



Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
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www.stbarbarachurchnc.org
News & Announcements
January 26, 2020

15th Sunday of Luke
Κυριακή 15η του Λουκά



- Xenophon & his Companions 1/26/2020
- Symeon the Elder of Mount Sinai 1/26/2020

NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Sunday Worship Schedule: Matins 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

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.

The Sunday Epistle Reading

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15



Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

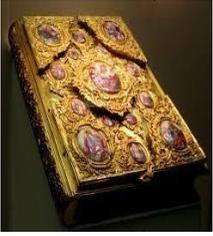
Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' 4:9-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος. Εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ ὀνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶν σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνείᾳ. Ἔως ἔρχομαι, πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοι διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ πρεσβυτερίου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπὴ φανερὰ ᾖ ἐν πᾶσιν.

The Sunday Gospel Reading

The Gospel According to Luke 19:1-10



At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν Ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα 19:1-10

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο τὴν Ἱεριχώ· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ἦν. καὶ προδραμῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι ἐκείνης ἤμελλε διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατάβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μεῖναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἀμαρτωλῶ ἀνδρὶ εἰσῆλθε καταλῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον· ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν. ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολωλός.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting on January 21st, the Parish Council elected the following officers:

- President - Daniel Przybyl
- Vice-President - Johnny Mariakakis
- Secretary - Paul Kacoyanis
- Treasurer - Maria Frangakis
- Assistant Treasurers - Evelyn Panos, Catherine Wilson

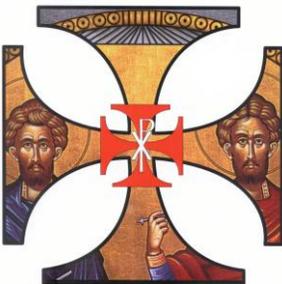
We thank Wes Platt and Catherine Wilson for their service as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.



AHEPA News

Mark your calendar: please note that the AHEPA apokriatiko glendi – mardi gras dinner dance will take place here at St. Barbara's fellowship hall, on Saturday, February 22nd. Please plan to attend with your family and friends and enjoy this event, with a delicious dinner, while listening and dancing to delightful music – supplied by our very own DJ and poet, brother Zach Theodosiadis.

PHILOPTOCHOS



Saint Barbara Philoptochos News

The year 2020 has already started in full force and we have much to look forward to in the new year. Some important Philoptochos happenings for January are listed below:
Jan. 26 - Philoptochos General Membership meeting
Feb. 2. – Blood Drive - For each person who signs up to donate blood, \$20 will be given to St, Barbara's. Tell all your friends and family!

Reported by: Lia Christakos, Philoptochos President

2019 Parish Financial Summary

	December		Year to Date		
	Income	Expenses	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	2019 Budget
Operations Fund	\$24,448	\$25,686	\$188,984	\$282,747	\$204,000
Mortgage Fund	\$12,610	\$12,717	\$234,809	\$187,639	\$159,980

	Income	Expenses	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	2019 Budget
Operations Fund	\$188,984	\$282,747	\$204,000		
Mortgage Fund	\$234,809	\$187,639	\$159,980		

Note: The Operations Fund income above is the total of Sunday offering and Stewardship; it excludes the Greek Festival. The Operations Fund pays all Church expenses except for the mortgage payment. The Mortgage Fund includes all Mortgage Fund donations and fundraisers (e.g., Taste of Greece, Gyro Feast). The Mortgage Fund pays our mortgage which is \$12,713.36/month.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ January is Stewardship month at St. Barbara. By now, you should have received your Stewardship packet in the mail. If you have not received a stewardship packet, please contact Evelyn Panos (mamapan@aol.com)
- ❖ You may return your completed stewardship form by mail, by placing it in the offering tray or placing it in the basket in front of St. Barbara at the altar screen on any given Sunday as a means of honoring the Patron Saint who prays for us and our community.
- ❖ You can conveniently make your Stewardship, Mortgage Fund and Contingency Fund donations online at www.stbarbarachurchnc.org/donation. You can make one-time or recurring payment by credit card or direct draft from your checking or savings account.
- ❖ Remember, we have an exciting opportunity provided by a very generous donor to match our individual increases in giving. If you have been increasing your giving each year, thank you so much for your faithful generosity. If your giving has remained constant for several years, please prayerfully consider this opportunity to double the impact of an increase in your giving.

