

**66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**GREEK**  
 **FOOD**   
**FESTIVAL**

**PRESENTING SPONSORS**



**SEPT. 5 · 6 · 7 | 2025**

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

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**“Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

**Matthew 5:16**

Beloved in the Lord,

Congratulations and best wishes as you gather for the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Festival in Stockton, California hosted by Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church. May this weekend be filled with many blessings as you share our faith and culture with the greater Central Valley community.



With Love in Christ,

*Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco*  
✠ Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

# WELCOME TO ST. BASIL

I would like to welcome everyone to St. Basil's Greek Festival in Stockton! As many of you already know, our Greek Festival is one of the best events that the San Joaquin Valley has to offer. Many of you are well aware of the incredible Greek dishes and exciting traditional Greek dancing that you will enjoy this weekend, among many other things. For those of you who are attending for the first time, be ready to feel as though you've been transported to a village in Greece!

Along with the richness and beauty of Greek culture at this Festival, you will also experience the ancient yet relevant and transformative faith known as Orthodox Christianity. You will first encounter this faith through the Christ-like hospitality and care of those serving you. There will also be scheduled presentations and tours on Orthodoxy in our beautiful Church edifice that I warmly welcome you to attend.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all those who have sacrificed their time and talents to make this Festival a reality and success. It absolutely could not happen without each and every one of you. God Bless you all.

Once again, I welcome you to St. Basil's Greek Festival in Stockton! Be prepared to experience what many of you all have known for years and even decades—that to get



the best experience of Greek culture, heritage and Orthodox Christianity, there's no better place than St. Basil's Greek Festival!

*Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras*

**Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras**



**Gabriel-Florin Cupsa**

By the grace of God, I began my life of priestly ministry at St. Basil's in the spring of last year, after being ordained to the Holy Diaconate on March 9 and the following day, Sunday, March 10, 2024, to

the Holy Priesthood, by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

The joy and fulfillment of serving this heartfelt community cannot be described in words, that is why my wife, Presvytera Iulia, and I call this Christ-centered parish family HOME.



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# WELCOME FRIENDS

## Welcome to our 66th Annual Greek Food Festival!

It is with great joy and pride that we at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church once again host this year's event for the Greater Stockton Community.

I encourage you to enjoy the many wonderful sights, beautiful sounds and delicious flavors of Greece, and the entertainment we have to offer.

Our recipes, handed down from generation to generation, make the St Basil Greek Food Festival one of the most popular festivals in Northern California.

This year we added mouth-watering BBQ pork Greek Souvlaki to our very popular BBQ lamb booth. While there, visit our new Taverna which is only steps away and enjoy your favorite beverages in the style of outdoor cafes of the Greek Islands.

Also new is the Kids Zone where children 12 and under can play carnival-style games for free.

And don't forget to visit our vendors for art, jewelry and gift items.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time and talent to make this festival the best one yet.

But most of all I want to thank some of the past Chairpersons upon whose shoulders I stand and without whom this event would not be possible:

Bob Basso

John Papachristos†

Nick Chiarchianis†

George Terzakis†

Tom Chiarchianis

Mike Tsarnas

Peter Gaines†

Gus Xanthopoulos†

Rick Gaines

Steve Xanthopoulos†

Gayle Maduros

† *May Their Memories Be Eternal*

Angelo Mitchell†

Bill Panagopoulos†

Faithfully Yours,  
—Peter Koulouris

*Parish President*

*Festival Chairperson*



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# JOIN US FOR A TOUR & PRESENTATION



**C**hurch Presentations will offer a brief explanation of the Orthodox Christian Church, which has an unbroken historical connection to Christ and the Apostles.

Among other things, guests will learn about the meaning and importance of the structure and images of the sanctuary, as well as our ancient worship service. There will also be an opportunity for Q & A.

