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--Sep. 6, 7 & 8

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become an Angel!

Returning and New Ministries!

NEW!

"Blessed is the Kingdom" is an evening series on Divine Liturgy. All are invited to learn more about the Divine Liturgy, its meaning and symbols. Hope to see you there!

Morning Bible Study (Meets weekly every Thursday morning)
Join us for fellowship and studying God's Word as we reflect on 1 st Letter to the Corinthians and how the wisdom found in this Gospel will grant us greater clarity and peace.

VIP Ministry Resumes!

Our 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.

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

Grief Ministry

We are planning to have a grief group, based on the book "Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians" by Sarah Byrne-Martelli. If you are interested, in participating please contact Fr. Pete.

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. Reading: "Our Thoughts Determine our Lives" by Elder Thaddeus.

Men's Fellowship

Our Men's ministry resumes for the new Church year. This group is meant to offer support and encouragement to men in their journey of faith. We will be resuming our book "All is Well" by Dr. Albert Rossi.

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!

Choir Ministry

St. Basil's Choir has the mission to lead and inspire the congregation in prayerful and attentive worship by offering praise to God through their gift of song.

Chanting Ministry

In this series we will discover the beauty of Byzantine Music Tradition and its theological significance for our spiritual lives.

Hope/ Joy Ministry

For youth in Kindergarden through Elementary School.

Teen Night is for grades 6-12 who will gather together for a night of fun, fellowship, faith-building and dinner will also be offered.

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

Myrrhbearer Ministry. Returning September 15th for Sunday Divine Liturgy. All girls 7-14 are welcome to join.

Sunday School and Backpack Blessing -Sunday, September 22
Sunday Religious Education instruction starts up again for the 2024-2025 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 Fair Sunday

September 22: Every September we remind our faithful about all the wonderful ministries we have to offer. Following Liturgy, please be sure to check out our Ministries Fair and all that we have to offer!

The Church's Purpose

by Father Panagiotis Sotiras



As we begin a new Ecclesiastical Year on September 1, it's important to recall the Church's purpose because it is we, the parishioners, who are the Church, with the Christ as the head (Colossians 1:18). We--both clergy and laity--need to know this purpose so that we can make sure St. Basil's is acting like the Church and not just like some kind of exclusive club. So, what is our purpose here at St. Basil's? To answer that, let us reflect on a portion of the Gospel reading assigned for the first day of our New Church year (Luke 4:16-22):

"So, He [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Our Lord gave us the blueprint for what our parish, and all parishes for that matter, are here for. St. Basil's is here to preach the gospel to the poor--and poor can be understood to mean spiritually poor; in other words, those who are empty inside, those who are searching for meaning and purpose, those who are unfulfilled. The gospel means "Good News" in Greek, and so the Good News the Church has to offer is union with God, an intimate relationship with our loving Shepherd, which is what our soul and heart longs for, which is what gives us purpose, meaning and fulfillment.

The brokenhearted are those who have suffered in life in various ways--the Church is here to offer support, comfort and hope. The captives and oppressed are those who are imprisoned by their passions such as guilt, anger, shame, jealousy and fear--the Church is here to liberate us from these passions. The blind are those who are lost and confused--the Church is here to offer us the light of Christ, to help us make healthy choices that build us and others up, to help us make sense of life.

If St. Basil's is a parish where all these things are experienced, then it will truly be an "an acceptable year of the Lord" for us; our Lord will be well-pleased with us, and we will be fulfilling our purpose.

How do we have such a year acceptable to the Lord? First it starts (and it always starts) with our frequent participation in the liturgical services and our sacramental life. If we are to

experience the blessings of union with God, it starts with corporate (and private) prayer and Holy Communion.

Our Lord said, "where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20)--this means that there is something special and essential when we gather for prayer with others, because the Lord is truly among us when we do so. In addition, our Lord said, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him." (John 6:56). Therefore, for us to be the Church, we need to be rooted and nourished by the liturgical prayers and sacraments.

Furthermore, to fulfill our purpose, we must strive to be loving and welcoming to all, both those in the parish and those who are not. We must resist cliques. We must resist any attitudes of superiority over those who might differ from us. We must show courtesy, kindness, compassion and mercy to all people. The Lord said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35). Do we have love for one another, for our fellow parishioners, even when that love is not given? Do we desire that more and more people come to our Church, both Orthodox who are disconnected and the non-Orthodox? Let us remember that God Himself desires "all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:4)."

