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A Message from 2024 PC President

As I write my last message to you as president, it is one week until Christmas Day and one day after my last meeting with the Parish Council.

Serving on the Parish Council for the past six years, two as vice-president and the last three as Parish president, has been one of the most rewarding and gratifying experiences of my life. Thank you all for the support you have given me. The things we were able to accomplish would not have been possible without your faith and trust in me. Some of the things are: During my first year as president, I was able to turn our non-income-producing field into an asset by leasing it to Lincoln Unified School District for \$30,000 per year. Over the course of the contract, it will provide St Basil with approximately a half million dollars in new income; After twenty-five years, the St Basil Bylaws were revised, making them compatible with our needs of today. The last time they were revised, there was no iPhone, Google, texting or email; And for the first time, the Preschool has bylaws.

Due to the generosity of the Ray Rishwain, Dean Trachiotis and Bob Henning families, we were able to sell the piece of property on Bianchi Road they donated to St basil to help finance the construction of the Pavilion. Bill and Susan Filios provided substantial additional funding for the project. To fill in the funding gap, I applied to San Joaquin County and received a grant in the amount of \$125,000. With the permission of the Parish Council, I will be making a similar request of San Joaquin County in 2025 for construction of a potential Pavilion #2.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

The Dome - I am happy to say that all of the bids and proposals for renovating the dome have been received as of December 12th. Recommendations will be made to the Parish Council soon. Two of the proposals contemplate a metal finish and two contemplate composite tiles. This is a very important decision, and due diligence was exceedingly important which is the reason it has taken longer than we anticipated. And God willing, we will be able to begin re-roofing the dome very soon.

The Storage Building - I am happy to report that the much-needed storage building will begin construction soon! The building permit was issued last week, and a construction schedule is being prepared by Coy Elvis, our General Contractor. The structural engineer on this project has advised us that the 1500 sq ft storage facility will support solar panels, which brings me to the Solar Energy System. We spend close to, if not more than, \$50,000 per year on electricity. A solar energy system can reduce this cost substantially. I will be pursuing this on behalf of the Parish Council and hopefully it will make sense to proceed. This is a very high priority.

Before I sign off, I want to thank the Parish Council that I am leaving. This has been the most talented group I have ever worked with - Dennis Goehring, Cynthia Pasarella, CJ Frank, Michael McKiever, Michael Fields, Chris Papas, George Kaplanis, Jim Natsis, Carla Wolfe, Anthony Vasquez and last but not least, Tom Chiarchianis. And to the next Parish Council, may God Bless you with faith, courage, strength and wisdom to help you guide St Basil into the future.

Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year to All!

Agape,
PETER KOULOURIS

Message from Father Pete - PC Elections

Dear Faithful and Friends of St. Basil's,

I hope you and your loved ones are well as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord!

As many of you know, we had our Parish Council Elections on Sunday, Dec. 8 and quite a number of people voted. However, it came to my attention that 4 individuals who voted were ineligible to do so according to the Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations (Article 25, Section 4). Specifically, the Regulation in question refers to stewardship not being given last year (2023) nor this year as of the election, which makes one ineligible. This error was an oversight and inadvertent by all parties involved.

Since the Elections were so close and since the four votes in question could have produced different results, we have been directed by the Metropolis to schedule a new election. After conferring with our Parish Council, and with the approval of the Board of Electors, the new Election will be held on Sunday, Jan. 5.

We thank our 2025 PC candidates for their patience as we await the final results for the 2025 Elections.

With love in the Newborn King,
Fr. Pete

Submit your 2025 Pledge Card "Your Own from Your Own,"

Your Stewardship donations enable us to continue providing for the spiritual and social needs of our parish such as our Ministries. They also fund the physical upkeep and monthly expenses involved in the running of our church.

If you are not a St. Basil Steward, please consider becoming one. Our Stewardship Program is the main reason we are able to continue providing for the spiritual and social needs of our parish, as well as the physical upkeep of our Church. Your donations are completely confidential and very much appreciated.

Please be sure to fill out a 2025 Stewardship form. Thank you for your love and generosity.

