

# THE BASILIAN

February 2022

Volume 22, Issue 2

## 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 that has ever existed—the one between God and His people which is the Church; the one between God and us!

The love story of God and us begins with God's desire to be with us and 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, because He longs for us to share His life with us.

The love God has for us is seen in the fact that He not only came to us rather than us going to Him but that He lowered Himself in the process. The Word of God condescended to us, becoming His very own creation—in other words the Immortal One became mortal; the All-Powerful One was willing to experience pain, sorrow, suffering, rejection, ridicule, abandonment and even death. It is not a coincidence that we begin the most sacred period of the Church year—Holy Week—with the services which are called the “Bridegroom services”.

According to Holy Scriptures, Christ is the Bridegroom and we, the Church, are His Bride. In addition, the icon of the Bridegroom services is the one of Christ with the crown of thorns on his head along with the robe of purple and the reed in His hand which was given to Him for the purposes of being mocked by soldiers. 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 God's love for us.

Like in a every love story, love conquers and in the greatest love story of all, Christ and His love for us, which shown forth in full display on the Cross, conquered evil and death.

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, brokenness, and weaknesses and are embraced by God, who wipes away our tears, and cleanses us. In Holy Communion we are again united to Christ. Everything the Church does is meant to unite us to God.

The Bible itself is a love letter from God. The Divine Liturgy is a love banquet, where we join with the saints 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 seen with His desire to make us heirs of His eternal Kingdom of love and to co-reign with Him! God makes us kings and queens—there will be no servants in heaven because we will all co-oreign with Christ, His Father and the Holy Spirit, for the Scripture says, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”. (Revelations 3:21)

This month as we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us also reflect on the greatest love story ever told found in the Scriptures and celebrated at every Divine Liturgy. Let us never forget God's immeasurable and unfathomable love by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures regularly. Let us not think of our Orthodox Christian faith as a list of rules but rather as a loving relationship between the God who we describe constantly in our liturgical services as “the lover of humankind”. When we understand God, our Church and our faith in this light, we will, I believe, love God more, and will be even more dedicated to Him.

With love in Christ,  
Fr. Panagiotis

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It is with much love that I address you, the St Basil Family, in my first message as President of the Parish Council.

Before I begin, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Donna Vasiliou in recognition of the selfless job she did as President for the past four years. If I can be half as effective as she, I will consider myself Blessed.

To all the Parish Council members I have been fortunate to serve with for the past three years, thank you for your faith and trust in electing me Parish Council President.

To Father Panagiotis, who I have had the honor of working with closely as Vice President of the Parish Council for the past two years, thank you for being our spiritual guide and compass.

And last but not least, to our St Basil Parishioners, it is you who I, and indeed, all Parish Council Members serve. I will always strive to do what I believe best serves the interests of our beloved Parish, first and foremost placing the health, safety and financial integrity of the Parish above all else.

During the course of the year you will be called upon to help support our various ministries, including the Food Festival, Stewardship and other important causes. Please receive these calls with love.

Regarding the Food Festival, I would like to thank the Parish Council for its unanimous approval of Tom Chiarchianis as Chairperson of our 63rd Annual Greek Food Festival which will take place September 9 – 11, 2022 and thank you to all who made the 62nd Annual Food Festival a tremendous success. It couldn't happen without you.

Once again, I thank the Parish Council Members, Bob Basso, George Chimiklis, Tom Chiarchianis, Michael Fields, Dennis Goehring, George Kaplanis, Chris Papas, Cynthia Pascarella, Jeff Perlegos, Carla Wolfe and Maria Zarefakis for their faith in me.

Should you have any questions or concerns, never hesitate to call or text me at 209-762-2020 or by email at [peterkoulouris1954@gmail.com](mailto:peterkoulouris1954@gmail.com).

Faithfully Yours,  
Peter Koulouris  
2022 Parish Council President



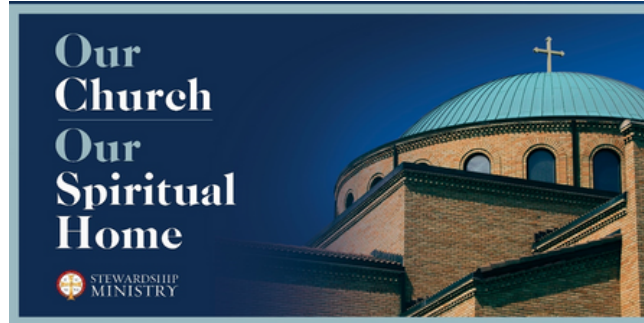


FATHER PANAGIOTIS  
& THE PARISH COUNCIL  
RECOGNIZE AND THANK  
**RICK GAINES**

FOR HIS YEARS OF  
DEVOTION IN  
MAKING THE  
FOOD FESTIVAL  
A SUCCESS!

**THANK YOU!**

# Stewardship 2022



We are stewards of the Gospel and the stewards of our parish. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

**2022 Stewardship Goal -- \$350,000.00**

Complete your 2022 Pledge card today by calling the church office at 209-478-7564 or email [office@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:office@gosaintbasil.org). Cards will also be available in church narthex and office.