We fulfill our purpose at St. Basil's through our ministries, which are for all ages and for all people, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox. It is through our ministries that we learn about our faith and how it applies to our lives; it is through our ministries that we experience hope and comfort; it is through our ministries that we help one another carry "one another's burdens," thus fulfilling the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). Our ministries also offer us the precious opportunity for connecting with others. The pandemic taught us much, but one of the things it taught us was the necessity for community. We are hard-wired to have relationships and friendships, and our various ministries offer us the antidote to isolation.

Lastly, we fulfill our mission by inviting (when the opportunity presents itself) family and friends to our parish, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox, so that they will experience what the Church is here to offer. Let us imitate the words Philip told Nathanael, "Come and see." (John 1:46). Let us to "come and see" for themselves the immense blessings that our Church has to offer.

As we prepare to begin a new year, let us remember what the Church is here for and how our role is essential for making sure the Church fulfills Her divine purpose.

A blessed and fruitful New Year to you and your loved ones.

With love in our Lord,

Fr. Panagiotis



BLESSED IS THE KINGDOM

SERIES ON THE DIVINE LITURGY

ALL ARE INVITED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIVINE
LITURGY, ITS MEANING AND SYMBOLS.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

7PM-8:30PM | FIRESIDE ROOM (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM).

FIRST CLASS:
SEPT. 18
NEXT CLASS:
SEPT. 25.



Stewardship 2024

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity. ~ 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Experience the Joy of Giving My Best Gift

To those who tithe, God promises a blessing until it is overflowing[!]

--Orthodox Study Bible; Commentary from Malachi 3:8-13

Did you know?

St. Basil parish has joined many other Greek Orthodox parishes from across the country...

In the Narthex, you are now able to make donations for candles, stewardship, and other ministries using a card reader. For your convenience, you can now make donations with cash, check, debit card or credit card. They are discretely located on each side where the candles are located.

Parish Council members are happy to assist if needed!

Our Families' Weekly Best Gift

Annual Income	2.5%	5%	10%
\$20,000	\$9.60	\$19.25	\$38.50
\$50,000	\$24.00	\$48.00	\$96.00
\$75,000	\$36.00	\$72.00	\$144.00
\$100,000	\$48.00	\$96.00	\$192.00
\$250,000	\$120.00	\$240.00	\$480.00

Stewardship "Numbers" Update

- July 2024 Giving: \$11,698.43
- YTD Giving through the end of June 2024: \$176,554.78
- We are at 52.7% of our annual goal of \$335,000.00 (affirmed at Parish Assembly)
 - To be on track for our annual goal, YTD we are behind \$18,861.91



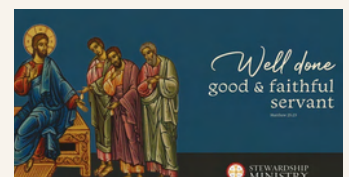
Remember St. Basil Parish in your estate planning. Your gift is meaningful. Beyond measure.

Submit your pledge card here
or Use the QR Code



...but lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven...

Matthew 6:20 (RSV)



Online Giving Here
or Use the QR Code

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)

Welcome to our newest members of the family



Newly Chrismated



Gertrude Kandris - June 9



Mark Forrest - June 29



Anthony Nunes - Aug 18

Four Newlyweds



Bitar/Dell'aringa - June 8

Rieber/Dinoris
June 9
(Not Pictured)

Spanos/Gioavannoni
June 22
(Not Pictured)



Lappas/Kurz - July 11

Newly Baptized

Casey Lappas - June 11
(Not Pictured)

Karina Vonsai - June 15
(Pictured Right)



God grant them
many years
as they embark
on this new path
of life!



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

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

Our Goal:

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

Details:

- This workshop video series will be offered one evening per week for 6 weeks.
- A meal is served. Drop-ins welcomed.

Time & Dates: Tuesday evenings- **September 24– October 15, 2024**
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Location: St Basil Church Hall 920 W. March Lane, Stockton, Spanos Hall

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

***FIRST
SESSION:
SEPT. 24***

Tyler, you are in our prayers as your spiritual journey takes you to Holy Cross Hellenic College. You will be missed!