[Submit](#)



Holy Theophany

January 6

8:15 Orthros 9:30 Liturgy

Blessing of Homes

Fr. Pete & Fr. Gabriel will be blessing homes the week of Jan. 6. Please call or email the church office to schedule your home to be blessed

St. Basil's Spiritual Pilgrimage

to San Francisco ~By Emily Tzilianos Clifford

On December 7, 2024, some of our parishioners carpooled to participate in St. Basil's spiritual pilgrimage to San Francisco. The first of two planned events for that day was the veneration of the relics* of St. John Maximovitch at the Holy Virgin Cathedral - Joy of All Who Sorrow.* The cathedral is part of the Eastern American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.* Father Panagiotis, Father Gabriel, and Presvytera Iulia met us at the cathedral and introduced us to some of its history and the holy life of Saint John Maximovitch, who has been described as "A Man of God" who could "see into the human heart and draw it to Christ." We met other pilgrims and diverse visitors who simply wanted to peek inside. Nicholai, a Ukrainian refugee who spoke Romanian was also there. Father Gabriel and Presvytera Iulia enjoyed speaking with him in their own language and to our delight, Nicholai agreed to take our group photo!

There is something so special about the Holy Virgin Cathedral -- I felt the presence of St. John Maximovitch and of so many other saints of centuries past whose revered relics and icons surround him. I felt the joy of a child discovering something indescribably wonderful when I identified saints whose relics were labeled in English -- I was pleasantly astonished to discover the Apostle Titus and Saint Panteleimon, to name just a few. The cathedral is a very prayerful place that offers the joy and peace of Christ with His beloved martyrs and saints. Father Gabriel taught us how to compose a prayer to Saint John Maximovitch with the names of our living and departed loved ones. He showed us how to fold the prayer and tuck it humbly and carefully beneath the saint's reliquary for safekeeping. The reliquary contains the Saint's incorrupt face and body. ~Continued on next page

Our pilgrimage included a visit to the bookstore, where we expressed our gratitude through the purchase of icons, books and other spiritual objects. Afterwards, Father Gabriel and Presvytera Iulia drove to the East Bay to attend a matinee concert performed by the Romania Acapella Quintet, Anatoly.*

The rest of us drove to the famous Cinderella Bakery & Café.* We hung out on its patio for two hours, enjoying dinner and fellowship with Father Pete until it was time to go to our second destination: a live Christmas concert performed by Capella Romana,* hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.* Father Gabriel and Presvytera Iulia re-joined us there. The concert was amazing and inspirational -- the voices of the choir lifted our hearts to God. Their lofty mission "to experience and understand the transcendent beauty of the sacred music of the Christian East and West, especially of Byzantium, by cultivating this rich cultural heritage and sharing it worldwide" became clear to us.

We returned home fulfilled as Orthodox Christians in fellowship with Christ, the Theotokos, the saints, our beloved clergy, and one another.

Helpful links for this article:

- A detailed moving account of the opening of the relics (10/12/1993) and video of the beautiful and radiant service of the glorification of Saint John Maximovitch (07/02/1994) by Father Perekrestov, Archpriest of the Holy Virgin Cathedral - Joy of All Who Sorrow (<https://orthochristian.com/80365.html>)
- Why Orthodox Christians Venerate Relics (<https://saintjohnchurch.org/why-orthodox-christians-venerate-relics>)
- Holy Virgin Cathedral - Joy of All Who Sorrow (<https://www.sfsobor.com/>)
- Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (<https://www.synod.com/synod/indexeng.htm#gsc.tab=0>)
- Romania A Capella Quintet, Anatoly (<https://www.facebook.com/AnatolyOfficial>) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mklp47VNzIM>)
- Cinderella, Russian Bakery & Café (<https://cinderellabakery.com>)
- Capella Romana (<https://cappellaromana.org/about/>)
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (<https://www.holytrinitysf.org>)



*Christmas Concert at St. Basil's
performed by 'Anatoly' Quintet*



Ladies Philoptochos Christmas Lunch



GOYA Christmas Party



Our GOYA Group (Middle School and His School) met at Fr. Pete and Pres. Angie's home on Dec. 13th for dinner, fellowship, a faith discussion and the ever popular White Elephant gift exchange game.

Lord's Prayer in Aramaic Language



Alexandra Schoonover's Sunday School class (6th-8th grades), led by Shamla Tounou, sang the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic on December 15, 2024! We are very proud!

VIP Ministry (Senior)



On Tuesday, December 17, 2024, our beloved seniors gathered in the church hall for our monthly VIP Ministry. They enjoyed a delicious pasta meal prepared by our chef Don Pascarella (with his trusted assistant his beloved wife Cynthia). Fr. Gabriel and Pres. Iulia led the participants in Christmas carols in both Greek and English, and Fr. Gabriel then offered a reflection on the significance of the Great Feastday of Christmas.

Grief Ministry

December 3, 2024



St. Basil's Carolers Group



Pictured above: Caroling Practice - Dec. 11, 2024

Pictured below: Caroling at parishioner's homes on Dec 14 & 15, 2024



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) or Jim Natsis (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)

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



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 us to grow our parish ministries and carry on our mission.

