person



**Kids'n' Cancer**  
**Camp Agape**



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





**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
MISSION CENTER**

# YOU ARE INVITED

## **Go Make Disciples of All Nations** *Mission Awareness Dinner*

**Sunday, March 30th, 2025**

Vespers at 5:00 pm, Dinner and Program to follow

**Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church**

1110 Highland Drive , Novato CA 94949



The Orthodox communities of Nativity of Christ, St. Stephen, and St. Seraphim Orthodox Churches in the North Bay invite you to join them for a Mission Awareness fundraising event to benefit the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. Learn how you can join in the work of sharing the fullness of the faith to the “ends of the earth.”

For questions email: Event Co-Chairs Rose Hunter at [kynegos@hotmail.com](mailto:kynegos@hotmail.com) or Floretta Burrows at [florettaburrows@live.com](mailto:florettaburrows@live.com) or Susan Siefkas at [ssiefkas@earthlink.net](mailto:ssiefkas@earthlink.net)



**\$35/Adult, \$15/Student,  
Children Under 12 Free**

*Sponsorship opportunities available!*

**[www.ocmc.org/novato-dinner](http://www.ocmc.org/novato-dinner)**

ALL DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE



[www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)



# PATIENT ENDURANCE

"BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE."  
GALATIANS 5:22

## METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 14 - 16, 2025  
SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH & RETREAT CENTER  
DUNLAP, CALIFORNIA  
WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG

YOUTH &  
YOUNG ADULT  
MINISTRIES

St. Nicholas  
Ranch presents

## A Lenten Retreat with

Fr. Andrew  
Damick

### FEATURING

- Sessions with Fr. Andrew
- Worship & time at the Monastery of the Life Giving Spring
- A visit to the Giant Sequoia trees in King's Canyon National Park

Register now!

March 21-23,  
2025

[stnicholasranch.org](http://stnicholasranch.org)



Very Rev. Fr. Andrew is an Orthodox Priest, author, YouTuber, and co-host of the popular podcast, "Lord of Spirits".

MARCH 14-16, 2025

## GOYA Lenten Retreat

NATURE BRIDGE RETREAT CENTER  
MARIN HEADLANDS

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight."*

OPEN TO SF BAY AREA ORTHODOX YOUTH  
GRADES 6-12 | REGISTRATION \$150

REGISTRATION LINK:  
[tinyurl.com/LentenRetreat2025](http://tinyurl.com/LentenRetreat2025)



REGISTER BY MARCH 7, 2025

QUESTIONS?  
[FRMANOLI@GOHOLYCROSS.ORG](mailto:FRMANOLI@GOHOLYCROSS.ORG)

PRINCESS



## Past District Governors League Scholarship Fundraiser Cruise

October 5th to 12th, 2025

Join the Past District Governors League of The Daughters of Penelope - District 21 for a 7-day cruise of the Pacific Northwest onboard the Ruby Princess out of San Francisco. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the PDG Scholarship Program.

If we have enough people interested, Expedia Cruises will set up a group to give us the best pricing and manage the reservations\*. The pricing listed here is a sample of current rates for this cruise, our group rates might be slightly different based on room availability. We will always get the BEST available rate at the time of booking.

If you are possibly interested in joining the group, please contact Kathy Leles at (209) 815-2935 or [kleses@att.net](mailto:kleses@att.net) by 1/31/2025.

Ports of Call may vary by departure date and subject to weather and other conditions.

- Day 1: San Francisco, California  
Oct 05, 2025 | Depart 04:00 PM
- Day 2: Day At Sea  
Oct 06, 2025 |
- Day 3: Victoria, Canada  
Oct 07, 2025 | 02:00 PM To 11:00 PM
- Day 4: Vancouver, Canada  
Oct 08, 2025 | 07:30 AM To 07:00 PM
- Day 5: Seattle, Washington  
Oct 09, 2025 | 06:00 AM To 10:00 PM
- Day 6: Day At Sea  
Oct 10, 2025 |
- Day 7: Day At Sea  
Oct 11, 2025 |
- Day 8: San Francisco, California  
Oct 12, 2025 | Arrive 07:00 AM

Price Per Person From			
Innate	Outside	Balance	Single
USD \$979	USD \$1,049	USD \$1,299	USD \$1,639
Includes taxes and fees			

\* Prices are subject to change based on availability and the current Princess Promotional Offers. Prices are based on Double Occupancy.

(209) 609-0573

4755 Quail Lakes Dr. Suite B  
Stockton, CA  
[gropalidis@expediacruzises.com](mailto:gropalidis@expediacruzises.com)









































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For cruise booking information,  
call Gus Ropalidis:

**Expedia Cruises**  
Air, Land & Sea Vacations



# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Strict Fast  Wine & Oil allowed.  Fish & Wine allowed  Refrain from meat No symbol - Fast Free						<b>Cheese Fare Saturday</b>  1 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Memorial Prayers to follow
<b>Forgiveness Sunday</b>  2 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Parish Oratorical Festival to follow	<b>GREAT LENT BEGINS</b>  3 (Clean Monday)  Great Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew, 6:00pm	 4	 5 Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm and Dinner sponsored by Philoptochos	 6 Bible Study, 11:00am	 7 Presanctified Liturgy, 9am Sts. Mary & Martha Grief Ministry, Noon  Salutations, 6pm	<b>Miracle of Kollyva</b>  8 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Memorial Prayers Parish Lenten Retreat to follow (see flyer for details)
<b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b>  9  8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Procession of Icons to follow	 10  Great Compline, 6:00pm Catechism to follow	 11	 12 Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm and Potluck to follow	 13 Bible Study, 11am	 14 Presanctified Liturgy, 9am GOYA Lenten Retreat (March 14-16 @ Marin Headlands) Salutations, 6pm	 15
<b>Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas</b>  16 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Family Promise Presentation	 17  Great Compline, 6:00pm Catechism to follow	 18 VIP, 11:30am Parish Council, 6:30pm	 19 Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm and Dinner to follow	 20 Bible Study, 11am	 21 Presanctified Liturgy, 9am Sts. Mary & Martha Grief Ministry, Noon Salutations, 6pm HOPE/JOY, 7-8:30pm	 22
<b>Sunday of the Holy Cross</b>  23 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Annunciation/Greek Independence Luncheon	 24 NO Great Compline or Catechism Services in Sacramento or Modesto for Annunciation	<b>ANNUNCIATION</b>  25 Services in Sacramento or Modesto for Annunciation (OFFICE CLOSED)	 26 Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm and Potluck to follow	 27 Bible Study, 11am	 28 Presanctified Liturgy, 9am Salutations, 6pm	 29
<b>Sunday of St. John Climacus</b>  30 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Spring Parish Assembly and Lunch to follow	 31  Great Compline, 6:00pm Catechism to follow	 April 1	 April 2 Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm and Potluck to follow	 April 3 Bible Study, 11am	 April 4 Presanctified Liturgy, 9am  Akathist Hymn, 6pm	 April 5



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

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Church Website: [gosaintbasil.org](http://gosaintbasil.org)

E-mail: [office@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:office@gosaintbasil.org)

Office: 209-478-7564

Facebook: [@StBasilGOCStockton](https://www.facebook.com/StBasilGOCStockton)

Instagram: [stbasil\\_stockton](https://www.instagram.com/stbasil_stockton)

Basilian email: [basilian@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:basilian@gosaintbasil.org)

Rev. Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras, Parish Priest

[frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)

Rev. Fr. Gabriel Cupsa, Assistant Priest

[frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org)