Pictured below, L-R: Fr. Pete, Tyler Musser, Fr. Gabriel & PC President Peter Koulouris



Pictured below, L-R: Fr. Gabriel, Kaia (sister), Tyler Musser, Kirstin (mom), Fr. Pete, Peter Koulouris



St. Basil's Ministries

Ministry Fair Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024 after Liturgy

Every September we remind our faithful about all the wonderful ministries we have to offer.

Following Liturgy, please be sure to check out our Ministries Fair and all that we have to offer!

ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
STOCKTON, CA

St. Basil's Mailing Team Ministry

One of the most crucial ways we maintain our awareness of what's going on at St. Basil's is communication. Toward that end, we need help with stuffing and putting stamps (or nonprofit postage) on envelopes, as well as mailing them.

Times for doing this can be tailored to our volunteers.

Although it may not seem like it, this ministry can be a fun and fulfilling experience. Please contact the office (office@gosaintbasil.org or 209-478-7564) to let us know if you would like to be part of this very important ministry!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BACKPACK BLESSING



Sunday Religious Education instruction starts up again for the 2024-2025 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.

We return on
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

For more information, please contact our Sunday School Director,
Anastasia Cook at: stbasilreligioused@gmail.com.



ST. BASIL'S HOPE & JOY MINISTRY

Kindergarten and
Elementary
School Ages

Sunday, September 22

Following Coffee Hour & Ministry Fair
In the Fireside Room, 12-1 P.M.



TEEN NIGHT

Grades 6 -12

FIRST Gathering:

Saturday, September 28 2024, 6-8 pm

Location: Jerius and Diana Hanania's home

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 with Fr. Pete and Fr. Gabriel!

Next session: Oct. 26

For info contact Fr. Gabriel: frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org | (857) 761-6138



Women's BOOK CLUB

MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16 2024, 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.

Reading: "Our Thoughts Determine our Lives" by Elder Thaddeus.



Please contact Pres. Angie for more information: angiesotiras@gmail.com

ADULT MINISTRIES



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
7-8:30 PM,
LOCATION: FIRESIDE ROOM

Our Men's ministry resumes for the new Church year. This group is meant to offer support and encouragement to men in their journey of faith. We will be resuming our book "All is Well" by Dr. Albert Rossi.

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.

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 First session:
Tuesday, September 24 2024
11:30 am - 1 pm



**YOUNG
ADULT &
OTHER
MINISTRIES**

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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!

Sunday, September 29, 2024 after Coffee Hour

More details to come



For more information, contact Fr. Gabriel Cupsa:
frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org
(857) 361-6138

Choir Ministry

St. Basil's Choir has the mission to lead and inspire the congregation in prayerful and attentive worship by offering praise to God through their gift of song.

For more information or if you're interested in joining the choir, please reach out to Fr. Gabriel & Vicky Papachristo, our Choir Director.



Saint Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Stockton, CA

Parish retreat

October 18-20, 2024

More information to come. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Fr. Gabriel at: frgabriel@gosaintbasil.org.

St. Basil's is planning to once again head to St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center, as well as the Monastery of the Life-Giving Spring, for a Parish Retreat. We will be joining the faithful of St. Anna's in Roseville for a weekend of spiritual growth and fun!

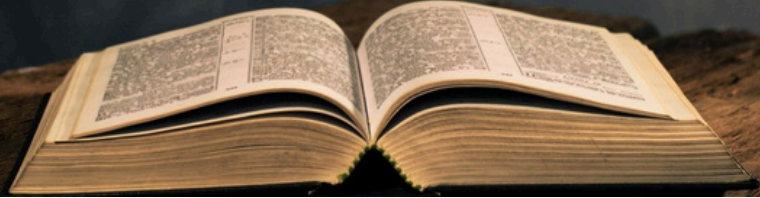
MORNING BIBLE STUDY

First session: Sept. 12, 2024

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.



OTHER

MINISTRIES



MEMORY ETERNAL

Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians

GRIEF MINISTRY

We are planning to have a grief ministry, based on the book "Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians" by Sarah Byrne-Martelli. If you are interested in participating, please contact Fr. Pete at: frsotiras@gosaintbasil.org. Please also let Father know the best time of the day that works for you.

