



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Dear Saint Vasilios Family,

May 1, 2026

It is with a heart full of joy and sorrow, grateful of all that God and Saint Vasilios have continuously provided— that I share that I have been assigned to a new parish, bringing to a close seven truly remarkable years with you.

When I first arrived as your assistant priest, I could not have imagined the depth of growth, love, and shared purpose that would unfold. Together, we have built and developed not only programs and ministries, but a vibrant and caring community rooted in faith. I have been continually inspired by your generosity, your willingness to serve, and your openness to one another and to God's call.

One of the greatest joys of these years has been witnessing the growth of families within our parish. I have watched children I first met at baptisms grow into young people active in our liturgies and ministries. New families have joined, long-time members have deepened their roots, and together you have created a community where faith is truly lived across generations.

On a personal note, my own family has grown in ways I never could have imagined when I first arrived. Over these past six years, we have been blessed with three children, and you have welcomed them with such warmth and love. You have celebrated alongside us, supported us, and in many ways helped shape the environment in which they are growing. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Over these years, we have shared so many meaningful moments—joyful baptisms, weddings, and celebrations. Solemn and yet hopeful hospital visits and funeral services and Lenten seasons. Life changing confessions, challenges and moments of adversity and triumphs. Prayerful liturgies, and outreach initiatives that touched lives beyond our walls, and the quiet, everyday acts of kindness that so beautifully reflect the spirit of this parish. Each of these experiences has shaped me as a priest and as a person. I leave here changed for the better because of you.

Transitions are never easy, and this one is no exception. While I am pivoting to embrace the new opportunities and challenges ahead, it is difficult to say goodbye to a parish that has meant so much to me. Please know that I carry with me the lessons learned here, the friendships formed, and the deep sense of community we have nurtured together.

I am confident that this parish will continue to grow and flourish. The foundation we have built upon is strong, and your commitment to faith and to one another will carry that forward in beautiful ways.

Thank you for welcoming Marina, Eleni, Stella, Lazaros and myself, supporting us, and allowing us to walk alongside you these past seven years. You will remain in our prayers, just as we hope to remain in yours. With gratitude, and love in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Yanni Michaelidis