



### God Provides and Cares for Us with Many Blessings



A new Liturgical year is about to begin this September. Traditionally, following the 1st Liturgy of September, we celebrate the new liturgical year with an Artoklasia service, where we give thanks for the 5 loaves, oil, wine and wheat.

The service of the Artoklasia is done often in the Orthodox Church at major feast days and at the beginning of each month. Each item used in the service has a profound significance to us and to those that lived in the ancient Biblical times. These items represent God continually providing for us by His divine will and reveals to us how He cares for his people.

To begin the service, we place oil, wine and wheat on a table with 5 loaves of bread. Each one of these represents a staple that the ancient societies relied upon for nutrition and good health and are now used as elements in the Sacraments of the Church.

Let's first look at the wine. As you know, there was no refrigeration available in the ancient world. There were also areas that did not have an abundance of safe water to drink and wine could be consumed throughout the year. The wine was a way to preserve your crop of grapes throughout the year as wine usually can last for a very long time. It also offered health benefits with antioxidants, which take toxins out of your body. Although the people of that time probably didn't know about antioxidants back then, they still reaped the benefits. Wine was also used to put on wounds to prevent against infection. Let us look at the story of the Good Samaritan. He helped the beaten man's wounds by putting on oil & wine.

**Luke 10: 25 – 37** ; "On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, **pouring on oil and wine**. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Next let's look at the oil and what it represents. Oil was also a staple of the diet in ancient times. While olives can be preserved in salt and citrus for a long time, olive oil can last a very long time if stored properly. It was used in cooking, offering health benefits & calories and was also good for digestion. It was used on the skin for a cure and also in women's hair as a moisturizer and conditioner. God sanctifies the oil in the service of Holy Unction and it then is distributed by the priest for the healing of body and soul. We read about this in **James 5:14** "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord**. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

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#### August

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup>: Paraklesis Service 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>: Fr. Ted talks w/ our Parish
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup>: Paraklesis Service 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup>: God Parent Sunday 9:30 a.m.
- Thur 14<sup>th</sup>: Prime Timers 1:00 p.m.
- Fri 15<sup>th</sup>: Divine Liturgy Panayia 9:30 a.m.
- Fri 15<sup>th</sup>: Paralia Summer Dance 6:30 p.m.
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>: Paralia Summer Dance 6:30 p.m.
- Fri 29<sup>th</sup>: Paralia Summer Dance 6:30 p.m.

Now we can look at the wheat. Wheat could be dried, so in the summer & fall when it was harvested, it could be preserved for many months and used to make bread when needed. Bread provided a much needed sustenance of carbohydrates and protein during Biblical times. Even the bread could be dried out and preserved for a long time. There are many references to wheat in the Bible. One of the most significant is Christ using wheat to explain death and the resurrection in Gospel of John, which is why we make coliva for a memorial in the Church. **John 12:24 – 26** “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth** and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.”

Finally, there are the five loaves that are placed on the table. These five loaves, represent God providing for the multitudes out of very little or nothing; **Luke 9:16**. Only God can produce matter without there being any. Bread also, as was said before, was a staple of the ancient diet as it still is today in many countries. The bread is made by people taking what God has made; wheat, water, salt, yeast, and mixing them to make bread. In the church, what God has provided and in-turn has been changed into to Prosforo (A very specific bread used during the Divine Liturgy) by us, is then placed on the altar and changed once again by the power of the Holy Spirit, along with the wine, into the body and blood of Christ. It was Christ himself who offered the first Eucharist at the Mystical Supper when he said in **Matthew 26:26 – 28**; “As they were eating, **Jesus took some bread and blessed it**. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “**Take this and eat it, for this is my body.**” And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people.”

Praying the Artoklasia service gives us new hope and uplifts our hearts. We should give much attention to the hymn from the Artoklasia service; especially when it comes to us looking to God to provide the needs in our lives. The hymn comes to us from **Psalms 33 (34)** “Rich men have hungered and begged for alms, but those who seek after the Lord, **never shall have want** for any blessing.”

*Rev. Fr. Bill Fragus*

### Summer Greek Dance ~ Paralia

**Our older dance group, Paralia, will begin summer dance on the last three Fridays in August.**

- **Fri Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**
- **At the home of Irene Basdakis**
- **Sundays at Church begins weekly on September 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Sign up with Irene at: [lawyerirene@hotmail.com](mailto:lawyerirene@hotmail.com)**

**Prime Timers ~ Thur. Aug 14<sup>th</sup>:** Tastes of Greece 1:00 p.m.  
30012 Crown Valley Pkwy, Laguna Niguel (949) 495 - 2244.  
For info, contact Jim Constantine (949) 218 - 7262.

### God Parent Sunday ~ August 10<sup>th</sup>

Our children will present their Godparents with the gift of a short performance. Every Sunday until the 10<sup>th</sup>, we plan to teach our children a song or two along with a short lesson on some Orthodox services each Sunday after Holy Communion.