Argirios Adam	Stephen & Jodie Chiarchianis	Rick & Debbie Gaines
Cliff and Georgia Adams	Tom & Deana Chiarchianis	Renee Garcia
Nick Aftias	George & Janice Chimiklis	Kaia Gardemeyer
Dean & Ruth Alexander	Emily Clifford	Aaron & Helen Garner
Alex Aliferis	Joseph Compton	Sara Garner
Spilios & Georgia Aliferis	Michael & Stephanie Craig	Emanuel Geralis
Yiota Aliferis	George & Victoria Crosthwaite	William & Angela Gibson
Kiki Allison	Fr. Gabriel & Pres. Iulia Cupsa	Konstantinos & Sofia Giourousis
Angelo & Olympia Anagnos	Joseph Dominguez	Dennis & Noel Goehring
James Anagnos	Robert DuBois	Elias & Rana Goriye
Popi Anagnos	Jessica Emery	Edward & Sali Graham
Steve Anagnos	Gabriel Enescu	Stella Graham
Phyllis Anthony	Katie Everly	Jerries & Diana Hanania
Karim & Kristen Azar	Kathleen Farros-Hoepfner	William & Sylvia Hanania
Dennis Bandy & Mary Carroll	Denise Facaros	William & Sylvia Heinrich
Mary Ann Barrous	Mary Facaros	Mel & Terri Henning
Robert & Marie Basso	Charles & Dawn Faris	Kirstin Herron
Becky Bennetto	Nick & Jesslyn Farros	Annemarie Hohn
John & Christie Bennetto	Kathy Farros-Hoepfner	Mike & Kristi Hyllen
Paul & Stephanie Bestolarides	Elias & Lisa Fidentzis	Ken & Maria Jochimsen
Steve, Doreen & Danny Bestolarides	Georgios Fidentzis	Barbara Johns
Ted & Kelly Bestolarides	Michael & Edna Fields	Michael & Despina Johnson
Jim & Terri Blum	Bill & Susan Filios	Sandy Jouthas
Michael & Christina Boettger	Demetri Filios	Tasso & Gertie Kandris
Constantine Bordokas	Mark Forrest	Kostas & Dimitra Kapiniaris
John & Sunday Borges	Barbara Frances	George & Kathy Kaplanis
Jim & Mary Bravos	Michael & Patti Frangadakis	Mark & Lisa Kapogiannis
James & Angela Brusa	Charles (CJ) & Yumi Frank	Dimitri & Maria Karapanos
Theodore Carademos	Ray & Anastasia Fulton	Anna Karelis

Thank You 2024 Stewards

Joanna Karelis	Mark & Joanne Marro	Greg Patterson
Vasiliki Karras	Olga Mavrogenes	Despina Peppas
Robert & Katherine Kassab	Elizabeth Panos Mazzeo	Katina Peris
Barry Keane	Bill & Elaine McCarty	Georgia Perlegos
Angelina & Alan Keigley	Gabrielle Mackie	Helen Perlegos
Demetra Kouchis	Michael McKiever	Jeff & Betty Perlegos
Peter & Lori Koulouris	Peter & Mary Mitracos	Jeff & Jessica Perlegos
Eleftheria Koutsoulis	Tyler Musser	John Perlegos
Gus & Vaso Koutsoulis	Sandra Myers	Anna Petrulakis
Nasi & Katie Koutsoulis	Frank & Astrini Natsis	John Polizogopoulos
GhazwanKrnfli & Barea Ghandouji	Jim & Niki Natsis	Dean & Marie Poulos
Despina "Dessie" Ksidakis	Moses Navarro	Antonia Prescott
Dena Kuchulis	Alex & Kalliopi Nicolaou	Paris & Kelly Proestakis
Anastasios E. Laios	Steve Nicolaou	Robert & Kathryn Prucyk
Georgia Laios	Elena Niermeger	Charles & Liberty Ramirez
Nick & Kathy Leles	Louis & Laura Nunes	Jonathan & Jessica Reyes
Stephanie Leles	Jonathan & Angela O'Connor	Garen Rishard
Alexandra Leonidou	Kimberly Palacios	Kerie Rishwain
Leo & Vasiliki Lewis	JoAnne Panagopoulos	Ray & Georgianna Rishwain
Chris & Renee Livanios	Nick & Elena Panos	Evie Robinson
Jim & Anastasia Lofas	Pete & Penny Panos	Gus & Catherine Ropalidis
Michael & Beth Louis	Vicki Papachristos	Barry & Alexis Ruhl
Gayle Maduros	Lenna Papadimatos	Nicholas & Brit Ruhl
Georgios Maglaras	Dimetra Papadogiannis	Theoni V. Salcedo
Krystal Mandarakas	Wilma Papadogiannis	Roberta Sardell
Helen Manolatos	Chris Papas	Alexandra Schoonover
Danny Manos	Ellece Papas-Vasti	John & Rose Mary Siliverdis
Diane Manos	Andrew & Jennifer Pappas	James & AnnaMaria Simos
Patricia Manuse	John & Paula Pappas	George & Pat Simpenderfer
Percy & Renee Maragos	Bill Paraskevas	Tracey Sittig
Gary & Deana Mariani	Hariklia Paraskevopoulos	John & Evette Sola
Paolo Mariani	Don & Cynthia Pascarella	Ismael Solorio
Paolo Mariani	George Pascut	Nagui & Laila Sorour

