



Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
8306 NC HWY 751  
Durham NC 27713 919-484-1600  
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com  
www.stbarbarachurchnc.org  
News & Announcements  
Sept. 24, 2017

*First Sunday of the Evangelist Luke*  
*Κυριακή 1η Λουκά*



- [Thecla the Protomartyr & Equal to the Apostles 9/24/2017](#)
  - [Silouan of Athos 9/24/2017](#)
  - Coprios the Righteous 9/24/2017
- Juvenaly & Peter the Aleut, New Martyrs of Alaska 9/24/2017
  - Stephen the Martyr 9/24/2017
  - The Most Holy Theotokos of Palianis 9/24/2017
- [The Commemoration of the Miracle of the Theotokos Myrtidiotissis in Kythra 9/24/2017](#)

**NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

*Sunday Worship Schedule: Matins 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am*

*To Our Visitors and Guests*

*We welcome you to worship with us today, whether you are an Orthodox Christian or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion and other Sacraments are offered only to baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians in good standing with the Church, all are invited to receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) from the priest at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The Antidoron is not a sacrament, but it is reminiscent of the agape feast that followed worship in the ancient Christian Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. Please complete a Visitor's Card before you leave today and drop it in the offering tray, or give it to one of the parishioners after the service, or mail it to the Church Office.*

## Today's Readings:

*The Lord will give strength to his people.*

*Verse: Bring to the Lord honor and glory.*

*The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15*



*Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued. Indeed, all who desire to have a godly life in Jesus Christ will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

*Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ*

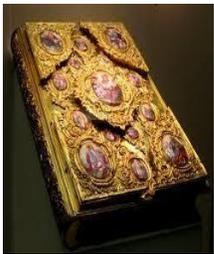
*Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογοεῖτε τὸν Θεόν, Κύριον ἐκ πηγῶν Ἰσραὴλ*

*Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα 3:10-15*

*Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένοντο ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν Λύστροις· οἷους διωγμοὺς ὑπήνεγκα καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ Κύριος. Καὶ πάντες δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται· πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερά γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσαι εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ Κυρίῳ ἡμῶν.*

**8307** *The Gospel According to Luke 5:1-11*

*At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*



**8308** *Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα 5:1-11*

*Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐστὼς ὁ Ἰησοῦς παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρέτ, καὶ εἶδε δύο πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ ἄλιεῖς ἀποβάντες ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀπέπλυναν τὰ δίκτυα. ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων, ὃ ἦν τοῦ Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαγεῖν ὀλίγον· καὶ καθίσας ἐδίδασκεν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου τοὺς ὄχλους. ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπε πρὸς τὸν*

Σίμων· ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Σίμων εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτὸς κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον. καὶ τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺ· διερρήγγυτο δὲ τὸ δίκτυον αὐτῶν. καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς μετόχοις τοῖς ἐν τῷ ἐτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ ἐλθόντος συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἦλθον καὶ ἔπλησαν ἀμφοτέρα τὰ πλοῖα, ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά. ἰδὼν δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος προσέπεσε τοῖς γόνασιν Ἰησοῦ λέγων· ἔξελθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι ἀνὴρ ἁμαρτωλὸς εἰμι, Κύριε· θάμβος γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρα τῶν ἰχθύων ἧ συνέλαβον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην, υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἳ ἦσαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνι. καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμωνα ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἀνθρώπους ἔσῃ ζωγρῶν. καὶ καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ.

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## *General Philoptochos Meeting today after Church.*

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**No Coffee Hour Host Today – Please Consider Hosting a Coffee Hour**



**ATTENTION SAINT BARBARA PARISH!** Celebrate with your Church Family your next special occasion! Consider sponsoring a coffee hour in the social hall after Liturgy on Sundays to commemorate a birthday, graduation, nameday, anniversary, or even for the pleasure of just hosting for your Parish. Signing up is easy....just place your name on the 'signup coffee hour' sheet located on the table in the hallway nearest the social hall. For details or questions, contact Helen Paliouras at: [919942-4229](tel:919942-4229) or [elenipali@att.net](mailto:elenipali@att.net)

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## **PHILOPTOCHOS BULLET POINTS**

- **Holiday Pastry Sale 2017- Pastry preparations are underway- Saturday September 16- KOULOURAKIA. Saturday September 30 SPANAKOPITA . Both sessions will be in the Church Fellowship Hall beginning @10am. Any time you can contribute is of value and helpful.**
- **Sunday October 1 the Pappas Family is hosting the Fall Charity BBQ for Philoptochos members and spouses @1pm with Fill the Bag Activity. RSVP Theky Pappas.**

**Yours in Christ,**

**Catherine**

# TRADITIONAL FALL DINNER DANCE

with GREEK CUISINE, MUSIC AND DANCING

Bring your family and friends for an exciting evening of all you can eat, drink and dance!



