



## *Returning and New Ministries!*

**NEW! VIP Ministry**, our new senior ministry will offer 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. For our first meeting, our Pastoral Assistant Gabriel will share a visual presentation on the Orthodox Church of Romania, with Q & A.

**Faith & Life** is a series on what it means to live a "Life in Christ" in our modern context. In this series, we will be exploring the following question: what does it mean to be in the world and yet, as Christ says, "not of the world". We will be reflecting on Scripture, Church Fathers and Mothers, modern Orthodox saints writes and other sources to help us answer this question so that we may receive the blessings that come from a faith that is lived on a daily basis.

**Faith & Coffee Talk** is for fellowship and casual conversation about our Orthodox faith.

**Journey to Fullness** is a video-based teaching series designed to introduce people to the beauty and riches of the Orthodox Christian Church.

**Women's Book Club** is 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.

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

**Young Adult Fellowship** is for young adults 18 and above who will gather for a night of fellowship, chatting about faith, life and all subjects of interest!

**Greek Dance** brings our youth together through music, dance, and fun, keeping the tradition alive!

**YOUTH & PARENT NIGHT** is for all youth K-8th grade will come for dinner, an activity and faith discussion with Fr. Pete and Gabriel! Parents are encouraged to stick around for their own fellowship, fun and faith-building!

**Teen Night** is for grades 9-12 who will gather together for a night of fun, fellowship, faith-building and dinner will also be offered.

**Sunday School and Backpack Blessing** - Sunday Religious Education instruction starts up again for the 2023-2024 year for our youth in pre-K through high school! We look forward to a great year of our youth growing in their relationship with Christ! We will also be blessing our children's backpacks so have them bring them to Church.

**Ministry Sunday** - September 17th: Our ministries and their representatives will be present to share their purpose and goals for the upcoming year, and to answer questions. Hope to see you there!

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Heavenly Food**  
A message from Fr. Pete.

**Greek Festival!**  
Sep. 8, 9 and 10

**Welcome Luncheon**  
for our Pastoral Associate Gabriel & his wife Iulia

**Ministries Sunday!**

**Journey to Fullness**

**Youth, Young Adult and Adult Ministries Information**

**New VIP (senior) Ministry**

**Sunday School**

**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**



## Heavenly Food

As we all know, every September our Church community gears up to host one of the most beloved and popular events of San Joaquin County—our Greek Food Festival! The Greek Festival is a wonderful time where our guests enjoy, among other things, delicious Greek cuisine. As the multitudes leave satisfied and well-fed, my hope and prayer are that they will learn about our precious Orthodox Christian faith, which, fulfills and nourishes our souls. Christ Himself says, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

***Christ Himself says, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).***

The spiritual hunger and thirst the Lord is referring to is that which takes place within us—it’s that internal emptiness we may feel; it can also mean the experience of confusion, feeling lost, or being in despair. Ultimately, it is only Christ, the bread of life, who can overcome our spiritual hunger.

We partake of the heavenly bread of Christ when we choose to live by our Lord’s teachings. Christ Himself said, “*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work*” (John 4:34). When Christ did God the Father’s will, He was feeding Himself spiritually. It is the same with us—we satiate and quench our spiritual hunger and thirst and thereby experience contentment and fulfillment when we strive to apply our faith to our everyday lives. The heavenly food that is Christ is offered at every Divine Liturgy. Our Lord says, “*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him*” (John 6:53-56). Christ is of course referring to Holy Communion and therefore is telling us we should receive His Body and Blood regularly to nourish and strengthen us.

The delicious Greek dishes that people will experience at our beautiful Festival is but a glimpse of the heavenly food which is Christ Himself and that St. Basil’s Orthodox Church offers every week. God desires that all people partake of this spiritual food and drink, so that all people will “*taste and see that the Lord is good*” (Psalm 34:8).

**With love in Christ,  
Fr. Panagiotis**



## Can I get an OPA?!

Remember how much fun you had working with your parish friends and serving our community at the Greek Festival?!

Well, let's do it again!

There are many ways we can serve Christ and spread the Good News, while helping our church grow - and our annual Greek Festival is one way that requires us all to work together as one body in Christ.