Thank You 2024 Stewards

Fr. Pete & Pres. Angie Sotiras
Spanos Family
Mr. & Mrs. Alex & Faye Spanos
(in loving memory)
Jim Spanos
Michael & Helene Spanos
Nick & Dolores Spanos
Maria Stefan
Nicholas Stefan
Milagros Stamos
William & Maria Stamos
Brandan & Maria Taylor
Dino Theodoratos
Mark Tierney
Shamla Tounou
Phyllis Trachiotis

Paul & Christine Tsampis
Mike Tsarnas
Eraclis & Marianne Tsirelas
Mark & Joann Tsirelas
John Tsirelas
John & Laura Tsirelas
Niki Tsirelas
Stanley Tzikas
Juan & Kelly Valenzuela
Donna Vasiliou
Anthony & Danielle Vasquez
Ellece Papas Vasti
George Octavian Velis
Radama Veziris
Miroslav & Nada Vicijan
Alexander & Pamela Victor

Jerry Victor
David & Camille Von
Trachtenberg
Kathryn Walkowicz
Steven J. Walton
Steven N. Walton
Christine Wiebe
Pete & Valli Wigt
Carla Wolf
Dean & Tara Xanttopulos
Ethel Xanttopulos
Leah Xanttopulos
Bobbe Xenos
Creighton & Bertha Younnel
Elpida Zahos
Matthew & Eleni Zarefakis















Thank You 2024 Basilian Angels

Georgia Adams
Angelo & Olympia Anagnos
Steve Anagnos
Phyllis Anthony
Dea & Ron Berberian
James & Mary Bravos
Joseph Dominguez
Michael & Edna Fields

Emanuel Geralis
Stella Spanos Graham
Alexandra & Carol Leonidou
Gayle Maduros
Diana Manos
Gary & Deana Mariani
Pete & Penny Panos
Harriet Paraskeropoulos

Katina Peris
Dean & Marie Poullos
Barry & Alexis Ruhl
Tracey Sittig
Michael & Helene Spanos
Eraclis & Marianne Tsirelas
Steve Walton

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p> Strict Fast</p> <p> Wine & Oil allowed</p> <p> Fish, Oil & Wine allowed</p> <p>NO SYMBOL: FAST FREE</p>		1	1	2	3	4
<p>5  Sunday before Theophany</p> <p>Eve of Theophany</p> <p>8:15am Orthros</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy w/Great Blessing of the Waters</p>	<p>6 Holy Theophany</p> <p>8:25am Orthros</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy of Basil the Great w/Great Blessing of the Waters</p>	<p>7 Synaxis of John the Baptist</p> <p>8:30am Orthros</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy (House Blessings begin)</p>	<p>8  Circumcision of our Lord and Basil the Great</p> <p>09:00am Orthros</p> <p>10:00am Hierarchical Liturgy (Later start time) Reception to follow (Office Closed)</p>	9	10 	11
<p>12 Sunday after Theophany</p> <p>8:15am Orthros</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	13	14	15 	16	17 	18
<p>19 12th Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:15am Orthros</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>MLK Jr. Day (Office Closed)</p>	20	21	22 	23	24 	25
<p>26 15th Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:15am Orthros</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	27	28	29 	30	31 	Feb. 1
		VIP Senior Luncheon 11:30am-1:00pm		Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy		Men's Fellowship, 7-8:30pm Location: TBD

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Stockton, CA 95207

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

Basilian email: basilian@gosaintbasil.org

Rev. Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras, Parish Priest

frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org

Rev. Fr. Gabriel Cupsa, Assistant Priest

frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org