Ministry Leaders Meeting

All Ministry Leaders!!

Fr. Pete will be Leading this Important Session!

Please be sure to attend!

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

7:00pm

Fireside Room



Dormition of the Mother of God

August 15, 2024



Catechumen Retreat

June 29, 2024



On the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, who laid the foundation for Orthodox missions, St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Stockton, CA hosted an OCMC retreat entitled Orthodoxy & the Apostolic Spirit. Former OCMC Missionary, Anastasia Barksdale was the main speaker. The event with attended by inquirers, catechumen and lifelong learners from eight local parishes. The program began with the Divine Liturgy, followed by a chrismation.

The retreat program began with introductions and icebreakers and a presentation by Anastasia Barksdale on the Foundations of Orthodox Mission. Fr. Pete Sotiris and Fr. Gabriel Cupsa helped lead the small group discussions as well as Patricia Manuse and Roberta Sardell, both former OCMC mission team members. Each of the small groups worked together to create "mission statement". Which they shared during the concluding session as they discussed, "What's My Mission?" All the participants left with a greater understanding of the role missions plays in their personal spiritual journey.

The retreat will be repeated again on September 14th in Sacramento, CA at the Annunciation of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, 616 Alhambra Ave. If you missed it, please register for the program online.



A Message From Our Sunday School Director

Hello Students and Parents,

Welcome to the **2024 -2025 school year**. I am looking forward to seeing all of our students again. We have been keeping busy over the summer. In addition to summer school, we installed an "info wall" in the hallway near the fireside room (between the 2 built in bookcases), and the Sunday School office has received a "face-lift" with new paint, bookcases and a desk. This has allowed for better organization of materials and supplies so our teachers may easily locate any resources they may need for their lessons.



While preparing for this school year, I read a quote from St. Theophan the Recluse: " Of all holy works, the education of our children is the most holy." This inspired me to help our teachers plan a more structured, and well-rounded curriculum, that focuses on all aspects of our faith: from what we see in church, to understanding the Divine Liturgy, The Lord's Prayer and the creed, studying our Sacraments, feast days, and traditions. We will also meet in the hall several times throughout the year, to learn how/why we make prosforo, artoklasia, vasilopita, and koliva. We are excited to be able to do this with our students, and welcome parents to join us in the hall, if they wish.

In other news, we will hold the Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in March 2025. We are eagerly anticipating our 8th through 12th grade students participating. More information will follow. Until then, we are in need of judges and mentors. If you are interested, please text/email Anastasia Cook (information below).

Also, be on the lookout for an updated page on our parish's website. It's still a work in progress, but I hope to have it completed by October.

Looking ahead:

- September 22, 2024 - Ministry Sunday and first day of Sunday School.
- October 27, 2024 - make prosphoro (all students will meet in the hall).

Sunday School teachers/substitute teacher volunteers are always needed. We are also looking for a co-director. Please message Anastasia if interested.

With gratitude,
Anastasia Cook

(209)663-9048
Religioused@saintbasil.org

St. Basil's Youth at Summer Camp

- Saint Nicholas Ranch -

July 7 - July 13, 2024



St. Basil's Community News - Our Family

In inaugurating this new column which will appear every month we hope those in our St. Basil community will provide information about news of our parish community such as graduations, deaths, births, engagements, awards, marriages and other newsy items of interest. This column was a staple in past Basilian's and several have asked it to be included for news of our St. Basil family. Please submit items of interest to the Basilian to Editor, Edna Fields, or to Gayle Maduros.

Best wishes in the future for **Ava Tounou** who recently graduated from Lincoln High School and will be attending Sacramento State College in the fall. Apparently, Ava was the only HS grad from the parish this May/June. Any college or graduate school from the parish? We'd love to print your successful closure in higher education.

Former parishioner **Carole Lew** died following a long illness. A resident of Stockton for many years, Carole moved to Oakland about ten years ago and was active in veteran's groups in the Bay Area. Her funeral took place at Chapel of the Palms on Friday, July 19 at noon, followed by committal at the Chinese Cemetery in French Camp. God bless Carole's long journey!