Presentations will last about 15 minutes, and one can come and go during that time. Besides the formal presentations, the Church will also be open at designated times (see schedule) for informal viewing and more Q&A. For more information about the Orthodox Christian Church, please visit the following booths at the Festival: Outreach and Evangelism, Bookstore and the Monastery of St. John of Shanghai, Manten.

## **DURING THE FESTIVAL, THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

### **CHURCH PRESENTATION SCHEDULE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH:**

FRIDAY: 7:00 pm

SATURDAY: 2:00 pm & 5:00 pm

SUNDAY: 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

### **GREEK DANCE PERFORMANCE AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY DEMETRIOS ARABATZIS**

FRIDAY: 8:00 pm

SATURDAY: 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, & 8:00 pm

SUNDAY: 2:00 pm

### **CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR VIEWING AND QUESTIONS WITH CLERGY & OUTREACH TEAM:**

FRIDAY: 6:00 – 9:00 pm

SATURDAY: 1:00 – 3:00 pm & 4:00-7:00 pm

SUNDAY: 12:00 – 1:30 pm & 3:00-5:00 pm

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### OTHER EVENTS

Birthdays, Sweet 16

Anniversaries

Reunions

Art Show, Gallery Exhibit

Meetings, Conferences

Chamber of Commerce  
Events



## KOULOURAKIA Butter Coffee Cookies

### INGREDIENTS

1 dozen eggs

4-5 cups sugar

1 lb butter, softened

1 cup Mazola Oil

8 tsp. baking powder

1 Tbsp. baking soda

2 tsp. vanilla

1 cup whipping cream (unwhipped)

5 lbs of flour

Beat the eggs in an electric mixer until frothy, then add one cup of sugar and continue to beat until mixture is light and fluffy. Transfer egg mix to another bowl and scrape mixing bowl well.

Add butter to mixing bowl and beat until soft; add Mazola Oil and continue beating. Gradually add remaining sugar until well-incorporated, add eggs and continue

mixing. Add whipping cream and vanilla and continue beating.

Mix baking powder and baking soda to the first quantity of flour and add butter/egg mix, beat well, continue adding flour until the dough starts to come away from the sides of the mixing bowl, remove dough to a large bowl and knead until the desired consistency, adding more flour in small increments if needed.

Break off a piece of dough the size of a large walnut. Roll into long cigarette shape and twist, place on baking sheet lined with parchment paper, brush on glaze\*. Bake in 350 degree oven for 20 minutes until light brown

**\*Glaze:** beat 2 eggs, adding a drop of vanilla and a little milk or cream to thin.

# ose

development

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# Wishing our St Basil Family a Successful 66th Greek Food Festival



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# ABOUT ST. BASIL CHURCH

**A**lthough we are one of the major religious groups in the world, we often find that we are not well understood by members of other faiths. The points below represent our response to some of the questions about us:

## **We are Orthodox Christians**

Many people confuse us with Orthodox Jews but the similarity of names is purely coincidental. “Orthodox” is a Greek word meaning “proper worship” and “right faith.”

## **You don’t have to be “Ethnic” to be Orthodox**

Converts are welcome in our parishes, and services are largely conducted in English.

## **Greek Orthodoxy and Russian Orthodoxy are the same religion**

The Orthodox Church is actually a “family” of churches, consisting of many ethnic groups. However, each ethnic group adds “Greek” to their official title. Why? 1) Greek is the language of the New Testament; 2) For a thousand years when the Christian Faith was united as one Church, its language was Greek. Today, there are Greek, Antiochian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Albanian parishes, etc., as well as the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), which is historically Russian.

## **We are the Church experiencing growth**

Our total membership, estimated at 250 million, is rapidly increasing due to the religious revival in Eastern Europe. In California and many other states, we are officially considered the fourth major faith.

## **We have been active in the Ecumenical Movement**

As Orthodox, we feel we should do everything possible to promote Christian unity. At the same time, our adherence to Christian Tradition has sometimes made our participation difficult.