## Stewards

Angelo & Olympia Anagnos  
Popi Anagnos  
Buck & Mary Bandy  
Paul & Stephanie Bestolarides  
Ted Carademos  
Robert & Rula BuBois  
Alexandros & Lindsey Economou  
Gabriel & Emily Enescu  
Michael & Edna Fields  
Bill & Susan Filios  
George & Kathleen Galas  
Mono Geralis  
Mourad & Janette Goriye  
William & Sylvia Heinrich  
Barbara Johns  
Anna Karelis  
Joanna Karelis  
Nasi & Katie Koutsoulis  
C. W. & Dena Kuchulis  
Michaael Mckiever  
Harriet Lucas  
Vicki Papachristos

Lenna Papadimatos  
John S. & Paula Pappas  
George Pascut  
Dean & Marie Poullos  
Alexis & Barry Ruhl  
John & Evette Sola  
Fr. Panagiotis & Pres. Angie Sotiras  
Thomas Spanos  
Mike & Amber Tsarnas  
Donna Vasiliou  
Steve Walton  
Carla Wolf  
Bobbe Xenos

## Basilian Angels

Angelo & Olympia Anagnos  
C. W. & Dena Kuchulis  
Dean & Marie Poullos  
Alexis & Barry Ruhl

Craving for something sweet? Come by for

# FRAPPY HOUR!

February 6th during Coffee Hour \$5

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# COFFEE HOUR HOSTING

Co-Host with a friend  
Sponsor with a donation



**Call the Church office 209-478-7564 or  
sign up during Coffee Hour**

# Philoptochos

## Save the Date

We would like to thank all those who attended the crab feed and those that donated towards that evening. The crab feed while not heavily attended was a success and a fun night for those that did. We hope next year many more will attend and enjoy our wonderful night.

Our membership drive is off to an early start as we are aligning ourselves with the National calendar. We kindly ask that you renew your membership by the end of February. Please contact Eleni @ 209-478-7564 for more information.

### Board meeting:

Sunday Feb. 6 after coffee hour- Fireside Room

### General Meeting:

Monday Feb. 7 @ 6pm.

Contact Eleni:

Philoptochos @gosaintbasil.org



SAINT BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
STOCKTON CALIFORNIA

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

After thought and prayer, enclosed is my membership contribution for the year beginning January 1, 2022 in the amount of \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ (please select one).

*Make checks payable to St. Basil Philoptochos (due January 15, 2022)*

NOTE: For each paid membership, \$15 is given to the National Philoptochos; \$15 to the San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos. The remaining balance remains within our **local chapter (#4025)** and is used for our local philanthropic projects: *Emergency Food Bank, Haven of Peace, Kids 'n Cancer, PAOI, St. Basil Agape Fund, St. Mary's Interfaith, Starting Point to Stop Human Trafficking, Stockton Shelter, Women's Center.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Initial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell #

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail



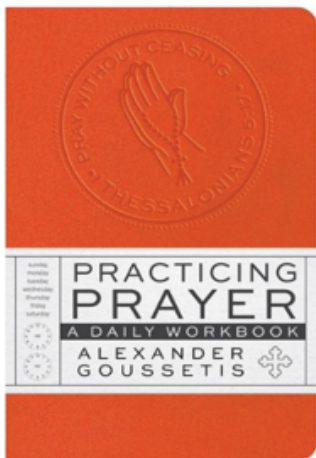
# Save the date February 27th



## Annual Makaronatha Lunch

# Health & Wellness

Adult Book Fellowship Feb-Mar 2022



This book is not about prayer:  
"It is an invitation to participate  
in a personal and dynamic  
relationship with God."

Alexander Goussetis

## Cultivating a Life of Prayer

**FRIDAYS | 6:30-8:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom (link in Email or text)**

**FEB 4 / FEB 11 / FEB 18 / FEB 25**

**MARCH 4 / MARCH 11**

Health & Wellness + Adult Book Fellowship  
Patricia Manuse  
patriciamanuse@gmail.com | C: 209-337-5401

*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.*

Together We will  
explore various topics:

Exploring Your Past,  
Parts 1 & 2

A Look Back  
Living in the Present

Intercession: Part 1,  
Part 2 & Part 3

Preparation for  
Confession &  
Preparation for the  
Eucharist

A Look Ahead &  
The Daily Hours.

Annotated Bibliography,  
Putting It All Together.



# Basilian Editor

As your editor, I encourage collaboration and continued communication keeping the Basilian readers informed on what your ministry is about, your goals, your scheduled events and what you are seeking from welcomed participation.

As a friendly reminder, please provide a ministry recap by email of what your efforts were for the month and/or any upcoming events.

Please submit your article by our monthly deadline of the 15th to ensure your article gets published.

Thank you in advance! Your time & talents are greatly appreciated!

Yours in Christ,  
Emily (Tzilianos) Clifford--Basilian Editor  
Basilian@gosaintbasil.org



From the Editor

## In Loving Memory

Art Johns of Lodi, husband of Barbara, and members of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church of Stockton passed away on April 12, 2021.