Yes, it takes a lot of work to pull off an event of this caliber, but hey - when you're volunteering with your favorite friends, it becomes more fun than work!



## Join a work party. We need your help!

All work parties begin at 9:00am

September 4

September 5 & 6

September 11 & 12

Monday (Labor Day)

Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday & Tuesday

Baklava

Baklava (cut & pack)

Festival Clean Up

## Upcoming Events



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

# Welcome Luncheon

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH



FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

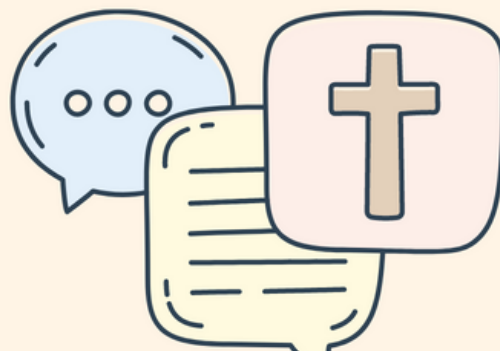
Join us as we formally welcome our new Pastoral Assistant, Gabriel Cupsa and his wife Iulia. Lunch provided



## MINISTRIES SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

Our ministries and their representatives will be present to share their purpose and goals for the upcoming year and to answer your questions. Hope to see you there!



### St Basil Greek Orthodox Christian Church Presents



Fr. Barnabas Powell: Priest, Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Greek Orthodox Church, Cumming, GA

#### Time & Dates:

Tuesdays:  
September 12 – October 17  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

#### Location:

St Basil Church Hall  
920 W. March Lane, Stockton

"A Journey to Fullness" is a video-based teaching series designed to introduce people to the beauty and riches of the Orthodox Christian Church.

It's our hope that this exciting new video workshop series is enjoyed by all inquiries and those wanting to learn more about ancient Christian history.

This workshop video series will be offered one evening per week for 5 weeks. Drop-ins are welcome!

Terri Blum, Outreach Committee Email: [blumteri@yahoo.com](mailto:blumteri@yahoo.com) St Basil Church Office 209-478-7564

# SAVE THE DATE

## Volleyball Tournament

OCT. 27-29

2023

SAN JOSE




Orthodox parishes from northern California are invited to participate in this annual Volleyball Tournament. Prior experience is not required. The goal is to have a great time of fellowship with fellow parishioners and friends.

Volleyball Practices dates and times will be forthcoming.

MORE INFORMATION →

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

 (857) 361-6138



# FAITH & LIFE

- † Join us as we begin a series on what it means to live a “Life in Christ” in our modern context.
- † In this series, we will be exploring the following question: what does it mean to be in the world and yet, as Christ says, “not of the world”.
- † Join us every other week, Wednesday Evenings. First meetings: Sept. 6 and 20, 7-8:30pm in the Fireside Room.
- † Zoom link will also be offered. If you wish to attend by Zoom, or for other information, contact Fr. Pete at: [frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)

## FAITH & COFFEE TALK

**JOIN US FOR  
FELLOWSHIP AND  
CASUAL  
CONVERSATION ABOUT  
OUR ORTHODOX FAITH.**

Location: **Poppy Coffee** (4343  
Pacific Ave ste a-1, Stockton, CA 95207)

First gatherings:

**THURSDAYS  
SEPT. 7 AND 21  
7-8:30 A.M.**



# ST. BASIL VIP MINISTRY



VIP is our new senior ministry and 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 our first meeting and lunch, Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 11:30am-1pm in the Church Hall, where our Pastoral Assistant Gabriel will share a visual presentation on the Orthodox Church of Romania, followed by a Q&A.

*Please contact the Church Office for any questions and to confirm your attendance: [office@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:office@gosaintbasil.org)*



## Orthodox Chanting

OUR NEWEST MINISTRY FOR 2023

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF BYZANTINE MUSIC TRADITION!

LOCATION: FIRESIDE ROOM

REHEARSAL DATES AND TIMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON.