## **We are Catholic—but not Roman Catholic**

*Catholic* is a Greek word that means “according to the whole.” We believe that we profess the Christian Faith in its fullness. Therefore, we are a Catholic Church. Catholic, in the sense of being “universal,” is attributed to Orthodoxy since all people may join. The Western Church (headed by Rome) was with us until 1054, when East and West split, primarily over increasing authority the Pope tried to assume.

## **We are Evangelical—but not Protestant**

*Evangelical* comes from the Greek word meaning “Gospel.” We are very Gospel-centered—in fact, a Gospel Book is always kept on our Holy Altar Table. However, we are not Protestant, since we have never had a Reformation; our history goes back unbroken to the early Church found in the Book of Acts.

## **Our “Official Translation” of the Bible is the Original**

The Orthodox Church is the only Church in Christendom that has read the New Testament in the original language since it was written. Some parts of it were actually written to churches in Greece (1 & 2 Corinthians and 1 & 2 Thessalonians).

## **We follow the Traditions of God, not of men**

The Holy Bible itself could be described as “Tradition written down.” “Unwritten Tradition” has also been preserved in our Church, from the Apostles themselves. As St. Paul said, “...stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter” (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

## **We are Conservative—but not Fundamentalists**

To properly interpret the Bible, one must take the literal parts literally and the symbolic parts symbolically. To distinguish what is literal and what is symbolic, Church Tradition is our guide. Even the early Christians knew that Genesis and Revelation contain a lot of symbolic language.

## **Orthodox Churches are Christian Temples**

Like the religious practices of the early Christians, our religious practices are based on Old Testament sources, fulfilled in Christ. These include synagogue worship, ceremonial meals (like the Last Supper) and the ritual of the Temple. Early Christian worship, as described in Revelation chapters 4 & 5, includes vestments, incense, bowing down in prayer, etc.

## **Our Icons (holy pictures) are not idols**

“Icon” and “idol” are Greek words—with very different meanings. An idol is literally an image of God that is “dreamed up” by human beings. By contrast, the Bible calls Christ Himself the “icon” or “image” of God seven times (example, Colossians 1:15).

## **Married men are ordained to the holy priesthood**

Ever since New Testament times, most of our priests have had the choice to marry (See Titus 1:5-6). “Priest” is just a shortened form of the Greek word “Presbyter,” meaning “Elder.” We call our priests “father,” a natural expression of respect for an elder in the Christian family (See 1 Corinthians 4:15-16).

## **Our Sunday Services are called The Divine Liturgy**

A Liturgy is a service done by a liturgist (*leitourgos*)—in other words, a priest who leads his people in formal “liturgical” worship. In New Testament Greek, Christ and St. Paul are each referred to as a “*leitourgos*” (Hebrews 8:1-2 & Romans 15:16). Our Liturgy is the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

## **You are welcome to attend Orthodox Services**

Visitors are frequently seen at our churches and they are welcome to come and experience Orthodox Christian worship with us. Although one must be a baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christian to receive Holy Communion, at the end of the Liturgy, everyone is invited to join the faithful to receive blessed bread from the priest in token of Christian fellowship.

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## BAKLAVA

### INGREDIENTS

1 lb. Phyllo dough  
1 lb unsalted butter, melted  
4 cups chopped walnuts  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon  
dash of cloves  
1 tsp orange peel, grated

### Syrup:

4 cups sugar  
2 cups water  
Peel from one large lemon  
One stick of cinnamon  
2 tbsp honey  
Juice of one lemon

Mix nuts, orange peel, cinnamon and sugar. Using a portion of the melted butter, brush butter on a 12 x 18 inch pan. Place one sheet of phyllo on bottom of pan and butter using pastry brush. Continue layering on additional 4-5 sheets of phyllo, buttering each

sheet. Sprinkle top layer with nut mixture and place 2 sheets of phyllo over nut layer, buttering each layer. Continue in this manner until using all of the nut mixture. Then layer with remaining phyllo, once sheet at a time, buttering each layer; Tuck edges in and cut into diamond shapes.