St. Barbara Hospitality Hour News



A special thank you to our AHEPA Durham Chapter #277 for hosting last week's coffee hour. This week's coffee hour is being sponsored by our Sunday School and Greek School Parents.

To sponsor coffee hour after Sunday Liturgy, please sign the "Hospitality Hour Registry" located on the table nearest the social hall. If you have any questions, please contact the Mehaleks at 919-454-1552.

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." Hebrews 13:2



The love and concern that we have for each other is often expressed by the many conversations that are shared in terms of health issues involving loved ones. The discussion points may center on hospitalization or rehabilitation at a rehab center or by caregivers at home. At times we feel that since these conversations take place on the Church premises that the priest must be aware of the situation and therefore will visit the person that we are talking about amongst ourselves. Families may assume that the priest knows of their family situations since the person that they were talking to about the health issue is close to the priest so that they would probably tell him about our loved one's health condition, Then they wait having the expectation that the priest will go to visit their loved one.

In order to avoid this situation it is asked that a pastoral visit request be made directly to me, Father Stavroforos, via my direct Email which is fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com. In doing this I have a record of who made the request, the date, the name of the recipient of the pastoral visit, and their location and contact information. i.e. address and phone, etc,

We need to go from a way of assuming that Father knows and will make the visit to knowing that he knows because we formally requested the visit via his Email. This Email directly to the priest will constitute a formal request that will insure that the reputation of Saint Barbara and the ministry of Father Stavroforos will reflect the desire to provide excellence in pastoral care.

Stewardship 2020

A Unique Opportunity to Double the Value of Your 2020 Donations

If you give more in 2020 than your combined 2019 dollar contributions to the Stewardship, Mortgage and Contingency Funds, your additional contributions will be matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor. The total amount available for matching funds is \$50,000. With full Parish participation in 2020, we can raise an additional \$100,000 to meet our expenses and serve our Ministries.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge and giving in 2020. New Stewards are also encouraged to participate in the program.

Please see the Pledge form for complete details. For your convenience, you can make your contributions online via the St. Barbara website www.stbarbarachurchnc.org/donation.

Thank you,
The Stewardship Committee

Xenophon & his Companions

Reading

This Saint, a wealthy nobleman of Constantinople, was filled with piety toward God. He had two sons, Arcadius and John, whom he sent to Beirut to study law. But they were shipwrecked during their voyage; barely saved, they forsook all things and departed for Palestine. Saint Xenophon and his wife Mary, ignorant of what had happened, went in search of their sons. On finding them in Jerusalem, dressed in the habit of monks, they also took up the monastic life. And thus, having completed their lives in holiness, they departed for the Lord about the beginning of the sixth century. Saint Xenophon and his sons reposed at Saint Sabbas Monastery, and Mary at the Monastery of Saint Theodosius.

STEWARDS AS OF JANUARY 13, 2020



Our 2020 Stewardship drive is off to a great start. In less than two weeks, we have 50 Stewards as of January 13, 2020, compared with our goal of 160 for the year. Please help us meet our goal early in the year by pledging your support. Your time, talents and treasury are critical to the success of our Ministries.

Please give prayerful consideration to your 2020 contribution as soon as possible. Stewardship is the primary source of the funding for our Ministries and operating obligations. Remember for every dollar more you give to the Stewardship, Mortgage and Contingency Funds than you did in 2019 will get matched up to a total of an additional \$50,000.

