



Thanksgiving: Our National Holy Day

For all practical purposes, Thanksgiving Day is the closest we come to a national holy day in the United States. Historically, it has been celebrated with everything from religious thankfulness, food, frolic and of course modern commercialism. Despite this, it is still a time for many Americans to **count their blessings from God** and get together with family and friends.

Sometimes our attitude to life stops us from counting our blessings and giving thanksgiving to God. Psychologists call this pessimism. It is the belief that bad events will undermine everything they do. It is like always seeing the cup half empty. Those with optimism confronted with hard knocks, approach them as a challenge and try harder. Optimists tend to see the cup half full. They are thankful for what they have and work harder.

Common to our American national heritage is the action of our first president, George Washington who in 1789 **declared a national day of thanksgiving** honoring the newly ratified Constitution, proclaiming: the people could thank God for "affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Scripture is full of writings reminding us to always be giving thanks to God. These passages guide us in how we as Christians can offer our thanks to the Lord. Here are some ways we are called to give thanks;

By Singing To Him

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, .. Serve the Lord with gladness, Come before His presence with singing... We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving... Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good. (Psalm 100)

By Praying To Him

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:6 - 7)

By Giving To Him

Then you must celebrate the festival of the harvest to honor the Lord your God. Bring him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings you have received from Him. Celebrate with your whole family .. foreigners, orphans and widows who live among you. (Deuteronomy 16:10 - 11)
~ Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. (Psalm 50:14)

By Sharing Our Testimony About Him

~ Thank the Lord! Praise His name! Tell the world what He has done. Oh, how mighty He is! (Isaiah 12:4)
~ Be very careful never to forget what you have seen the Lord do for you. Do not let these things escape from your mind as long as your live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and your grandchildren. (Duet. 4:9)
~And, whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God.. (Colossians 3:17)
~ In everything, give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess 5:18)

Respectfully, *Rev. Fr. Bill Tragus*

November

Sat 2nd: Goya Trip to Knott's 7:00 pm
Tues 5th: Bible Study 7:15
Thur 7th: Ladies Auxiliary Evening 6:30 pm
Thur 14th: Prime Timers Lunch 1:00 pm
Sun 17th: General Assembly 12:15 pm
Tues 19th: Women's Bible Study 10:20 am

December

Thur 5th: Ladies' Game Night 6:30 pm
Fri 6th: Liturgy St. Nicholas 9:30 am
Tues 10th: Bible Study 7:15 pm
Sat 14th: Goya ~ Santa Outreach
Sat 21st: Christmas Party 6:30 pm
and 10 Year Anniversary
* Dinner & Dancing
* Kids prices available
Wed 25: Liturgy Nativity of our Lord



Our Goya receiving thanks for their work at our Festival

Tues. 5th ~ Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Please join us for Bible Study, fellowship and refreshments upstairs in the Hall.

Thurs. 7th ~ Ladies' Auxiliary Evening 6:30 pm: It's not too late! Join Ladies Auxiliary Thursday evening, November 7th at the Kaffen home in SJC for a membership get-together and baby shower for Presbyteria Mia. She is registered at BuyBuy Baby in Mission Viejo. Festivities begin at 6:30. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, beverages will be provided. RSVP to Fran Karnazes (949) 633-0270 or yayiafran@icloud.com

Thurs. 14th ~ Prime Timers Lunch: 1:00 p.m. at Tastes of Greece. 20012 Crown Valley Pkwy. Laguna Niguel (949) 495 - 2244. For more info, contact Bert at: (949) 412 - 9169.

Sun. 17th ~ General Assembly Meeting: Please plan to attend our next General Assembly Meeting following Church on November 17th, 2013. All 2013 pledged members are welcome to vote in the meeting. If you would like to pledge to our community, please do so by contacting Ann Rhodes in the Church office.

Wed. 19th ~ Women's Bible Study: 10:20 - 11:30 a.m. at Church in the hall. Our 2nd monthly women's Bible Study will be this month. We had a great turn out last month and very tasty pastries and coffee. Please RSVP if you are able to attend to Fr. Bill at the church (949) 542—3445 or frbill@stbasiloc.org



The J.O.Y. (Jr. Orthodox Youth) visit to the pumpkin patch Mountain Pines Christmas Tree Lot was a wonderful experience for our kids. We thank Tom & Tanya Tolmasoff for letting our kids ride the pony as many times as they wished and for giving them all a nice large pumpkin to take home.

GOYA Calendar Upcoming Events

Check out our Facebook page at: St. Basil Goya

Knott's Scary Farm ~ Nov 2nd: Meet at the Rains home at 7:00 p.m.