**Saturday, October 21, 2017**

St. Barbara Fellowship Hall  
8306 NC H-way 751 , Durham 27713

Doors open at 6:00 pm  
We dine at 7:00 pm sharp

Greek and American dancing, to an all new repertoire of music, by our own DJ Zaharias [Zach].

St. Barbara Folklore dancers will enrich the program !



**BUFFET DINNER** with a delicious variety of home cooked traditional dishes and desserts.

Honor-system wine and beer bar

**Suggested Donations:**  
adults \$30.00 students \$20  
youngsters age 7-12 \$10  
children age 6 and under free



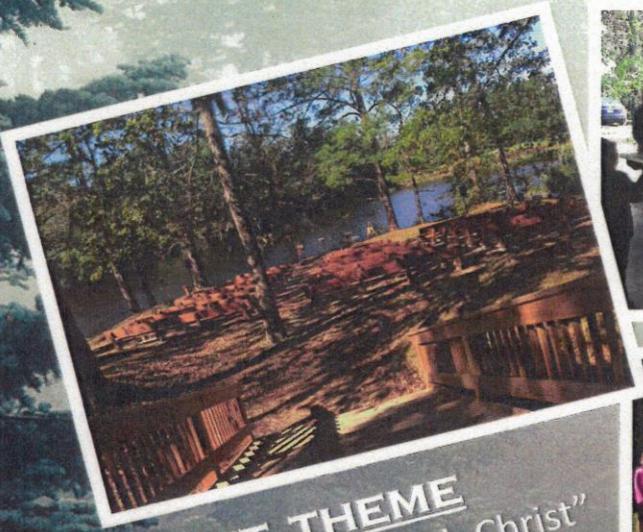
for reservations and tickets  
please e-mail [AHEPA277@gmail.com](mailto:AHEPA277@gmail.com)  
call 919-489-8042

or see any member of the Durham AHEPA.

Sponsored by AHEPA

(American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association)

# ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH REGIONAL FAMILY SPIRITUAL RETREAT



**EVENT THEME**  
"Crafting our Faith through Christ"  
Romans 10:1-13

## YOUTH PROGRAM

### IONIAN VILLAGE ON-THE-GO!

IV On-the-Go is the traveling retreat program of the Office of Ionian Village that promises to give the young people of your parish a taste of our unique and interactive approach to youth ministry.



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** will be the Managing Director of the Metropolis of Atlanta's Family Life Ministry, **PAULA MARCHMAN.**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OCTOBER 6-8, 2017**  
**CAMP KIRKWOOD, NC**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**PLEASE CONTACT**  
**DR. MICHAEL RALLIS, 910-619-0014**  
**OR ST. NICHOLAS GOC,**  
**910-392-4444**

## Spanakopita Assembly Saturday September 30th @ 10am

As autumn approaches, it's time to begin preparations for the annual Philoptochos Holiday Pastry Sale. We will be assembling spanakopitas on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10am at the church hall. The quantity required this year is still TBD, but as always, we could use all the help we can get. I know everyone's schedules are busy, and your time is valuable, but even if you can only spare an hour or two, please come by.