Alexander, Dr. Susan
Amos, Matt & Vickie
Bakis, Basile & Mary
Barbee, Effie
Becak, Thalia
Biggs, John & Diana Dobrica
Carr, Sophie
Christakos, Andrew & Cheryl
Christakos, Arthur
Christakos, Eleni
Christie, George & Deborah
Chronaki, Bessie
Constantinou, Catherine & Wes Platt
Constantinou, Costa
Constantinou, Lou
Costas, Dean
Dababnah, Sharan
Dorton, Betty
Elisseeva, Elena
Ferris, Laurice
Goodwin, Len & Elaine
Kacoyanis, Paul
Katsiagianis, Wendy
Korach, Dr. Kenneth & Karen
Loden, Martha

Mangum, Daniel & Dr. Hrisavgi
Mariakakis, Johnny & Catherine
Marinos, Dr. Pete & Joan
Martin, Azeb
McGovern, Victoria
Mehalek, John & Dawn
Mermigas, Nicholas
Odzak, Larry & Hope
Paliouras, Cindy
Paliouras, John & Dena
Panos, Peter & Evelyn
Pantelidis, James & Stella
Papanikas, Sam & Cleopatra
Pashales, George
Qaqish, Dr. Olgha & Mario Arboleda
Rheinhardt, Keith & Alexia
Saloupis, Peter
Theodosiadis, Konstantinos & Efstanthia Marinnetou
Trohanis, Donna
Watters, Jacques & Christine
Wilson, Preston & Catherine
Wippich, Robert & Roberta
Zaferatos, Dino & Kerri
Zehia, Christina
Zehia, Tony & Evelyn



Join us for St. Barbara Community Nights!

6- 8 pm

Join us as we enjoy food and fellowship as a church family. All ages are welcome! This program will consist of a 5-part short lesson series on being disciples of Christ. Pot luck dinner starts at 6:00 pm. Bring enough food for yourself and your family (main dish, side, or dessert--your choice, just make sure it's meat-free since this is a fast day). Kids will have their own activities so parents can enjoy fellowship with the other adults.

Proposed topics:

Feb. 21 - The rewards of being a disciple

Mar. - Stewardship – How do I use my talents?

Hope You Can Join Us!

2020 Festival News

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Barbara,

The Silent Auction Committee kindly requests donations for the Silent Auction at our Greek Festival. All items should be in excellent condition.



Possible Donations include:

Things

Artwork

Crystal

One of a kind items

Hand made things

Antiques

Collectibles

Icons

Memorabilia

Items you no longer wish to keep, but are of value

Anything else which has a special cachet

Experiences

Tickets to events

Restaurant vouchers

Travel offerings

Outings

Tax receipts for your donations will be provided.

The Silent Auction increases the Greek Festival's bottom line. All profits go directly to the church.

Please contact the co-chairs of the Silent Auction with details of your donations:

Evelyn Panos mamapan@aol.com

Karen Korach korach.karen@gmail.com

Thank You



House Blessing Request Form 2020

(Please return this form to the church office by placing it in Father's Mail slot.)

YES, we / I would like to request
a house blessing.

We prefer:

Morning (10:00 am -12:00 noon)

Afternoon (1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Evening (7:00 pm- 9:00 pm)

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

*May we participate in God's glory with this house blessing,
because he was baptized in the Jordan River for our benefit.*

Fr. Stavroforos

After Completing the form please hand it to a parish council member or give it directly to Father. You will be receiving a phone call from Fr. Stavroforos to confirm the exact date and time that he will arrive to bless your home or business.

Why Do We Have Our Homes Blessed?

by Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div.