Goya Meeting ~ Sun. Nov. 10: After church upstairs during coffee hour

GOYA is hosting a TOY DRIVE through December 8th: Please bring your new unopened unwrapped toys to church and place in boxes. We will be wrapping and distributing the toys at our Christmas with Santa event on December 14th at Mission Grill in San Juan Capistrano from 8:00am-11:00am. Tickets will be 10.00 per person and you can buy additional tickets to sponsor an underprivileged child to attend! We are hosting this event as our community service effort and fundraiser!

So Cal Bible Bowl ~ Dec. 7th: At St Sophia Cathedral. We have started our practices on Tuesday nights at 7:30 at the Rains home (29422 Del Plata lane Laguna Niguel) We are having fun and building our teams. It's not too late to join. All participants will be treated to Universal Studio after our event sometime in December! Email Sandy for info sandy rains1@gmail.com. Check out www.scbiblebowl.org for event info.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

- Parish Council:** Reggie Sellas: rsellas@aol.com
- Sunday School:** Anna-Nicole: annanicole777@gmail.com
- Greek School:** Tessy: tessyjoy7@gmail.com
- GOYA:** Sandy Rains: sandy rains1@gmail.com
- Greek Dance:** Lia Vardakostas: lia1@cox.net
- Altar Boys:** Fr. Bill: frbill@stbasiloc.org
- Stewardship:** Katie Van Harten: vanhartenk@msn.com
- Ladies' Aux:** Fran Karnazes: yayiafran@icloud.com
- AHEPA:** Mike A: mpa@centerpointinsurance.com
- Prime Timers:** Bert Dumais: bert.dumais@cox.net
- Chanting:** Fr. Bill: frbill@stbasiloc.org
- Vacation Church School:** Pres. Mia: presmia@yahoo.com
- Apokries:** Steve Dafnis: steved@quizglass.com
- 4th of July:** Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net
- Parish Directory:** Ann: office@stbasiloc.org
- Basketball:** Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net
- Greek Festival:** Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net

Teaching in the faith ~ Sundays during Advent

Every Sunday ~ Nov 17 to Dec. 22 ~ 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. in Church
Come a bit early to Church and hear a short presentation on
The Bible, Holy Tradition & Christmas Advent

Christmas Party

10 Yr. Anniversary

Save the date!

Sat. Dec. 21st

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Dinner

Dancing

Fellowship

At SJC Community Center

### 2013 Stewardship Update

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Annual Operating Budget</b> | <b>\$350,000</b>  |
| <b>Amount Pledged</b>          | <b>\$150,527</b>  |
| <b>% of budget pledged</b>     | <b>43%</b>        |
| <b>Amount Received</b>         | <b>\$ 121,927</b> |
| <b>% of budget received</b>    | <b>34%</b>        |
| <b>2013 Stewards</b>           | <b>102</b>        |

To receive a pledge card, please contact  
Ann Rhodes in the Church office.

\* Totals include pledged & unpledged stewardship

# November 2013

| Sun                                                                                                    | Mon | Tue                                                     | Wed                                    | Thu                                                | Fri                 | Sat                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                        |     |                                                         | <u>Greek School</u><br>3:45 p.m.       |                                                    | 1                   | 2<br>GOYA Trip to Knott's<br>Scary Farm 7:00 p.m. |
| 3<br>8:30 Orthros<br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:00 Divine Liturgy                                       | 4   | 5<br>Bible Study 7:15 pm                                | 6<br><u>Greek School</u><br>3:45 p.m.  | 7<br><u>Ladies Auxiliary</u><br>Evening<br>6:30 pm | 8                   | 9                                                 |
| 10<br>8:30 Orthros<br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:00 Divine Liturgy<br><br>Goya Meeting 12:00            | 11  | 12<br><u>Board Meeting</u><br>7:10 pm                   | 13<br><u>Greek School</u><br>3:45 p.m. | 14                                                 | 15                  | 16                                                |
| 17<br>8:30 Orthros<br>9:30 Teaching in the Faith<br>10:00 Divine Liturgy<br><br>General Assembly 12:15 | 18  | 19<br><u>Women's Bible Study:</u><br>10:20 - 11:30 a.m. | 20<br><u>Greek School</u><br>3:45 p.m. | 21                                                 | 22                  | 23                                                |
| 24<br>8:30 Orthros<br>9:30 Teaching in the Faith<br>10:00 Divine Liturgy                               | 25  | 26                                                      | 27                                     | 28<br>Thanksgiving                                 | 29<br>Office Closed | 30                                                |