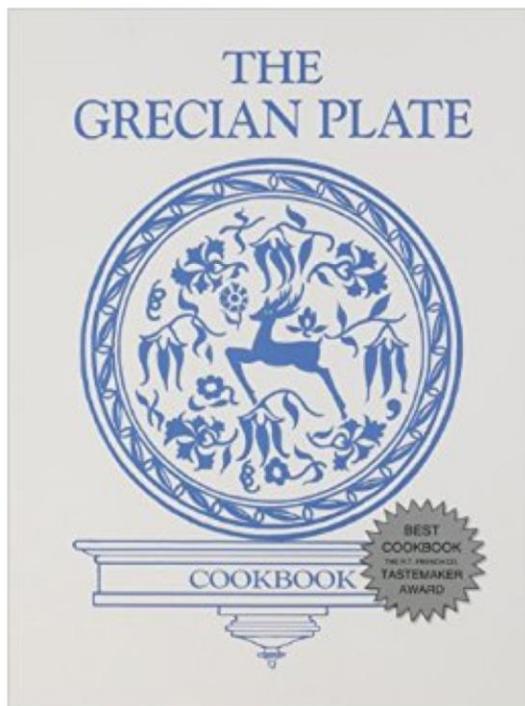
If you can make it, please bring a bowl or sauce pan to hold melted butter, and a pastry brush. That will help ensure we have enough equipment for all the workers.

Finally, if you can please let either Evelyn Panos ([mamapan@aol.com](mailto:mamapan@aol.com)), Theky Pappas ([tedthey@aol.com](mailto:tedthey@aol.com)), or Cindy Paliouras ([cindy.paliouras@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.paliouras@gmail.com) or [cindy.paliouras@progress.com](mailto:cindy.paliouras@progress.com)) know if you're able to come, so we'll have some idea of how many helpers to expect, that would be much appreciated. Or just drop in, we're flexible, and we'll definitely put you to work.

Hope to see you on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>!

Many thanks,

*Cindy*



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## THE GRECIAN PLATE

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Interested in learning  
to speak Greek?

Adult and children's classes for  
beginners and intermediate

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox  
Church in Durham on Hwy. 751

*For more information, call  
Helen at 919-942-4229*

***October 2017 Religious Calendar***

*1 - 2nd Sunday of Luke - 9:00 am*

*8 - 3rd Sunday of Luke - 9:00 am*

*15 - Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council - 9:00 am*

*22 - 6th Sunday of Luke - 9:00 am*

*26 - Thursday - St. Demetrios - 9:00 am*

*28 - Saturday - Holy Protection of the Theotokos - 9:00 am*

*29 - 5th Sunday of Luke - 9:00 am*

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**On Sunday, October 1, we will be celebrating national Orthodox musicians Sunday that includes honoring both our choirs and chanters. Parishioners should come by 9:45 to hear the "Doxology" prepared by Fr. Murtos and also be prepared to hear version D-36, of the cherubic hymn during the Divine Liturgy. The Sunday School students will also be participating musically in that day's service.**

**Blessings,**

**Donna**

# Life of SAINT THEKLA

According to ancient Syrian and Greek manuscripts, Saint Thekla was born into a prosperous pagan family in the Lycaonian city of Iconium (present-day Konya in south-central Turkey) in A.D. 16. When she was 18 years old and betrothed to a young man named Thamyris, Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint Barnabas arrived in Iconium from Antioch (Acts 14). Thekla's mother Theokleia prohibited her from joining the crowds which gathered to hear Paul preach. But Thekla found that if she sat near her bedroom window she could hear his every word. Thekla sat there for three days and three nights listening to Paul preach the word of God. She was particularly touched by his call to chastity. As it became apparent that Thekla was becoming interested in the new Faith, Theokleia and Thamyris went to the governor of the city and complained about Paul and his preaching. To pacify them and the other outraged citizens of Iconium, the governor had Paul imprisoned to await trial.

When Thekla learned of Paul's arrest she secretly went to the prison, and using her golden bracelets to bribe the guard, gained admittance to his cell. When she saw the Apostle she knelt before him and kissed the chains which bound his hands and feet. She remained there a long time listening to his message of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Being concerned at Thekla's prolonged absence, Theokleia and Thamyris asked her servant if she knew where she was. The servant said that Thekla had gone to visit an imprisoned stranger. Theokleia and Thamyris knew at once that she was with Paul. They decided to go again to the governor, this time demanding immediate judgement for the Apostle. After the governor chastened Paul for the disturbances he had caused in the city, he had him stoned and expelled from Iconium. The governor then admonished Thekla for her foolishness and commanded her to return home with her mother and fiancé. When Thekla announced that she had vowed to remain a virgin for the sake of Christ, her mother became enraged and asked the governor to threaten Thekla with severe punishment. The governor complied with this wish and ruled that Thekla was to be burned at the stake unless she renounced her faith in Christ.