For more information and registration, contact Gabriel Cupsa:

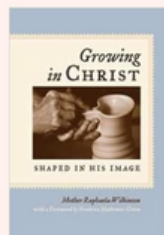
[gabriel@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:gabriel@gosaintbasil.org)

(857) 361-6138



# Women's Book Club

## Dinner and Fellowship



**FIRST MEETING:** THURSDAY,  
SEPT. 21, 6-7:30 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** FATHER 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](mailto:angiesotiras@gmail.com)



# become a Philoptochos member

**Invite. Embrace. Involve.**

Philoptochos is a ministry which is dedicated to philanthropy, fellowship, and faith in action.

Do you find joy in giving and helping others? Do you desire to serve?  
You have a place in the St. Basil Philoptochos. Join our chapter.

Membership contribution is \$50 for returning members.  
New members' first-year contribution is paid by our chapter.

**Stop by our ministry table on September 17 for membership information.**



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETURNS!

Men's Fellowship returns 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.

First Gathering:

Thursday Night, September 28th |  
7-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served!  
Location: Father Pete's House

For questions or more information contact  
Father Pete:  
[frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org)



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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



First meetings: Tuesday, August 29, 06-08 p.m., at Gabriel and Iulia's House, and Sunday, Sept. 24, 12-02 p.m. in the Church Hall. Hope to see you there!

# TEEN NIGHT

Grades 9 to 12  
are welcome!

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

First Gathering:  
Saturday, Sept. 16,  
6-7:30 p.m. at Gabriel  
and Julia's Home!  
Dinner will be offered!

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

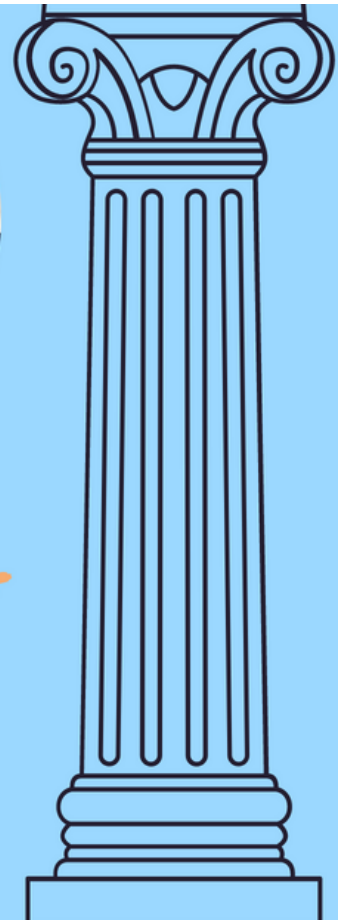


# GREEK DANCE

ST. BASIL'S GREEK DANCE MINISTRY is  
bringing our youth together through  
music, dance, and fun, keeping the  
tradition alive! It is open to anyone 5  
years and older!

PRACTICE EVERY SUNDAY FOR 30 MINUTES  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY  
IN THE CHURCH HALL

For information, contact Maria Karapanos:  
[maria@karapanos.net](mailto:maria@karapanos.net)  
(209) 559-5101





# SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BACKPACK BLESSING



Sunday Religious Education instruction starts up again for the 2023-2024 year for our youth in pre-K through high school! We look forward to a great year of our youth growing in their relationship with Christ!

JOIN US AS WE PRAY FOR A BLESSED, SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO BRING THEIR BACKPACKS TO THE DIVINE LITURGY TO BE BLESSED!

We return  
**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17TH**



For more information, please contact our Sunday School Director,  
Anastasia Cook at: [stbasilreligious@gmail.com](mailto:stbasilreligious@gmail.com).



## YOUTH & PARENT NIGHT

You are welcome to come once a month for dinner, an activity and faith discussion with Fr. Pete and Gabriel!

We also encourage parents to stick around for their own fellowship, fun and faith-building!

For more information, please contact Gabriel Cupsa at: [gabriel@gosaintbasil.org](mailto:gabriel@gosaintbasil.org)  
(857) 361-6138

First meeting on Friday,  
Sept. 29, 6-8 p.m.  
Location: Church Hall



## We need your help.

Your Stewardship Commitment helps St. Basil Parish meet our 2023 goal, supporting the ministries, programs, and liturgical life of our Church.

Your Stewardship Commitment makes the ministries, programs, and liturgical life of our parish possible.