Long time parishioner and Lodi resident **Nicholas "Nick" Aftias** died at his home on May 27. He was born March 18, 1933 in Samos, Greece to parents Licourgos and Fotini Aftias. He earned an engineering degree before immigrating to Canada at 18. Kiriaki Geralis joined him soon after and they were married in 1954 where Nick began his career in the restaurant business while living in Montreal. He then worked for the Canadian Railroad and in 1958 moved his family to Vancouver where he opened a restaurant. The family moved to Lodi in 1968 so "Kiki" could be reunited with her brothers and sisters. He managed the New Yorker restaurant in Lodi until 1974 with his nieces and nephews, Dr. Ken and Angie Frangadakis and Michael and Pattie Frangadakis opened YasooYani in downtown Stockton; Nick became sole owner in 1975. After retiring he began growing grapes in 1973 and at age 88 started in almonds. He was a founding member of Lodi Hellenic Society and when the society decided to disband, they donated nearly \$70,000 to St. Basil's and the Church created three memorial scholarships to honor Nick and two other founding members, Steve Facaros and Bill Panagopoulos. He loved hosting events at his home, especially for Orthodox Easter. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, John Aftias. He is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, children Fotini Maria Aftias, Licourgos "Leo" Aftias, and Dimitri "Jim" Aftias (Susan); grandchildren Nick Aftias (Rhiannon), Thomas Aftias (Edlyn), Alexis Aftias Mertz, Christine Aftias-Sanchez and Michael Aftias, 8 great-grandchildren and his sister Vasili's Kritikos in Montreal. May his memory be eternal!

Lodi resident and garage owner in that city died April 8, 2024. **John Zarefakis**, 72, was born August 29, 1952. The Trisagion was at St. Basil Church April 16 followed by the funeral the following day, the 17th. Committal was at Cherokee Memorial Park. (No obituary available). Memory eternal.

Kathleen Farros-Hoepfner recently participated in the Sacramento Fine Arts Show and was awarded Best of Show in the Sculpture category. She also received Honorable Mention on two sculptures, Cows on Parade, and was one of six artists chosen to paint a life-size cow. The City of Vacaville chose it to be installed in the Town Square; installation will be taking place within the next few months.

Our own **Pamela Anastasia Barksdale**, MDiv is the Parish Engagement Coordinator for OCMA in St. Augustine, FL. Pamela sponsored an Orthodoxy and Apostolic Spirit Retreat at St. Basil's a few weeks back and encouraged attendees to embrace the concept of "My mission is ". . . groups 1 and 2 explored areas to internalize the goals in their spiritual journeys whether they were an inquirer to the Orthodox Faith or a lifelong learner. Attendees separated into groups and discussed how to serve God by sharing the Good News of the Gospel to a hurting world. Also, by imitating Christ, we desire to be obedient to Him and fulfill the Great Commission and making disciples through Apostolic vision, zeal and ethos. Group 3: As creations of God, we are hollow without Him and in Group 4 to become a vessel of Christ bearing Love. This was followed by a survey to help us plan the next Mission Retreat. For those interested in participating in the Trek for Missions, this link is the URL: <https://www.ocmc.org/Trek4missions>. Look forward to the next chapter . . .

Congratulations to **Presvytera Pearlann Bithos** of Oak Lawn, IL. At the Clergy Laity this month in San Diego she was elected President of the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres. Her late husband, Rev. Fr. Stephen Bithos had Stockton connections going back to his early years. He was born in San Francisco to Fr. Constantine and Presv. Vee Bithos and they served briefly in Stockton, the late Liberty Sarris of Stockton was his godmother, and in his later teen years, Steve spent a year or so in Stockton before entering Holy Cross Seminary. Fr. Steve died January 25, 2024, in Oak Lawn after spending many years in Joliet, IL. Memory eternal to a faithful servant!

Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska and College of Human Medicine in East Lansing, Michigan will be the home for the next four years for two shining stars with deep connections to St. Basil's. **Dominick Milke**, son of Tanya and Fred Milke and grandson of Georgianna and Ray Rishwain, recently started his first year at Creighton with a white robe ceremony held August 2 as his introduction to med school following graduation from St. Mary's College.

Continued on next page

Eleni Bestolarides Flores, graduate of Hillsdale College in Michigan, and mother of adorable Maria Flores, 2, also received the white robe at the 55th Annual Convocation and White Coat Ceremony celebrating the class of 2028.