Bake in 300-325 degree oven for 1.25- 1.5 hours until golden brown. As soon as baklava is removed from oven, ladle cold syrup over the top\*. Cool in the pan before removing individual pieces.

Combine all ingredients except for lemon juice and boil for 10 minutes, Remove from heat and add lemon juice, Cool before ladling over baklava.

\*The baklava should not be swimming in in syrup. Be prudent and don't allow the syrup to go higher than one-fourth the height of the baklava. Enjoy!

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY



## IF YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY, HERE IS A LITTLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**T**he Orthodox Church has her origin with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, not with a human teacher, or group, nor with a code of conduct or religious philosophy. Orthodoxy believes that the Church has her origin in the Apostolic Community called into being by Jesus Christ, and enlivened by the Holy Spirit. The Feast of Pentecost, which is celebrated fifty days after Easter, commemorates the “outpouring” of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and marks the beginning of the mission of the Church to the world.

We are Orthodox because our tradition of prayer and worship is rooted in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic undivided Church.

The Orthodox Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and has maintained a living, historical connection with the Apostolic Church through the ordination of its clergy. The bishop that ordains an Orthodox priest today can trace his

ordination historically all the way back to the Apostles, and through them to Christ. For this reason we are “apostolic” – rooted in the first Apostles – the disciples of Jesus.

We are also apostolic because we believe our calling is to go out and share our faith with others.

Although our parishes may carry a designation of Greek Orthodox or Russian Orthodox or some other ethnic identity, this does not imply that you need to be of a certain ethnic origin to join us in worship or to consider becoming an Orthodox Christian.

For these reasons, we welcome you to visit and worship with us at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Christian Church in Stockton, CA. Please join us for Divine Liturgy or participate in any of our Ministries to learn more.

### Sunday Service Times:

**Orthros** 8:15am

**Divine Liturgy** 9:30am

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# GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Romans 12:3-13

**Our Mission To grow and deepen our relationship and union with God through scripture and active participation in the sacramental life, teachings, and ministries of the Orthodox Church.**

**Our Vision Provide a loving and caring Christ-centered parish family where all people feel valued, embraced, respected, cherished, supported and fulfilled.**

## Our Parish Values

**Love one another in all we do (1 Cor. 13:4-10)**

**Grow our personal relationship with Christ through regular participation in the sacraments, private prayer, the reading of scripture, fasting, acts of mercy and almsgiving. (Matthew 25:37-40)**

**Offer worship where all are encouraged to participate through the singing of the hymns, led by our Church choir and chanters. (Psalm 68:4)**

**Be active stewards of God's gifts through the sharing of one's treasure, time and talent. (Ephesians 4:12)**

**Welcome all seekers to our Church as we offer the word of God to the broader, non-Orthodox community in which we serve (Matthew 28:18-20) and provide outreach to those local Orthodox Christians seeking a pathway of reconnection to His Church. (Luke 15:1-7)**

**Offer fellowship in order to connect more fully with one another as we recognize we are a spiritual family in Christ (Ephesians 2:19) and the body of Christ in the world. (1 Cor. 12:27)**

**Participate in continuous education in order to understand how our faith guides our life. (Colossians 2:2)**

**Provide connection and growth to our Youth through rich fellowship, educational and outreach opportunities.**

(Proverbs 22:6)



# ST. BASIL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

*You are the light of the world (Mt 5:16).* How does the Orthodox Church let its light shine before people within the parish and the greater community? One way is the presence of a visible and accessible Orthodox Bookstore. The mission of our church bookstore is to provide a resource for Orthodox Christians and for anyone seeking information about the Orthodox Church. The bookstore is run by volunteers, individuals who desire to serve and offer their gifts in an educational and evangelical ministry. The volunteers seek to create an environment to ask questions and get information about the Orthodox faith, especially for newcomers (inquirer's). The bookstore helps educate our children, gives the adults an opportunity to learn more about their faith, and acts as a "welcome" sign to visitors. The selection of books and gift items provides a sampling of books and gift items:

- **Adult Books** – Scripture, History, Lives of Saints, Spiritual Formation and Prayer
- **Children's Books and Activities** – Prayer Cubes, Icon Coloring Books, Stories of Saints
- **New Comer's Resources** – Introductory books, Topical Pamphlets
- **Pastoral Resources** – Icons, Cards for Sick, Grief and Bereavement
- **Cookbooks and Religious Customs** – Baking Prosforo, Ethnic and Lenten Recipes
- **Home and Gift Items** – Incense, Censor, Charcoal, Crosses, CDs, oil lamps

Although we have a selection of books and liturgical items for sale, our space is limited. If we do not have a book or icon you are looking for we can also search and order it for you.

### Additional Orthodox-related websites:

[orthodoxmarketplace.com](http://orthodoxmarketplace.com) | [light-n-life.com](http://light-n-life.com) | [svspress.com](http://svspress.com) | [store.ancientfaith.com](http://store.ancientfaith.com) | [holycrossbookstore.com](http://holycrossbookstore.com)  
**Orthodox Bookstore Coordinator** ..... Patty Manuse (209) 337-5401  
**Patty Manuse Email** ..... [patriciamanuse@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamanuse@gmail.com)  
**Open Times** Mon-Fri | 10:00am - 4:00pm | Weekdays Closed for Lunch | 12:30pm – 1:00pm | Sun | 11:30am – 1:00pm  
**Bookstore Location**..... Fellowship Hall/ Church Office

**St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, 920 West March Lane, Stockton CA 95207**

*All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God" (I Tim 3:16)*

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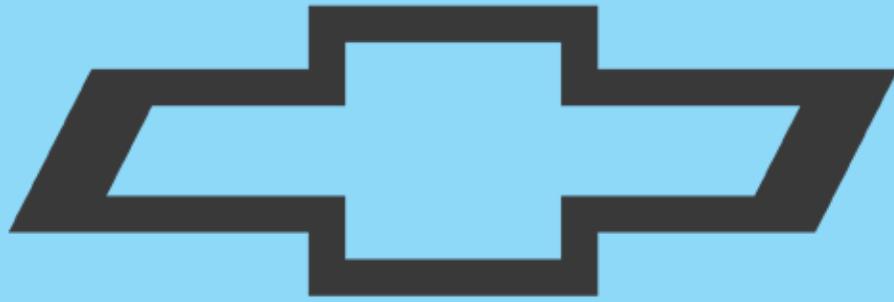
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# CHASE



# CHEVROLET

## Buy Into It.

### **SPANAKOPITA** Village Spinach Pie

#### INGREDIENTS

1/3 cup olive oil  
2 bunches scallions, green parts included, freshly chopped  
1 bunch fresh parsley, chopped  
2 TBSP dill, or 4 TBSP fresh, minced  
3/4 lb feta cheese crumbled  
5 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 small caron cottage cheese (1/2 lb)  
3-4 lbs frozen chopped spinach  
salt and white pepper  
dash of nutmeg  
3/4 lb phyllo dough  
3/4 lb butter, melted

Thaw spinach in strainer over a tray. By the handful squeeze the water from the spinach and place in large mixing bowl.