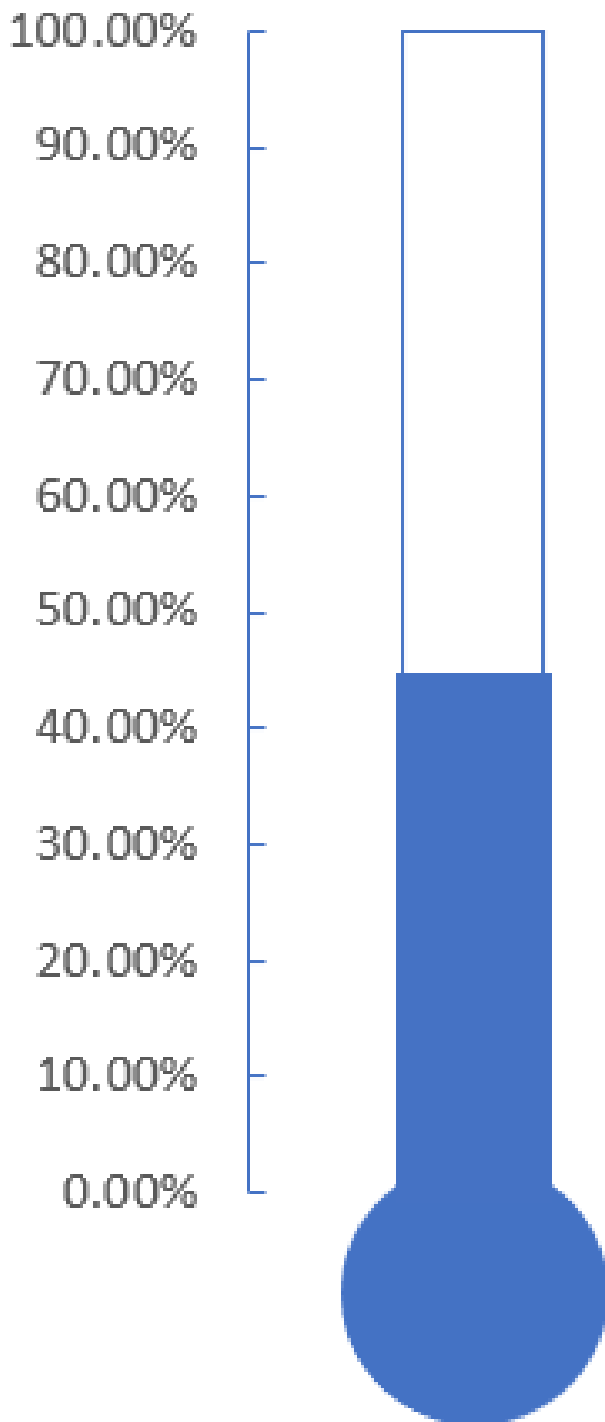
### Ways to Give

- Online
- Phone
- Bank Transfer
- In Church

### Methods of payment

- Autopay
- Check
- PayPal
- Credit/Debit Card

Or, you can set up your giving online? Go to: <https://gosaintbasil.org/donate-online/>



### Stewardship 2023

Annual Goal: \$385,000.00

Amount Received (through 7/31/23) \$169,445.54

We should be at 58.3% to be on track with our goal. We are at 44.01%.



*“Give and it will be given to you.”*

Pledge cards are still available. Our parish goal is 100% participation.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PAYMENT METHODS?  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (209) 478-7564  
OR EMAIL OFFICE AT: GOSAINTBAIL.ORG

--Luke 6:38



## Participate in the St. Basil tradition by hosting with your family or a group of friends.

Gathering in the church hall after Sunday services for coffee, refreshments and fellowship has been an important part of our spiritual life in the parish. It gives us the opportunity to visit with fellow parishioners and share with them in their special occasions such as Name Days, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Memorials, etc. Coffee Hour also serves to encourage fellowship, catch up with friends, welcome newcomers, and encourage conversation.

Please call the office to schedule.

**Hosting is simple! Bring snacks & juice, brew Coffee, set out food & beverages, and clean up.**

## Maui Fires Update: Relief Efforts Continue



The Maui Mission parish will continue to provide necessary items for affected families. They are grateful for the outpouring of support to assist in their local relief efforts. Online donations can be made at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHWJ/home> or checks can be mailed to: Maui Greek Orthodox Mission, MEMO: Fire Relief; P.O. Box 532642, Kihei, HI 96753. You can also contact them through email at: [firerelief@mauimission.org](mailto:firerelief@mauimission.org).