Art's parents were from Kassandra, Greece and lived for many years in San Francisco. He was born and raised in San Francisco, attended schools and colleges and worked at various jobs in the Bay Area, served in the U.S. Army, and for over 30 years he taught in the San Mateo County public schools where he also lived.

Art read a great deal, traveled widely, was involved in numerous causes and organizations, and enjoyed history, baseball, classic jazz, pop art, old classic movies, long walks, and serious conversation. He has been buried at Lodi Cherokee Memorial Park Cemetery.



*Greek Island of Tinos*



*Parthenon in Athens*

# Myrrh Bearer Ministry

We are pleased to announce an expansion of our parish's Myrrh-bearer's ministry that traditionally takes place on Holy Friday and Saturday evenings. Geared to our young and teenage girls from 2nd grade through high school, this ministry will allow them to help with the readings, hold candles and participate in the processions. The Myrrh-bearers will be seated in one of the first pews with a ministry leader, awaiting to do their part at the appropriate time. Previous experience is not required. Participants will also be required to wear a robe similar to a choir robe. For those interested in participating, or parents interested in assisting, please contact Teri Blum at: [blumteri@yahoo.com](mailto:blumteri@yahoo.com).

## Tom Chiarchianis

### St Basil's Greek Food Festival Chairperson



The Parish Council is happy to announce Tom Chiarchianis was elected unanimously as the new Greek Food Festival chairperson.

Tom, along with his father, Nick, chaired the Festival for many years and his past experience makes Tom uniquely qualified to take the 63rd Annual Greek Food Festival to the next level.

"I want to thank to Parish Council for their faith and trust in me" Tom said in a recent Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council responded how they looked forward to working with him as well.

Those interested in helping Tom with the Greek Food Festival are encouraged to reach out to him at [59tommmyc@gmail.com](mailto:59tommmyc@gmail.com)



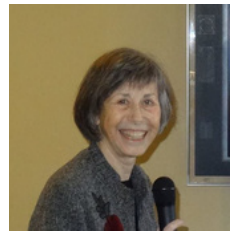
**Saint Basil**  **63<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Greek Food Festival**  
SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

# Monastery Day Trips To be Planned



In the coming year, we will hopefully be coordinating trips to one or more monasteries in the area. These trips may be for a day or weekend depending on distance from Stockton. If you are interested or would like to suggest which monastery would be of interest to you, please contact Ken Jochimsen at: Cell# 209-471-4759 or Email: [jochimsen@zuckermanfarms.com](mailto:jochimsen@zuckermanfarms.com)

## Mission in Albania



Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Peace be with you!

Christians traditionally greet one another with this phrase, or with the “kiss of peace,” proclaiming the grace of God that abides within. The priests blesses us in the liturgy, “Peace be with us,” and “we respond and with your spirit.”

At Theophany, the prophesy in Isaiah 35 resonates for me the blessing of peace that God means for all people to have through baptism. Jesus said, “...my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” It is especially in this prophesy that I could visual the peace that Jesus is trying to reveal to us:

“For water shall burst forth in the desert, and a valley in the thirsty land. The waterless desert shall become meadows, and the thirsty land springs of water. There will be the gladness of birds, a habitation of reeds and marshes. A pure way shall be there, and it shall be called a holy way. No unclean man shall pass through there, neither shall there be an unclean way there. But those dispersed shall walk in it, and they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous animals go up on it, nor at all be found there. But the redeemed shall walk in it, and those gathered by the Lord shall return and come to Zion with gladness, and with everlasting gladness over their head. For praise and exceeding joy will be on their head, and gladness shall possess them. Pain, sorrow, and sighing fled away.”

As we continue in faith to struggle with the challenges of today, may peace and joy be with you and your families.

With love in Christ Our Lord,  
Anastasia Pamela Barksdale  
OCMC Missionary  
<https://www.ocmc.org/>



# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Presentation of our Lord 8:20am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	3	4	5
St. Photios 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	6	7	8	9 Haralambos the Martyr 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	10	11
13 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	14	15 Anthimos of Chios 8:40am Orthros 9:30am Liturgy (Relics of Saint to be brought out for veneration)	16	17 Theodore of Tyre. 8:40am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy. 7:30pm Men's Fellowship,	18	19
20 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	21 Presidents Day 21 (Office closed)	22	23	24	25	26 Sat. of Souls 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Meatfare Sunday 27 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	28	1	2	3	Strick fast Fish allowed wine & oil.	March 4 No Services today. (Fr. Away)



**St. Basil Greek Orthodox  
Church  
920 West March Lane  
Stockton, California 95207**

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Parish Instagram: [stbasil\\_stockton](https://www.instagram.com/stbasil_stockton)  
Basilian Email: [basilian@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:basilian@gosaintbasil.org)  
Phone (Church): 209.478.7564 Fax: 209.323.3879  
E-mail: [office@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:office@gosaintbasil.org)**

**Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras  
E-mail: [frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)**

**St. Basil Church Bulletin and BASILIAN: [gosaintbasil.org/communication](http://gosaintbasil.org/communication)**