



### *Living as Apostles to America*

A few years ago a very meaningful and pertinent article was written with the title: “The Best Kept Secret in America: The Greek Orthodox Church”. The author was a fine priest of excellence and stature, the late Fr. Constantine Monios of blessed memory, who was the Dean of the Annunciation Cathedral in Baltimore, Maryland. Fr. Monios explained how the Orthodox Church was an unknown entity in this land and how it offered so much to the American people. In the many years that have passed, the premise of the article remains a constant. We need to ask ourselves “Why?” Why is this two thousand year old Christian Faith the “best kept secret in America”? Years ago one could perhaps state that the Church although two thousand years old, was in its infancy in America. People with tremendous courage, boldness, and daring traveled across oceans from the known to the unknown. The only thing they brought with them for security was their faith – a faith and belief in God and His Church, which they knew had sustained their families for generations. As a people today, however, we have moved on to become well educated and successful in all areas of life and very much a part of the fiber of the American cultural scene. The forbearers of Orthodoxy lived as daring Apostles of the Faith to their own. They protected and sheltered the Church, maintaining it for their children. They built beautiful churches and complexes for the future generations. How do we live as Apostles to America now? What needs to happen if we are to be the Apostles to America? Not only do we need to emulate those who established Orthodox Christianity in this land but also by example we must bring the Faith to all.

**DISCIPLESHIP:** Our models are the Apostles of Jesus Christ. In the original Greek of the New Testament the word (mathitis) is used which literally means student. The English word disciple is from the Latin word for student. The twelve followers of Jesus were His students. They were selected by Him to be educated and trained to go into the world to spread His message of salvation. As students and trainees, the Disciples spent three years with the Lord. They heard His words, they experienced His miracles, and they witnessed the parables and all of His teachings. These resources exist today in the book we know as the Bible. It contains the lessons the Disciples learned; it contains the teachings put forth by the Son of God / the Son of Man. Discipleship is the mainstay of how we are to become Apostles. Like the Disciples, each Orthodox Christian is called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and like the Disciples, each Orthodox Christian is called to be an Apostle. Each Orthodox Christian must come to understand that, like the Disciples, we need to learn and grow in the Faith. “Practice makes perfect” is a trite saying frequently used. For a Christian practice means living a Christ-like life, including prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and learning more and more about Orthodoxy. “Come Receive the Light” we hear the calling at the midnight Resurrection of Pascha. “With the fear of God, faith and love come forth”, we are called at each Divine Liturgy to unite with Christ through the Holy Eucharist. “Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and all your mind and your neighbor as yourself”, we are given the greatest mandate of how we live a Christ-like life. Being a disciple is a life-long process of learning and living the Faith. As we learn about the Faith it becomes a natural consequence to live and practice it. An amazing thing happens. We become witnesses for the Faith -- witnesses to our neighbors, our coworkers and our friends. We grow in Faith and are secure in it and therefore able to share it, and answer questions. This only happens by learning and living the Christian truths as found in the Orthodox Church. The way you live as a Christian. The way you raise your children as a Christian. The way you are with your spouse, your friends and acquaintances as a Christian. All of these become living examples of what it is to be a Greek Orthodox Christian living in America.



Article by Fr. Constantine L. Sitaras

Fr. Ted Dorrence, head of the Mission Board speaking to the Church on Aug 3rd

## PARISH MEMBERS –

We are about to begin a very busy time of the year. September is packed full with the Festival, Sunday school, Greek Dance Groups and all of the other ministries ramping up. There will be no shortage of opportunities to get involved in supporting these activities with giving your time, talents and treasures to ensure they are all successful. **Please contact the Ministry Chairs to offer your support. Volunteer for the Festival and support the Wish List.**

Starting in October, the Parish Council will begin a weekly series of Open House discussions immediately after church. These are intended to prepare us all for the General Assembly in November. There are a lot of new programs we have introduced as a result of the Parish Council Workshop we conducted in June, as well as updating our Future Vision. **It is important that you attend these Open Houses so you can contribute to the discussion, and gain an understanding of our Strategic Plan and budget for next year.**

St. Basil continues to grow in spirituality, culture and fellowship. This was proven by the incredible response we received from our "Urgent Request for Support" sent in early August. Thank you all again for responding and fulfilling our urgent needs. The energy and enthusiasm generated as a result of that effort represents the strong commitment you all have to our beloved St. Basil Church. It was truly wonderful to see the community come together in the name of God to support our church. **Please stand by this next month as we emerge out of our challenging time of the year.**

All of the above references to starting new programs and ministries, communicating our Vision, celebrating our fellowship and supporting the churches obligations are vital ingredients to growing a vibrant, spiritual and financially sustainable community. St. Basil is gaining recognition for having all of these. **We are all truly blessed to be part of this journey!**

Thank you all again!! God Bless! Denny Papilion, Parish Council President

### Sunday School~ Sept 7th

Our Sunday School Kick-off will begin the first Sunday in September. Please come to Church on the 7th and visit the Sunday School and connect with our Sunday School leaders

### Greek Dance ~ Sept. 7th

- *Sun Practices at Church begins weekly on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>*
- *Parents' Dance meeting on Sept. 7th at 12:15*
- *Register online under "youth ministries"*

**Greek School ~ Wed. Sept 24:** Greek School will run from September to May. Classes are set for different levels and ages. Register online at our website under "youth ministries." For more info, contact Tessy our Greek School Director.