Currently funds are being used to help evacuees in the shelters. Moreover, funds will be used to help those displaced with rebuilding their lives and livelihoods. In short, the Maui Mission is supporting both immediate needs now and organizing to help

them step on to the path leading towards long term stability. Notes of encouragement and support, especially from the children in your parishes, are welcome and should be sent to the address above. This is one small but meaningful way that children can participate in the relief effort and show love and support for people in great need.

Thank you for your care, concern and generosity!



Run • Walk • Ride • More

TREK FROM  
**AUG. 6 –  
SEPT. 17**

Are you ready to  
take the challenge?

Join us for a six-week challenge that  
combines faith, fitness, and  
fundraising!

You can participate on your own or gather your family, friends, parish, furry companions, and even youth groups to form a fundraising team. Register today to create your own fundraising page to raise support and share your activity, all while demonstrating your commitment to Christ's Great Commission. Scan the QR code or go to the online join the Trek4missions at:

<https://www.ocmc.org/Trek4Missions>



## Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church Hall Rental



# Facility 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](mailto:HallRental@gosaintbasil.org)  
920 West March Lane Stockton CA  
[www.gosaintbasil.org](http://www.gosaintbasil.org)**

### FAITH-BASED

Weddings  
Baptisms  
First Communion  
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

## Basilian Boosters



### Kelley Bestolarides

Ted H. Bestolarides, CPA

1502 St. Marks Plaza, Suite 8  
Stockton, CA 95207

(209) 951-1040 Work  
(209) 951-2100 Fax

[kelley@thbcpa.com](mailto:kelley@thbcpa.com)

## Basso & Associates

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**Robert Basso**  
REALTOR

2027 GRAND CANAL BLVD #27  
STOCKTON CA 95207

Direct 209-644-1714 / Office 209-951-2115  
[c21exc@aol.com](mailto:c21exc@aol.com) / Cell 209-403-6996



### ENGEL & VÖLKERS®

#### Anna Karelis

Global Real Estate Advisor  
+1 209-200-2102  
203 S. Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501

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[annakarelis.evrealestate.com](http://annakarelis.evrealestate.com)

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Reno | Lake Tahoe

Looking to buy or sell property in Nevada: Tahoe, Reno, Carson Valley? Interested in a referral for a Realtor in Athens, Cabo, or other countries?

Call me for any real estate questions for help.

Turning DREAMS into REALITIES 

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Ecclesiastical New Year 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	2
3 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	4 (Labor Day) 9:00am Baklava Work Party (Office Closed)	5	6 Faith & Life 7:00pm – 8:30pm	7 Faith & Coffee Talk 7:00am – 8:30am	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy (Please note earlier start time) St. Basil Greek Food Festival 12pm-10pm	9 St. Basil Greek food Festival 12pm-10pm
10 7:45am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy (Please note earlier time) St. Basil Greek Food Festival (12pm-6pm)	11	12 Journey to Fullness 6:00pm – 8:00pm	13 Vigil at Holy Cross OCA Church in Sacramento, 6:00pm	14 Elevation of the Holy Cross 5:00pm Orthros 6:00pm Divine Liturgy (Office Closed)	15 Teen Night 6:00pm - 7:30pm	16
17 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Ministries Sunday Sunday School Resumes & Backpack blessings	18	19 Journey to Fullness 6:00pm – 8:00pm	20 Faith & Life 7:00pm – 8:30pm	21 Faith & Coffee Talk 7:00am – 8:30am Women's Book Club 6:00pm – 7:30pm	22	23
24 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Welcome Luncheon (following Divine Liturgy) Young Adult Fellowship 12:00pm – 2:00pm	25	26 VIP Ministry 11:30am – 1:00pm Journey to Fullness 6:00pm – 8:00pm	27 Men's Fellowship 7:00pm – 8:30pm	28 Men's Fellowship 7:00pm – 8:30pm	29 Youth & Parent Night 6:00pm – 8:00pm	30 Strict Fast Wine & oil allowed Fish, oil & wine allowed

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

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

email: [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

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

Pastoral Assistant

Gabriel Cupsa

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