



THE FEAST OF ST. TARASIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE  
February 24 and 25

It gives me a great pleasure to invite all the clergy from all the Orthodox jurisdictions near and far and the faithful who wish to accompany them, to join my beloved spiritual family at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in South San Jose in celebrating the feast of St. Tarasios of blessed memory.

Many of you know that we at St. Basil host a very significant piece of the holy relic of St. Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The greater part of this relic is kept in the church of St. Zachariah in Venice, Italy. His Holiness Pope Francis, a very dear friend of mine, honored me with a generous portion of this sacred relic in 2015 on the occasion of my name day.

With personal joy, I invite all the faithful in the Bay Area to take this opportunity to come and venerate the relic of St. Tarasios and receive the blessings from this venerable saint of our Church. It was he who presided over the 7th Ecumenical Council held in Nicaea in 787 which defeated iconoclasm and defended and declared holy icons as “orthodox” and appropriate for our liturgical and home worship.

Celebration services are scheduled for all Orthodox Hierarchs, Clergy and the faithful to join and participate. They are as follows:

Great Vespers on Monday, February 24, at 6:00 p.m., including a procession of the holy relic and Blessing of the 5 Loaves (Artoklasia), followed by a reception in the church hall. All are welcome.

Hierarchal Divine Liturgy on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 am with Matins, 9:30 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Luncheon and fellowship at the hall.



Let this be a new tradition for all pious Orthodox faithful and those of other faith traditions in the Bay Area. to make a pilgrimage in celebrating the venerable Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople, a defender of holy icons and receive a blessing!

On behalf of the Parish Council, and all the faithful at St. Basil's Greek Orthodox Church.

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We welcome you with open arms!

In humble devotion,

+TARASIOS

Metropolitan of Rhodopolis

Exarch of Lazica

Hierarchal Representative to St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church South San José