Former Stockton Record reporter and now posting online with Stocktonopolis recently posted that Yasoo Yani owner **Jim Aftias** will soon be closing, though a date has not been set as of yet. The popular restaurant was opened in 1974 has never fully recovered from the pandemic closure and the slowdown following the exodus of downtown banks and businesses. For decades Yasoo catered to the downtown breakfast and lunch crowd - judges of San Joaquin County Superior Court commandeered their own table. In the '70s and '80s Greek nights featured Bouzouki music and belly dancing. They expanded in the '80s from 55 seats to 120 and also catered Makarias and banquets. The charter school next to Yasoo Yani's are planning on expanding into the restaurant space - end of a beautiful era of dining in downtown Stockton.

Nicole Bestolarides, daughter of Ted and Kelley, will graduate in December from University of Glasgow, Scotland, with a Master's degree in Digital Archiving. She will return to the States following graduation.

On May 2024 Nikki Karapanos graduated from Sonoma State University with a master's degree in Cultural Resources

Enagement. Her thesis research was on the topic of reconstructing the life histories of individuals once buried at City Cemetery in San Francisco during the late-1800s. She is currently working as an archaeologist at AECOM, a global infrastructure consulting firm. She can be found at a construction site in San Francisco or surveying the remote landscapes of the greater Bay Area.



Pictured above: Nikki working on site at a construction site in San Francisco.

Pictured left: Nikki with her family at her Graduation from Sonoma State University.



Our very own Terri Blum (pictured 4th from left) and Mary Carroll-Bandy (pictured 3rd from left), attended an icon class at St. Annunciation in Sacramento, the first week of August.

Theodore's Papadoupoulos, master iconographic from Greece, held his third annual class. The purpose was to teach the ancient egg tempera technique. Along with Terri and Mary were attendees from as far away as Arizona and Oregon.

A great time was enjoyed by all!

It is open to all experience levels.

Information for next year's class can be found by contacting St. Annunciation.

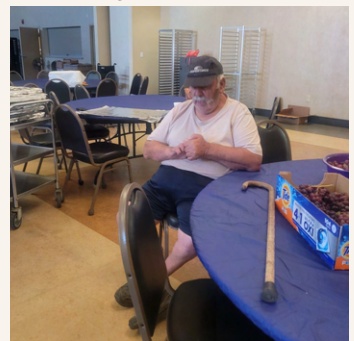


Dolmades Work Party

June 27, 2024



Spanikopita & Tiropita Work Party



GREEK FESTIVAL 2024

SEPT. 6·7·8

FRI & SAT: Noon - 10pm | SUN: Noon - 6 pm

Delicious Greek Food and Pastries
Greek Music and Dancing • Fun for all Ages



- \$5.00 Admission
- Children 11 and under are **FREE** when accompanied by an adult

For More Information Visit:
[Facebook.com/GreekFoodFestivalStocktonCa](https://www.facebook.com/GreekFoodFestivalStocktonCa)
or by Calling: (209) 478-7564

*Enjoy the Spirit
of Greece!*



Retreats & Learning Opportunities

This Fall at The Orthodox Studies Institute:



**Orthodox
Studies Institute**

HOLY WOMEN OF BYZANTIUM

by
Dr. Anyisia Metrakos

A live, online course exploring the lives and legacies of Byzantine holy women from the mid-fourth through fifteenth centuries.

Tuesdays
October 8, 15, 22, 29
8:00PM Eastern/5:00 PM Pacific

For more information and to get the discounted price of \$99 (from \$125) visit www.orthodoxstudies.org/goarch



Course Description

This course explores the lives and legacies of Byzantine holy women from the mid-fourth through fifteenth centuries. A rich variety of interdisciplinary sources including hagiography, iconography, portraiture, architecture, legal codices, letters, encomia, hymnography, and historiography (the writing of history) will inform our understanding of how female sanctity was constructed, communicated, and venerated in the Byzantine period, as well as the impact Byzantine female saints made on the physical and spiritual landscapes of city and society.