When Thekla refused to renounce her Heavenly Bridegroom, she was taken to the arena for punishment. As she was tied to the stake she saw a vision of Jesus Christ which gave her strength to face the flames. The fire was lit, but as the flames came near Thekla a thunderstorm suddenly arose and a great torrent of rain and hail came down from heaven and extinguished the flames. Embarrassed because his plan had failed, the angry governor released Thekla but commanded that she must leave Iconium at once.

Upon her release, Thekla went to the outskirts of the city where she rejoined Paul. She told him of her trial and miraculous escape from punishment and asked for baptism. Paul refused to baptize Thekla, saying that this would be accomplished in God's own way and time. Paul and Thekla then departed from the region of Iconium and traveled to Antioch in Syria. As they were entering the city a young nobleman named Alexander saw Thekla. Being entranced by her beauty he rushed forward and tried to seduce her, but Thekla fought him off, thus disgracing him in front of his crowd of friends. Alexander went to the governor of Antioch and complained that this wandering girl had disgraced him, a nobleman, in public. He demanded that she be punished with death. The governor complied and ruled that Thekla would face the wild beasts in the arena. Thekla's only reply was that she be allowed to preserve her virginity unto death. Her wish was granted and she was given into the care of the noblewoman Tryphaena, a relative of Caesar, until the time of punishment.

When Thekla was taken to the arena, a lioness was set free to attack her. But to the astonishment of the crowd, the lioness approached the Saint and sat tamely at her feet. A bear was then released, but as it came close to Thekla the lioness rose up to defend her and killed the bear. A large lion was then released. The lioness again came to Thekla's defense killing the lion, but losing her own life also. Then all the cages were opened and a large number of wild

animals charged at the defenseless Thekla. After crossing herself and praying for courage, the Saint noticed a large tank of water which was nearby, containing the aquatic animals. She climbed into the water, asking that she might be baptized by Christ as she did so. Seeing that the beasts were unable to harm Thekla, Alexander asked that the Saint be given over to him for punishment. He tied her to two large bulls in the hopes that they would pull her asunder. But when the bulls charged off in opposite directions, the ropes which held Thekla to them were miraculously loosened and she was spared. Seeing that no harm could be done to Thekla, the authorities released her. She went to the home of Tryphaena where she remained for eight days preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and converting Tryphaena and her entire household. When she departed from Antioch, Tryphaena gave her a treasure in gold and precious jewels.

After she left Antioch, Thekla journeyed to Myra where she rejoined Paul. She informed him of all that had occurred, including her baptism and asked that she might be permitted to spend the remainder of her life as an ascetic. Paul gave her his blessing and she departed, leaving with Paul all the gold and jewels that Tryphaena had given her so that he might distribute them among the poor and needy.

Thekla then traveled again to Syria where she went up into the mountains for a life of prayer and solitude. Many years later a young pagan found her praying in an isolated canyon and resolved to harass her and spoil her virginity. As he approached her and blocked her only exit to safety, she prayed that her Bridegroom would protect her as He had so many times in the past. At that moment the canyon wall was miraculously split allowing her to escape through a narrow crack in the rock.

Saint Thekla continued her life of asceticism and then peacefully fell asleep in Christ at the age of 90. Shortly after her death a community of virgins went to live in her mountain cell, building a small chapel to enshrine her body. This Convent of Saint Thekla still exists today near the village of Ma'loula, Syria.

Because of her many sufferings for the Faith the Church counts her as a "Protomartyr". And because she converted so many people to Christianity she is also know as an "Equal-to-the-Apostles".

**Holy Saint Thekla, pray unto God for us!**

O Glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast inflamed with the love of thy Creator. By the teaching of the divine Preacher thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ, thy Bridegroom, to grant us his great mercy.