Begin Everything with Prayer

Since we are reminded in Scripture to begin whatever we do with prayer, it has been the practice of Orthodox Christians for centuries to have new dwellings blessed either before or just after settling in. This has been extended to one's business or office, and even college dorm rooms. "The service performed by the priest to bless the new dwelling is somewhat similar to the consecration of a church [in the Russian practice] in that holy water, holy oil, and incense are used and a lesson from the holy Gospel is read. All the rooms of the house are sprinkled with holy water and each of the four outer walls are anointed with the sign of the Cross with holy oil, a candle placed before them, and after the censing of the house, the lesson from the Holy Gospel is read [in Greek practice the service of the Small Blessing of Waters is generally done]. At the conclusion of the blessing, the inhabitants are blessed with holy water: the husband first, followed by the wife and then the children - the oldest first. Relatives and friends present are then blessed." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, by Rev. Michael B. Henning, p.24.)

Back to "The Fall"

From Scripture we know that whatever God created was good, but with "the Fall", evil entered the world, corrupting the creation. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to save it by effecting a "new creation". This is celebrated at Theophany, specifically with the Great Blessing of Water. "The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world - through its 'prime element' of water - in the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit." (*The Orthodox Faith, Vol. II, Worship*, by Fr. Thomas Hopko, p.127.) All the readings, hymns, prayers, and actions of the day speak of God's presence in our entire world and universe, His creation.

Through water all of the creation is once again sanctified by God, becoming good again, the way God had intended.

The Feast of Theophany

The Feast of Theophany (or Epiphany) commemorates the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We know from the troparion of the day that "the Trinity was made manifest" to us. But there's more to it than this. "When Jesus descends into the depths of the river, there occurs a profound upheaval. It is not the one baptized who is purified, for he is spotless; but it is the water that is transfigured and illumined. This water, which was believed to be transparent and purifying, is in fact polluted, inhabited by evil spirits, servants of the old gods. ... By purifying the elements, by sanctifying matter, Jesus frees the cosmos from the powers of evil." (*The Incarnate God, Vol. I*, Catherine Aslanoff, French edition editor, translated by Paul Meyendorff, p.163.)

The Great Blessing of Water and the Home

The Great Blessing of Water takes place at the end of that day's Liturgy. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church - through the priest and cantor - go to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, in most Orthodox parishes, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany (January 6/13). By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. (In very large parishes a yearly visit may not be possible. In areas of

the country where the winter is harsh, I know of at least one parish where houses are blessed at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year in September.)

We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. "There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given 'to bestow sanctification', 'unto healing of soul and body', 'to be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal', as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day." (*Little Falcons: Water*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1998, p.33.)

Weaving Christ into Our Lives

The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

In Summary

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

[How to Prepare Your Home for a House Blessing :](#)



It is important that our homes receive the blessing of Holy Water. You can contact Father preferably by filling out the form on page 9 or by telephone, or e-mail or in person to arrange a date and time that are best for you and your family. You can expect Father to contact you to confirm the exact date and time of his visit.

Getting Ready:

Christ, by entering the Jordan, sanctified it, and with it all creation. Material creation once again became "very good" as it was in the beginning. The central sign of God's sanctification of all things through the feast of Theophany is the act of blessing the homes of faithful Christians. The priest visits members of the Church to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with Holy Water. He asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil, and to fill it with every blessing. Thus the house itself, together with the living persons of the family, is "filled with all the fullness of God".

To prepare for father's visit to bless your home:

- Make a list of the first names of those living family members and other Orthodox faithful you wish to pray for when the priest arrives.
- On your dining room table or family altar, place a lighted candle, a Theophany icon or icon of Christ, and a wide bowl (to hold the holy water the priest will bring). Be sure your prayer list is there, too!
- Turn on a light in each room (in the evening), so the priest can see where he is going.
- Turn off all Televisions, radios, cell phones, stereos, and computers.
- Secure any pets that might jump up on the priest or family, or "get underfoot" as you move from room to room.
- Everyone in the house when the priest arrives should gather around the table/family altar and join in the singing of the litany responses and troparion.
- The children may lead the priest around the house with a lit candle, if he permits.

Frequently asked Questions (and Answers!)

- How long does it take for Father to bless my home? I have a busy schedule!