### *SJC Greek Festival ~ 2014*

#### *Where Faith, Family and Friends Meet Time, Talent and Treasure*

Great happiness comes through experiencing joy by doing "good works". Little offers broader opportunity for communal joy than contributing Time Talent and Treasure to Faith, Family and Friends with our Greek Festival. This year we have twice the time, i.e. two days instead of just one, to engage our friends and family in this wonderful celebration of our culture and our faith replete with church tours and Father Michael Coury's icon exhibit to which many traveled to see at the Getty museum. Our youth will be dancing, Ladies Auxiliary baking and brewing coffee. Parishioners will be setting up, operating, cleaning, and breaking down our Festival. Food will served and entertainment will abound with live top shelf Greek music, folk dancing a Sports Bar Taverna a Kid Zone and much more!!!

We are blessed with so much, and should be proud and ecstatic to invite and share our community with our friends and co-workers. As members of this Parish we are blessed in abundance and thankfully obliged to share our faith and culture with our community through the joy of our Festival, the success of which is dependent upon our financial contributions and volunteering of our time. Let's show our gratitude and join the cheerful givers who are committed to making this Festival a success! To donate, go to our webpage [www.sjcgreekfest.org](http://www.sjcgreekfest.org) then click the Sponsor Tab then Donate or make checks payable to SJC Greek Fest and mail them to Church. To volunteer, email Irene Basdakias at [lawyerirene@hotmail.com](mailto:lawyerirene@hotmail.com)

Sam Konugres, SJC Greek Fest Chair

### MINISTRY CONTACTS

<b>Parish Council:</b>	Denny Papilion: <a href="mailto:dennis.papilion@urs.com">dennis.papilion@urs.com</a>
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Anna-Nicole: <a href="mailto:annanicole777@gmail.com">annanicole777@gmail.com</a>
<b>Greek School:</b>	Tessy: <a href="mailto:tessyjoy7@gmail.com">tessyjoy7@gmail.com</a>
<b>GOYA:</b>	Kelly Parissis: <a href="mailto:kparissis@gmail.com">kparissis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Greek Dance:</b>	Irene Basdakias: <a href="mailto:lawyerirene@hotmail.com">lawyerirene@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Altar Boys:</b>	Fr. Bill: <a href="mailto:frbill@stbasiloc.org">frbill@stbasiloc.org</a>
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Katie Van Harten: <a href="mailto:vanhartenk@msn.com">vanhartenk@msn.com</a>
<b>Ladies' Aux:</b>	Fran Karnazes: <a href="mailto:yaiyiafran@icloud.com">yaiyiafran@icloud.com</a>
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Mike A: <a href="mailto:mpa@centerpointinsurance.com">mpa@centerpointinsurance.com</a>
<b>Prime Timers:</b>	Jim Constantine: (949) 218 - 7262.
<b>Chanting:</b>	Fr. Bill: <a href="mailto:frbill@stbasiloc.org">frbill@stbasiloc.org</a>
<b>Vacation Ch. ScI:</b>	Pres. Mia: <a href="mailto:presmia@yahoo.com">presmia@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Apokries:</b>	Steve Dafnis: <a href="mailto:steved@quizglass.com">steved@quizglass.com</a>
<b>4th of July:</b>	Sam K.: <a href="mailto:sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net">sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Parish Directory:</b>	<a href="mailto:office@stbasiloc.org">office@stbasiloc.org</a>
<b>Basketball:</b>	Sam K.: <a href="mailto:sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net">sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net</a>

# VOLUNTEER & DONATE EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!

## FESTIVAL WISH LIST & VOLUNTEERS

### Excitement is building for our Second Annual Greek Festival!

Our goal is to reach a minimum of \$20,000 in wish list cash donations. Please help by donating today. Please make all checks payable to SJC Greek Festival. Your support will help make this a successful festival!

Volunteer: Contact Irene Basdakis at [lawyerirene@hotmail.com](mailto:lawyerirene@hotmail.com)

**All donations are accepted.  
No matter how small or big they are!**

<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 Souvlaki	Loukoumades	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

# September, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day (Office Closed)	2 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	3 Fest Meeting 7:15 pm	4	5	6
Liturgy: 10 am 7 Sun Schl Kick-Off Dnc Parent Mtng 12:30 Primary Dance 12:15 Eftihia Dance 12:15 Paralia Dance 12:45	8 Liturgy 9:30 am Nativity of the Virgin Mary	9 Parish Council 7:10 pm	10 Fest Meeting 7:15 pm	11 Prime Timers 12:30 pm	12	13
Holy Cross Liturgy 10 am 14 Goya Meeting 12:00 Primary Dance 12:15 Eftihia Dance 12:15 Paralia Dance 1:15	15 Baklava Baking	16 Baklava Baking	17 Fest Meeting 7:15 pm	18	19	20
Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10 am 21 Greek Dance All Teams	22 Melomacarona Baking	23 Melomacarona Baking	24 Greek Schl 3:45 pm Kouambiethes Baking Fest Mting 7:15 pm	25 Fest Prep Day & Evening	26 Fest Set-Up All Day	27 St. Basil Greek Festival 11 am - 11 pm
Liturgy 9:30 am 28 Greek Festival 11 am - 9 pm	29	30	1 Greek Schl 3:45 pm			