Add scallions, parsley, dill, nutmeg and a little salt and pepper. Stir in

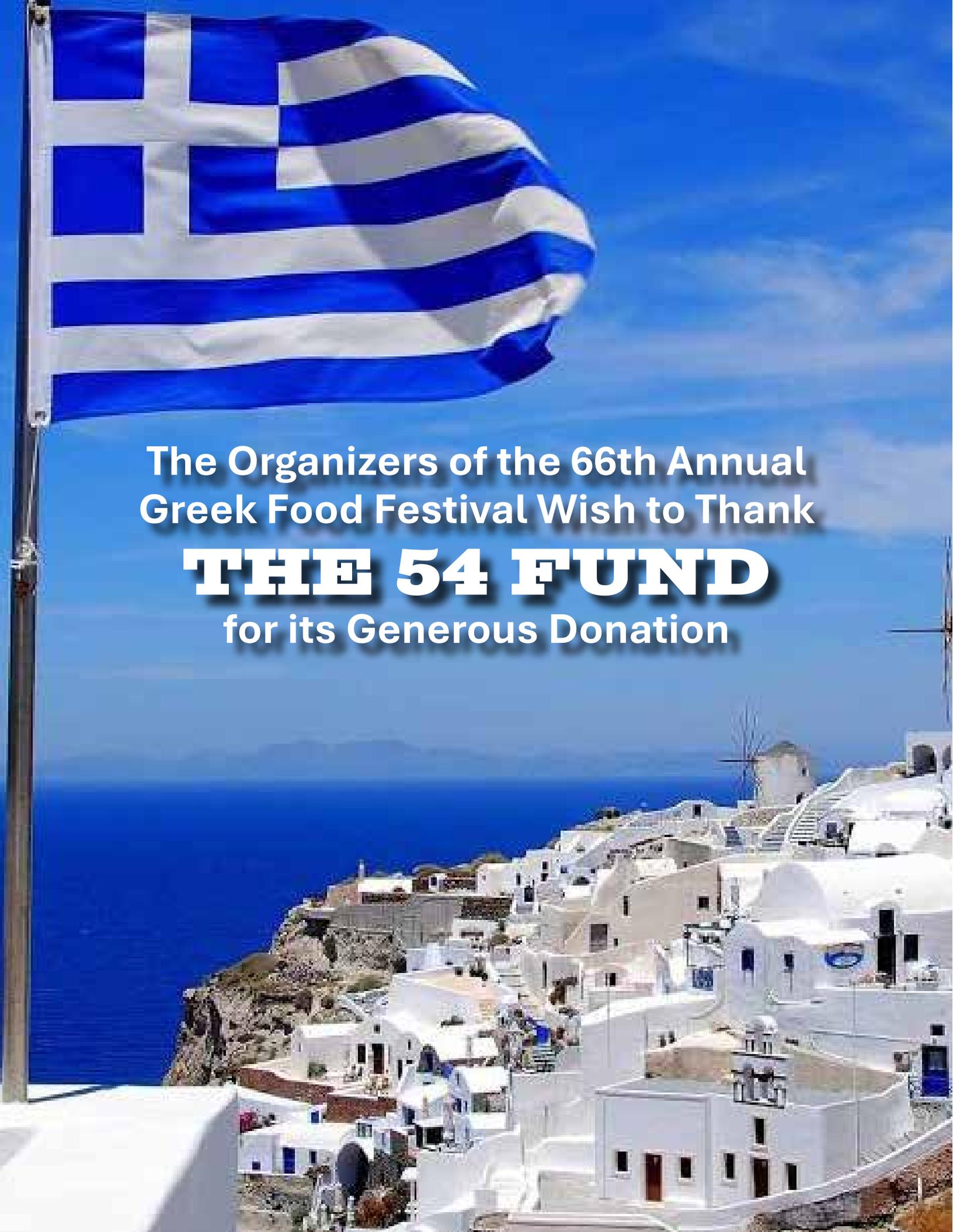
feta, cottage cheese, eggs and olive oil.

Assemble pie using commercial phyllo. Butter a 12 x 18-inch pan and spread 8 phyllo sheets on bottom, brushing each with butter. Pour in spinach filling and spread evenly to all corners.

Then cover with 10 sheets of phyllo, again brushing each sheet with butter.

Bake in oven at 350 degrees for approximately one hour or more until the top is golden brown and flaky, delicious served warm or cold.





The Organizers of the 66th Annual  
Greek Food Festival Wish to Thank

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## FEATURING

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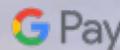
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