*Commemorated on September 24*

*Troparion (Tone 4) –*

*You were enlightened by the words of Paul, O Bride of God, Thekla,  
And your faith was confirmed by Peter, O Chosen One of God.  
You became the first sufferer and martyr among women,  
By entering into the flames as into a place of gladness.  
For when you accepted the Cross of Christ,  
The demonic powers were frightened away.  
O all-praised One, intercede before Christ God that our souls may be saved.*

## 2017 Saint Barbara STEWARD FAMILIES through September 19

Alexander, Susan H.  
Akerley, Elly  
Alexiades, Alec &  
Frances  
Amos, Vesaria Lazaris  
Arapoglou, Alexander  
Arvanitis, Marina  
Bakis, Basile & Mary  
Bakis, George & Sarris,  
Marie  
Balafas, Nicholas &  
Eugenia  
Barton, Lance & Maria  
(Marinos)  
Becak, Thalia  
Beridze, Tamar  
Blackley, Agape  
  
Bonfiglio, Barbara  
Bourbous, Nickolaos  
Brantley, Nick &  
Witham, Grace  
Bush, Connie  
Bush, John  
Callahan, Katherine  
Capsalis, Manual  
Caranasos, Thomas &  
Brienne  
Carr, Sophie  
Christakos, Andrew &  
Cheryl  
Christakos, Arthur  
Christakos, Eleni

Christie, George &  
Deborah  
Chronaki, Bessie  
Claypoole, Chris &  
Michelle  
Cocolas, Erie  
Constantinou, Catherine  
Constantinou, Costa  
Constantinou, Lou  
Dabadnah, Sharan  
Dates, John & Ana  
Demetriades, George &  
Vicky  
Dennos, Anne  
Dennos, George &  
Patricia  
Dorton, Betty  
Dufault, Elena  
Estrada, Rolando &  
Helena Venakides  
Fedorovska, Nataliya  
Ferris, Laurice  
Fitzherbert, Dimitri  
Frangakis, Crist & Maria  
Gerondelis, Peter &  
Kristen  
Gerondelis, Socratis &  
Alik  
Glekas, George & Amy  
Glekas, Jim & Evy  
Goodwin, Christopher  
Goodwin, Leonard &  
Elaine  
Grassos, V

Hermanson, Christopher  
& Kelly  
Kantner, Ed & Eve  
Karamalegos, Antonios  
& Claire  
Kash, Thomas & Zoe  
Katsohirakis, Andrew  
Katsohirakis, Steven  
Keener, Burt & Glenna  
Kekis, Theoharis  
Kinard, Andrew &  
Summer  
Kleoudis, Christi  
Kondilis-Mangum,  
Hrisavgi  
Korach, Kenneth &  
Karen  
Kougoulas, Eleftherios  
Koutis, James  
Koutouzakis, Helen  
Kovacs, Istvan &  
Bogdanovic, Zorica  
Kuyper, Andrew  
Kuyper, Lee & Pauline  
Kyropoulos, Adriane  
Lewis, Catherine  
Livanos, George &  
Lisunder Renee  
Lyras, Thalea  
Mamaies, V. Rev. Father  
Stavroforos  
Mariakakis, Johnny &  
Catherine  
Marinos, Pete & Joan  
Mashalidis, Ellene

Mavroidis, Panayiotis & Demetra	Przybyl, Daniel & Lori Qaqish, Olgha	Tragas, Charalambos & Cathy
McWhirter, John & Mary Jon	Quint, Angelia	Trohanis, Donna
Meadows, Rodney & Katherine	Rheinhardt, Keith & Alexia	Tryphonos, Tryphon & Suzanne
Mitchell, Curtis & Alexis	Roupas, Charles & Helen	Tsipis, Lou
Muallem, Hind	Rudnick, Nben & Irene	Varelas, Dimitrios
Odzak, Larry & Hope	Safarikas, Al & Christine	Varelas, Georgina
Oladipo, Richard	Samoilenko, Monica & Sergey	Varelas, John
Paliouras, Cindy	Simopoulos, Michael & Maria	Venakides, Vasilios
Paliouras, James & Helen	Skudar, Iryna	Vlachos, Demetra
Paliouras, John & Dena	Stavrakakis, Mattheos & Marika	Vurnakes, Helen
Paliouras, Nicholas	Stefanadis, Zoe	Vurnakes, James & Frances
Panos, Peter & Evelyn	Stephens, Vicky	Waters, Alexa
Panov, Yuri & Elana	Stojanovic, Milorad	Wilson, Preston & Catherine
Papanikas, Kleantis & Angelika	Stojanovic, Mirjana	Winans, Diane R.
Papazoglou, Matina	Stoney, Andrea	Wippich, Robert & Roberta
Pappas, Katherine	Sullivan, William & Jennifer	Wood, Jonathan & Maria
Pappas, Ted & Theky	Sunas, Marian	Zaferatos, Konstantinos & Kerri
Paraschos, Sophia	Tesfatsion, Senait	Zehia, Anthony & Evelyn
Pashales, George J	Theodosiadis, Konstantin & Amanda	Zehia, Christina
Pavlidis, Pavlos & Meltem	Thompson, Tony	
Pleasants, Penelope	Thuer, Olga	
Podgurski, Joseph		