Father can bless your home quickly if you have a busy schedule. It is important for him to be able to visit and share with all the family members. A home blessing visit is one of the most valuable and important opportunities we receive during the year to have "one on one" time to discuss matters privately and in confidence with your pastor.

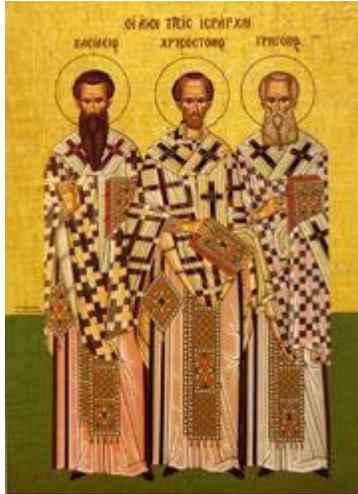
- What if I can't have Father visit my home at this time? Can he come at another time?

The "stuff of life" can make a pastor's visit difficult at times. Your home may be under renovation. There may be an illness, travel, or other matter that complicates the daily flow of life. The most important thing to remember here is to COMMUNICATE with your Pastor! Your spiritual care and well-being are his most important concern. If the Ehipany season, at the end of January, is not a good time for you and your family for whatever reason, simply let Father know. He can keep in contact with you to determine when a good time is for everyone at a later date in the year.



Thursday, January 30th Matins and Divine Liturgy

Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom



This common feast of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred Basil, while others preferred Gregory, and yet others preferred John Chrysostom, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest. Furthermore, each party, in order to distinguish itself from the others, assumed the name of its preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Johannites. Desiring to bring an end to the contention, the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mavropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor, they revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty. Saint John of Euchaita (celebrated Oct. 5) is also the composer of the Canon to the Guardian Angel, the Protector of a Man's Life. In his old age, he retired from his episcopal see and again took up the monastic life in a monastery in Constantinople. He reposed during the reign of the aforementioned Emperor Alexis Comnenus (1081-1118).

**Πεμπτη 30 Ιανουριου – Οι Άγιοι Τρεις Ίεράρχες -
Ορθρος και Θεια Λειτουργια αρχιζοντας στις 9:00 π.μ.**

Ἡ αἰτία γιὰ τὴν εἰσαγωγὴ τῆς ἑορτῆς τῶν Τριῶν Ἱεραρχῶν στὴν Ἐκκλησία εἶναι τὸ ἐξῆς γεγονός:

Κατὰ τοὺς χρόνους τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Ἀλεξίου τοῦ Κομνηνοῦ (1081 – 1118), ὁ ὁποῖος διαδέχθηκε στὴ βασιλικὴ ἐξουσία τὸν Νικηφόρο Γ' τὸν Βοτενειάτη (1078 – 1081), ἔγινε στὴν

Κωνσταντινούπολη φιλονικία ανάμεσα σὲ λόγιους καὶ ἐνάρετους ἄνδρες. Ἄλλοι θεωροῦσαν ἀνώτερο τὸν Μέγα Βασίλειο, χαρακτηρίζοντάς τον μεγαλοφυΐα καὶ ὑπέροχη φυσιογνωμία. Ἄλλοι τοποθετοῦσαν ψηλὰ τὸν ἱερό Χρυσόστομο καὶ τὸν θεωροῦσαν ἀνώτερο ἀπὸ τὸν Μέγα Βασίλειο καὶ τὸν Γρηγόριο καί, τέλος, ἄλλοι, προσκείμενοι στὸν Γρηγόριο τὸν Θεολόγο, θεωροῦσαν αὐτὸν ἀνώτερο ἀπὸ τοὺς δύο ἄλλους, δηλαδή ἀπὸ τὸν Βασίλειο καὶ τὸν Χρυσόστομο. Ἡ φιλονικία αὐτὴ εἶχε σὰν ἀποτέλεσμα νὰ διαιρεθοῦν τὰ πλήθη τῶν Χριστιανῶν καὶ ἄλλοι ὀνομάζονταν «Ἰωαννίτες», ἄλλοι «Βασιλεῖτες» καὶ ἄλλοι «Γρηγορίτες».