### MINISTRY CONTACTS

**Parish Council:** Denny Pailion: [dennis.pailion@urs.com](mailto:dennis.pailion@urs.com)  
**Sunday School:** Anna-Nicole: [annanicole777@gmail.com](mailto:annanicole777@gmail.com)  
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**Greek Dance:** Irene Basdakis: [lawyerirene@hotmail.com](mailto:lawyerirene@hotmail.com)  
**Altar Boys:** Fr. Bill: [frbill@stbasiloc.org](mailto:frbill@stbasiloc.org)  
**Stewardship:** Katie Van Harten: [vanhartenk@msn.com](mailto:vanhartenk@msn.com)  
**Ladies' Aux:** Fran Karnazes: [yiyiafran@icloud.com](mailto:yiyiafran@icloud.com)  
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**Chanting:** Fr. Bill: [frbill@stbasiloc.org](mailto:frbill@stbasiloc.org)  
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**4th of July:** Sam K.: [sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net)  
**Parish Directory:** [office@stbasiloc.org](mailto:office@stbasiloc.org)  
**Basketball:** Sam K.: [sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net)



**Vacation Church & Greek School July 8 - 11**



**Tour LA w/ Father Bill, July 2 ~ Getty Villa Museum & Neptune's on PCH in Malibu**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

### PARISH COUNCIL BRAINSTORMING SESSION GENERATES GREAT IDEAS AND ENTHUSIASM !!

On June 22, 2014, the Parish Council hosted a brainstorming workshop that was attended by 28 parishioners. **The session was a great success and generated over 60 creative ideas that addressed the four main issues we face in the community.** These include: *1) How do we reduce our expenses and generate additional income for the church? 2) How do we increase our parish membership? 3) How do we increase parish stewardship? 4) How do we increase the spiritual culture of the community?*

All participants were engaged, enthusiastic and excited about the opportunity to offer their ideas for Father Bill and the Parish Council to consider. It was great to see all of the support and passion for our St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church. The Parish Council met on July 8 to review and evaluate all of the ideas. **We consolidated the ideas into 5 top initiatives to develop a plan for implementation.**

The following is a summary of the workshop and actions to be taken over the next 6 months.

#### **ISSUE: REDUCE EXPENSES AND GENERATE ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME.**

#### **ACTION 1: ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE FEASIBLE USES OF UPSTAIRS CHURCH FACILITIES AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES**

The Committee will prepare a brief summary of facilities to send to probable users. They will reach out to local business and other non-profit organizations to market facilities. These may include: day care, CPR training, AA, home school programs, tutoring, and other similar uses. They will also contact a local real estate broker to investigate alternative facilities that may meet our needs.

**SCHEDULE:** September 1, 2014

#### **ACTION 2: PARISH COUNCIL TO DEVELOP LEASE REQUEST FOR RENEGOTIATION IN OCTOBER.**

The Parish Council will consider lease renegotiation options, such as: offer landlord opportunity to sublet space during week for rent expense offset; offer rental write off for property owner (festival use); and offer marketing for property businesses through Church communications (bulletins) and Parishioners' businesses.

Parish Council will also coordinate with Building Foundation Committee to evaluate possible investment property to purchase and construct temporary facilities for church uses.

**SCHEDULE:** October 2015

**ISSUE: INCREASE PARISH MEMBERSHIP**

**ACTION 3: ESTABLISH A ST BASIL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.**

The Committee will create St. Basil's marketing package to communicate who we are/what we offer. They will conduct parish and SJC Community Outreach to promote church membership. Other ideas to be considered include: find a Sister Church; offer classes in Orthodoxy as part of Greek Festival; and offer weekday / evening services.

**SCHEDULE:** November 1, 2014

**ISSUE: INCREASE STEWARDSHIP**

**ACTION 4: ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2015.**

The Committee will prepare a program that educates families on what it takes to be a Steward. Program will focus on 5 year stewardship that includes annual escalation percentages. Committee will consider development of an electronic registration form that will improve the process for pledging and tracking stewardship.

**SCHEDULE:** October 1, 2014

**ISSUE: INCREASE SPIRITUAL CULTURE OF COMMUNITY.**

**ACTION 5: FATHER BILL AND PARISH COUNCIL TO REVIEW CURRENT MINISTRIES AND SERVICES TO MEET PARISHES NEEDS.**

Parish Council will host Father Theodore Dorrance for a Leadership Workshop to discuss current issues and solutions from other Mission Churches. This is planned for August 2-3. Parish Council will coordinate with other regional churches how they are growing their spiritual culture in their community. Father Bill will reach out to community and offer spiritual guidance and support to meet their needs.