**Our Stewardship Budget for 2017 is: \$ 176,000      Number of Steward Families to date: 141**  
**Total Amount Pledged for 2017 to date: \$126,360      Average Contribution per Family: \$896**  
**Total Amount Paid to date: \$ 108,115**

**Dear Parishioners,**  
**We are a Parish TOTALLY COMMITTED to Stewardship. This means 100% of our Stewardship is utilized to cover a major portion of the operational expenses of the Church. It includes all expenses from Clergy Salary and other related expenses, to Utilities, Equipment and Ground Maintenance, Assessments by the Archdiocese and Metropolis and insurance protection for our facilities and various functions. If your Name is not included in the above list, please, let us know by calling the Church Phone Number, 919-484-1600, or the Parish President, Pete Marinos, at 919-641-8404(cell).**



εννήθηκε από ειδωλολατρική οικογένεια στο Ίκόνιο.

Μνηστεύθηκε με κάποιο νέο, τό Θάμυρη, με τόν όποιο έμελλε νά συζευχθεί.

Έν τῷ μεταξύ ήλθε στό Ίκόνιο ό Απόστολος Παῦλος καί κήρυττε τόν λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ στό σπίτι ενός εὐσεβῆ ἀνδρα, τοῦ Ὀνησιφόρου, μετέπειτα ἀποστόλου († 7 Σεπτεμβρίου). Ἡ συνεχῆ προσέλευση στό θεῖο κήρυγμα προσείλκυσε τήν προσοχή τῆς Θέκλας. Καί κάποια νύκτα, μέσα στό ἀκροαζόμενο πλῆθος ἦταν καί αὐτή. Τά

λόγια πού ἄκουσε τήν τράβηξαν τόσο πολύ, ὥστε τήν ἔκαναν νά ἐπανέλθει πολλές φορές νά ἀκούσει τόν Απόστολο Παῦλο.

Αὐτό, ὅμως, ὅταν τό ἔμαθαν ἡ μητέρα της καί ὁ μνηστήρας της, προκειμένου νά τήν ἐπαναφέρουν στήν ειδωλολατρία συκοφάντησαν τόν Απόστολο Παῦλο, μέ ἀποτέλεσμα ὁ ἡγεμόνας Καστίλλιος νά τόν φυλακίσει καί στήν συνέχεια νά τόν διώξει ἀπό τήν πόλη. Ἀλλά ἡ Θέκλα εἶχε πάρει τήν ἀπόφαση νά δοθεῖ ὀλοκληρωτικά στή διακονία τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου.

Συγγενεῖς καί πρώην φίλοι της τήν πολέμησαν ἀνελέητα. Αὐτή ὅμως, εἶχε στή θύμησή της τά λόγια τοῦ διδασκάλου της Ἀποστόλου Παύλου: «Θύρα μοί ἀνέωγε μεγάλη καί ἐνεργῆς, καί ἀντικείμενοι πολλοί». Μοῦ ἀνοίχτηκε, δηλαδή, πόρτα μεγάλη, γιά καρποφόρα Ἱεραποστολική δράση. Καί γι' αὐτό, λόγω τοῦ φθόνου πού ἔχει ὁ σατανᾶς γιά κάθε καλό, πολλοί καί τώρα παρουσιάζονται ἐνάντιοι καί πολέμιοι.

Τελικά ἡ Θέκλα στήν πορεία τῆς Ἱεραποστολικῆς της δράσης πέρασε πολλά μαρτύρια, ἀπό τά όποία, ὅμως, μέ θαυματουργικό τρόπο βγήκε ἄθικτη.

Πέθανε 90 χρονῶν σέ κάποιο ὄρος τῆς Σελεύκειας.

Πηγή: <http://www.synaxarion.gr/gr/index.aspx>