Στὴν ἔριδα αὐτὴ ἔθεσε τέλος ὁ Μητροπολίτης Εὐχαΐτων, Ἰωάννης ὁ Μαυρόπουλος. Αὐτός, κατὰ τὴν διήγησιν τοῦ Συναξαριστοῦ, εἶδε σὲ ὄπτασία τοὺς μέγιστους αὐτοὺς Ἱεράρχες, πρῶτα καθένα χωριστὰ καὶ στὴ συνέχεια καὶ τοὺς τρεῖς μαζί. Αὐτοὶ τοῦ εἶπαν: «Ἐμεῖς, ὅπως βλέπεις, εἴμαστε ἓνα κοντὰ στὸν Θεὸ καὶ τίποτε δὲν ὑπάρχει πού νὰ μᾶς χωρίζει ἢ νὰ μᾶς κάνει νὰ ἀντιδικοῦμε. Ὅμως, κάτω ἀπὸ τὶς ἰδιαίτερες χρονικὲς συγκυρίες καὶ περιστάσεις πού βρέθηκε ὁ καθένας μας, κινούμενοι καὶ καθοδηγούμενοι ἀπὸ τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα, γράψαμε σὲ συγγράμματα καὶ μὲ τὸν τρόπο του ὁ καθένας, διδασκαλίες πού βοηθοῦν τοὺς ἀνθρώπους νὰ βροῦν τὸν δρόμο τῆς σωτηρίας. Ἐπίσης, τὶς βαθύτερες θεῖες ἀλήθειες, στὶς ὁποῖες μπορέσαμε νὰ διεισδύσουμε μὲ τὸ φωτισμὸ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, τὶς συμπεριλάβαμε σὲ συγγράμματα πού ἐκδώσαμε. Καὶ ἀνάμεσά μας δὲν ὑπάρχει οὔτε πρῶτος, οὔτε δεῦτερος, ἀλλά, ἂν πεῖς τὸν ἓνα, συμπορεύονται δίπλα του καὶ οἱ δυὸ ἄλλοι. Σήκω, λοιπόν, καὶ δῶσε ἐντολὴ στοὺς φιλονικοῦντες νὰ σταματήσουν τὶς ἔριδες καὶ νὰ πάψουν νὰ χωρίζονται γιὰ ἐμᾶς. Γιατί ἐμεῖς, καὶ στὴν ἐπίγεια ζωὴ πού εἴμασταν καὶ στὴν οὐράνια πού μεταβήκαμε, φροντίζαμε καὶ φροντίζουμε νὰ εἰρηνεύουμε καὶ νὰ ὀδηγοῦμε σὲ ὁμόνοια τὸν κόσμον. Καὶ ὄρισε μία ἡμέρα νὰ ἐορτάζεται ἀπὸ κοινοῦ ἡ μνήμη μας καὶ καθὼς εἶναι χρέος σου, νὰ ἐνεργήσεις νὰ εἰσαχθεῖ ἡ ἐορτὴ στὴν Ἐκκλησία καὶ νὰ συνταχθεῖ ἡ ἱερὴ ἀκολουθία. Ἀκόμη ἓνα χρέος σου, νὰ παραδόσεις στὶς μελλοντικὲς γενιὲς ὅτι ἐμεῖς εἴμαστε ἓνα γιὰ τὸν Θεό. Βεβαίως καὶ ἐμεῖς θὰ συμπράξουμε γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία ἐκείνων πού θὰ ἐορτάζουν τὴν μνήμη μας, γιατί ἔχουμε καὶ ἐμεῖς παρρησία ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ».