**SCHEDULE:** October 1, 2014

This is an exciting time for St. Basil Church. We are on the verge of great things. With your continued and growing support, we can accomplish all of these ideas. **If you are interested in participating in any of the above Committees, please contact me, Dennis Papilion at 714-812-7071. You can also contact me for a complete list of all ideas generated from the workshop.**

Thank you all again for a wonderful session. God Bless!! The Parish Council

# SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO 2014 GREEK FESTIVAL

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

September 27-28

## FESTIVAL WISH LIST

### We are very excited to announce our First Annual Greek Festival!

With every major fund raising event we must reach out to our parish community and ask for your support. We believe with your support we will have a successful and rewarding festival. Please fill out this form and return to Sam Konugres or Maynard Rains.

<b>\$100</b>		
Food Supplies	Water	Decorations
Soft Beverages	Paper Goods	Charcoal
<b>\$250</b>		
Kitchen Supplies	Feta Cheese	Kalamata Olives
Greek/American Coffee	Hummus	Tzatziki
<b>\$500</b>		
Printing Supplies	Cooking Oil	Dolmades
Cleaning Supplies	Greek Pastry Supplies	Tiropita
Festival Maintenance	Pastitsio	Fries
<b>\$750</b>		
Pork Souflaki	Loukamades	Greek Beer
Lamb Chops	Gyro Meat	Domestic Beer
Salad Supplies	Pita / Bread	Ouzo
<b>\$1000</b>		
Advertisement	Entertainment / Band	Tables and Chairs
Ad Book Printing	Tent Rental	Transportation
Security	Refrigerator Truck	Kitchen Equipment

### All donations are accepted no matter how small or big they are!

Donation Items: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Donors Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please review the above list and select any item(s) that you and your family would like to donate for the second annual festival. If each family supports an item of their choice within the price range of their budget we can offset the cost of this exciting event.

**Please Note: It is not necessary to cover the entire amount of any one item.** You may make a partial donation(s) towards one or several items. The donations are tax deductible under the 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization according to IRS regulations.

On behalf of Father Bill and the entire Parish Council and Festival Management Committee, we thank you for your sincere consideration and continuous support.

Sam Konugres  
2014 Festival Chair

# SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO 2014 GREEK FESTIVAL

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

September 27-28

## VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

**Every Successful Festival Takes a Team of Dedicated Volunteers. We Need Your Help!!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Fund Raising – Sandy Rains</b>		
<b>Ad Book Sales</b>	<b>Sponsor Sales</b>	<b>Sponsor Booth Support</b>
<b>Advertisement – Joanna Wilson / Christina Baglin</b>		
<b>Flyer Distribution</b>	<b>Signage</b>	<b>Local Business Outreach</b>
<b>Food – Reggie Sellas / John Gillotti</b>		
<b>Gyros</b>	<b>Lamb/ Souflaki</b>	<b>Dinners / Meze</b>
<b>Pastries – Fran Karnezas / Argie Cupples</b>		
<b>Loukamades</b>	<b>Pastries</b>	<b>Pastries</b>
<b>Coffee – Sophia Konugres</b>		
<b>Layout / Set Up /Breakdown– Denny Papilion</b>		
<b>Operations / Maintenance– Al Guillien</b>		
<b>BOOTH CAPTAINS NEEDED</b>		
<b>RAFFLE</b>		
<b>CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>TAVERNA</b>		

**Please circle the area(s) and schedule times you would like to volunteer for the festival**

<u>Friday, September 26</u>	<u>Saturday, September 27</u>	<u>Sunday, September 28</u>
	___ Shift 1 (10:00am – 3:00pm)	___ Shift 1 (10:00am – 3:00pm)
___ Shift 1 (11:00am – 4:00pm)	___ Shift 2 (2:00pm – 7:00pm)	___ Shift 2 (2:00pm – 7:00pm)
___ Shift 2 (3:00pm – 10:00pm)	___ Shift 3 (5:00pm – 11:00pm)	___ Shift 3 (5:00pm – 11:00pm)

Prior to the Festival you will be contacted by your Booth or Committee Leader/Captain and will be given your specific assignments. Please drop this form at the church office or give it to a Parish Council member.

On behalf of Father Bill and the entire Parish Council and Festival Management Committee, we thank you for your sincere consideration and continuous support.

Sam Konugres  
2014 Festival Chair

# August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Parish Council workshop with Fr. Ted 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  Paraklesis Service 7:30 p.m.	2
3 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Fr. Ted Dorrance addresses the parish about our mission and future	4	5	6	7	8  Paraklesis Service 7:30 p.m.	9
10 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  <b>God Parent Sunday</b>	11	12  Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.	13	14  <u>Prime Timers Lunch</u> 1:00 p.m.	15 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary  Paralia Summer Dance 6:30 p.m.	16
17 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	18	19	20	21	22  Paralia Summer Dance 6:30 p.m.	23
24 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <hr/> 31 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	25	26	27	28	29  Paralia Summer Dance 6:30 p.m.	30