About the Instructor

Dr. Anyisia Metrakos is a historian of the later Roman Empire (Late Antiquity) whose work centers on the impact of Christianity on Roman society, gender, and law. She received her doctorate from the Graduate Group in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology from University of California, Berkeley, and has lectured in Classical Studies and History at Tufts University. Her current research and book project follow the socio-economic effects and legal implications of founding and financing elite female monastic communities in fifth and sixth century Constantinople. Dr. Metrakos lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband (Fr. Nicholas) and their four children.



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH INQUIRERS RETREAT ON

ORTHODOXY & THE APOSTOLIC SPIRIT

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

DIVINE LITURGY FEAST OF Elevation of the Holy Cross 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
LUNCH & RETREAT PROGRAM FROM 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.



WORKSHOP LEADER:

ANASTASIA BARKSDALE

OCMC PARISH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
& FORMER OCMC MISSIONARY SERVING IN ALBANIA

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Please join us for a special missions-based retreat for inquirers, catechumen, and lifelong learners to help understand Orthodoxy and the Apostolic Spirit. The program will begin with Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, followed by lunch and retreat with Anastasia Barksdale. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Orthodox Christians and learn more about the Orthodox faith.

Cost: \$10.00 per person

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or go to:

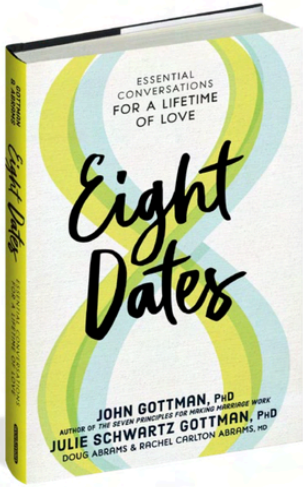
OCMC.org/Sacramento-Workshop



SIGN UP BY SEPT 7!

RETREAT SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
11 a.m. - Coffee and Introductions
12:00 Lunch
12:45 p.m. - Foundations of Orthodox Missions
1:45 p.m. - Small Group Discussion
"My Spiritual Journey"
2:30 - 3 p.m. - Call to Action
"What's My Mission?"



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco **Family Wellness Ministry** and the **Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries** invite you to journey with us through

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- ✿ September 19
- ✿ September 26
- ✿ October 10
- ✿ October 24
- ✿ November 7
- ✿ November 21
- ✿ December 5
- ✿ December 19
- ✿ January 9

Each session is designed by our Family Wellness Ministry team to engage couples in essential conversations. **Topics include:**

- ⊗ Trust & Commitment
- ⊗ Addressing Conflict
- ⊗ Sex & Intimacy
- ⊗ Work & Money
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LEARN MORE AND REGISTER HERE



familywellnessministry.org/eight-dates

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OTHER EVENTS

Birthdays, Sweet 16

Anniversaries

Reunions

Art Show, Gallery Exhibit

Meetings, Conferences

Chamber of Commerce

Events

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ecclesiastical New Year Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am	2 Baklava Monday	3	4	5	6 Greek Food Festival Noon – 10pm	7 Greek Food Festival Noon – 10pm
8 Orthros 7:45 Divine Liturgy 9:00 Nativity of the Theotokos (Special festival times) Greek Food Festival Noon – 6pm	9	10	11 Ministry Leaders Meeting Fireside Room 7pm – 9pm	12	13	14 The Elevation of the Venerable and Life- Giving Cross Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
15 Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am	16 Euphemia the Great Martyr Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am (Relic to be brought out for veneration) Women's Book Club 6pm – Fr. Pete & Pres Angie's home	17	18 Series on Divine Liturgy Fireside Room or Zoom 7:00pm	19 1 st Session of Morning Bible Study Fireside Room or Zoom 11:00am - Noon	20	21
22 Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School resumes & backpack blessing Ministry Fair Sunday (After Liturgy) Hope & Joy - Fireside Room Noon – 1:00pm	23	24 VIP Ministry 11:30am - Hall Journey to Fullness 6:00pm - Parish Hall Men's Fellowship 7:00pm – Fireside Room	25 Series on Divine Liturgy 7:00pm - Fireside room or Zoom	26 The Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist & Theologian Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Morning Bible Study 11am – Noon - Fireside room or Zoom	27	28 Teen Night 6:00pm At the Hanania's home
29 Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Young Adult Ministry (after coffee hour)	30					Strict Fast Wine & Oil allowed Fish Oil & Wine allowed Dairy allowed No symbol - Fast Free

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