Ἔτσι ὁ Ἐπίσκοπος Εὐχαΐτων Ἰωάννης ἀνέλαβε τὴ συμφιλίωση τῶν διαμαχόμενων μερίδων, συνέστησε τὴν ἐορτὴ τῆς 30^{ης} Ἰανουαρίου καὶ συνέγραψε καὶ κοινὴ Ἀκολουθία, ἀντάξια τῶν τριῶν Μεγάλων Πατέρων.

Ἡ ἐορτὴ αὐτῆς τῆς Συνάξεως τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, τοῦ Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου καὶ τοῦ Ἰωάννου τοῦ Χρυσοστόμου, ἀποτελεῖ τὸ ὄρατὸ σύμβολο τῆς ἰσότητος καὶ τῆς ἐνότητος τῶν Μεγάλων Διδασκάλων, οἱ ὁποῖοι δίδαξαν μὲ τὸν ἅγιο βίον τοὺς τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Εἶναι ἐκεῖνοι, οἱ ὁποῖοι ἐξ' αἰτίας τῆς ταπεινώσεώς τους μπροστὰ στὴν ἀλήθεια, ἔχουν λάβει τὸ χάρισμα νὰ ἐκφράζουν τὴν καθολικὴ συνείδηση τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ ὅ,τι διδάσκουν δὲν εἶναι ἀπλῶς δική τους σκέψη ἢ προσωπικὴ τους πεποίθηση, ἀλλὰ εἶναι ἐπιπλέον ἡ ἴδια ἡ μαρτυρία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, γιατί μιλοῦν ἀπὸ τὸ βάθος τῆς καθολικῆς τῆς πληρότητας. Περὶ τὶς ἀρχὲς τοῦ 14^{ου} αἰῶνα μ.Χ. ἀνεγέρθη ναὸς τῶν Τριῶν Ἱεραρχῶν κοντὰ στὴν Ἁγία Σοφία Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, δίπλα σχεδὸν στὴ μονὴ τῆς Παναχράντου.

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SAINT BARBARA CHURCH 2020 PLEDGE FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

SPECIAL MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY FOR 2020*

Please prayerfully consider increasing your contributions above your 2019 giving level. Any increases above your total 2019 giving to the Mortgage + Contingency + Stewardship Funds are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar match, to be given to the Stewardship Fund by an anonymous donor, up to a parish total of \$50,000 for 2020. Help us realize the full \$50,000 Matching Funds donation and double the impact of your increased donation!

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FOR 2020*

Stewardship donations pay for the operating expenses (not the mortgage) and ministries of St. Barbara Church, which total about \$25,000 per month. This pledge form is confidential, for use only by the Parish Treasurer.

Name: _____ Cell #: _____ email: _____

Name: _____ Cell #: _____ email: _____

I/We commit to Christ's Church a total Stewardship amount of \$_____ to be paid (check one) *:

semi-annually_____ quarterly_____ weekly_____ Other (specify) _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

_____ I/We would like to speak with Father Stavroforos before making my/our pledge.

*You can conveniently make your contributions online via the St. Barbara website: www.stbarbarachurchnc.org/donation

MORTGAGE & CONTINGENCY FUND PLEDGES FOR 2020*

The church mortgage obligation is currently \$12,713 per month. I/We hereby pledge to contribute to the Mortgage Fund and acknowledge that my/our giving category (but not the actual dollar amount) may be acknowledged periodically in the church's Weekly Bulletin and/or posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Pillar: \$_____ Torch Bearer: \$_____ Good Shepherd: \$_____ Pace Setter: \$_____

(\$10,400+ per year) (\$5,200-\$10,399 per year) (\$2,600-\$5,199 per year) (\$1,200-\$2,599 per year)

Contributor: \$_____ Friend: \$_____ Other one-time amount: \$_____

(\$520-\$1,199 per year) (\$100-\$519 per year)

I/We hereby also pledge this amount to the Contingency Fund for unforeseen expenses: \$_____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*You can conveniently make your contributions online via the St. Barbara website: www.stbarbarachurchnc.org/donation