



Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
8306 NC HWY 751
Durham NC 27713 919-484-1600
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com
www.stbarbarachurchnc.org
News & Announcements
July 12, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Matthew
Κυριακή Πέμπτη Ματθαιου



- Proclus & Hilary the Martyrs of Ancyra 7/12/2020
- Our Holy Father Michael of Maleinus 7/12/2020
- Gerasimos of Byzantium and Akakios the young ascetic 7/12/2020
 - Paisios the Athonite 7/12/2020
- Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood who was healed by Jesus 7/12/2020
 - Andre the Commander & his Companion Martyrs 7/12/2020

NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Divine Liturgy starting 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

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:1-10



Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.

Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

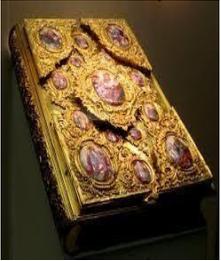
Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Επιστολῆς Παυλοῦ τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα 10:1-10

Ἀδελφοί, ἡ μὲν εὐδοκία τῆς ἐμῆς καρδίας καὶ ἡ δέησις ἡ πρὸς τὸν θεὸν ὑπὲρ τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ ἐστὶν εἰς σωτηρίαν. Μαρτυρῶ γὰρ αὐτοῖς ὅτι ζῆλον θεοῦ ἔχουσιν, ἀλλ' οὐ κατ' ἐπίγνωσιν.

Ἄγνοοῦντες γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην, καὶ τὴν ἰδίαν δικαιοσύνην ζητοῦντες στήσαι, τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐχ ὑπετάγησαν. Τέλος γὰρ νόμου Χριστὸς εἰς δικαιοσύνην παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι. Μωϋσῆς γὰρ γράφει τὴν δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐκ τοῦ νόμου, ὅτι ὁ ποιήσας αὐτὰ ἄνθρωπος ζήσεται ἐν αὐτοῖς. Ἡ δὲ ἐκ πίστεως δικαιοσύνη οὕτως λέγει, Μὴ εἴπῃς ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου, Τίς ἀναβήσεται εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν; - τοῦτ' ἔστιν Χριστὸν καταγαγεῖν - ἢ, Τίς καταβήσεται εἰς τὴν ἄβυσσον; - τοῦτ' ἔστιν Χριστὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναγαγεῖν. Ἀλλὰ τί λέγει; Ἐγγύς σου τὸ ῥῆμά ἐστίν, ἐν τῷ στόματί σου καὶ ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου· τοῦτ' ἔστιν τὸ ῥῆμα τῆς πίστεως ὃ κηρύσσομεν· ὅτι ἐὰν ὁμολογήσῃς ἐν τῷ στόματί σου κύριον Ἰησοῦν, καὶ πιστεύσῃς ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου ὅτι ὁ θεὸς αὐτὸν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν, σωθήσῃ· καρδίᾳ γὰρ πιστεύεται εἰς δικαιοσύνην, στόματι δὲ ὁμολογεῖται εἰς σωτηρίαν.

The Sunday Gospel Reading

The Gospel According to Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1



At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα 8:28-34, 9:1

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντος τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς τὸ πέραν εἰς τὴν χώραν τῶν Γεργεσηνῶν ὑπήντησαν αὐτῷ δύο δαιμονιζόμενοι ἐκ τῶν μνημείων ἐξερχόμενοι, χαλεποὶ λίαν, ὥστε μὴ ἰσχύειν τινὰ παρελθεῖν διὰ τῆς ὁδοῦ ἐκείνης. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἔκραζαν λέγοντες· τί ἡμῖν καὶ σοί, Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἦλθες ὧδε πρὸ καιροῦ βασανίσαι ἡμᾶς; ἦν δὲ μακρὰν ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀγέλη χοίρων πολλῶν βοσκομένη. οἱ δὲ δαίμονες παρεκάλουν αὐτὸν λέγοντες· εἰ ἐκβάλλεις ἡμᾶς, ἐπίτρεψον ἡμῖν ἀπελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ὑπάγετε. οἱ δὲ ἐξελθόντες ἀπῆλθον εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων· καὶ ἰδοὺ ὥρμησε πᾶσα ἡ ἀγέλη τῶν χοίρων κατὰ τοῦ κρημοῦ εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ ἀπέθανον ἐν τοῖς ὕδασι. οἱ δὲ βόσκοντες ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἀπήγγειλαν πάντα καὶ τὰ τῶν δαιμονιζομένων. καὶ ἰδοὺ πᾶσα ἡ πόλις ἐξῆλθεν εἰς συνάντησιν τῷ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν παρεκάλεσαν ὅπως μεταβῆ ἀπὸ τῶν ὁρίων αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐμβὰς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασε καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν.



Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Barbara,

We are happy to be able to welcome you back to Sunday Church Services starting May 31, 2020.

I know that we all have been longing for the days that our doors would once again be opened. The anticipation and the wait is now finally over. This marks a new beginning for all of us, and I am so grateful that the day will finally arrive. The day will inaugurate the new way that we will start coming into the Church, and the way and where we sit in Church. These directives are also in accordance with the guidelines set out by our Metropolis and cover all the Greek Orthodox churches in the Metropolis of Atlanta.

We will be in step with other houses of worship that abide by the rules that have been set for all of us since the onset of Covid-19. In order to prevent the spread of the virus we hope that all of our parishioners have been following the CDC directives, which include: hand washing thoroughly and frequently, covering your coughs and sneezes, avoiding sharing personal items, wearing a mask, and maintaining a social distance of at least six feet.

The Divine Liturgy will start at 10:00 AM. We will have new guidelines in place for everyone's safety that will mean it takes longer to get into the church. Please plan accordingly and allow yourselves extra time.

Please read these guidelines to familiarize yourself and your families with the new procedures in order to make everything go smoothly.

Before and During the services:

- **Masks are required** upon entering the church by all parishioners aged 2 and above.
- **Each person is to be checked in** by a parish council member.
- **All those in attendance should sanitize their hands** by either washing them or using a hand sanitizer prior to entering and after they leave the church.
- Doors will be propped open so you **do not touch the door handles**.
- **Before entering the church, the temperature of each person will be taken** by a designated person. If the person's temperature is above 100.4 he or she will be kindly asked to return to their home, both for their safety and the safety of others.
- **Parish Council will direct each parishioner to designated seats** in the pews for each person or household to sit starting in the front of the church and working their way to back. Please do not ask to be seated in your "usual" seats.
- **A place to accept offerings will be provided in the Narthex** upon entering or leaving. If possible, you are encouraged to use the online giving portal which can be found at stbarbarachurchnc.org by clicking on the "Donations" button.

- **A Parish Council member will hand out tapers to be lit. The 7 day votive candles are to be lit on behalf of the parishioner by a designated person** if possible.
- Honor is to be shown to Holy Icons and the Holy Cross by only doing your cross and bowing, keeping in mind not to kiss or to touch the Holy Icons and the Holy Cross.
- No one is to enter the Holy Altar except the clergy and assigned altar servers.
- No service books should be distributed or left out for common use. This includes papers of any kind (bulletins etc.). Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own service books.

During Holy Communion

- **Communicants must line up row by row (with help from Parish Council) and remain six feet** apart using the designated social distancing X's that have been placed in the church.
- **Communicants may remove their masks only momentarily to receive Holy Communion.**
- Clergy and altar servers must wear a mask during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The red communion cloths (μάκτρα) will be held underneath the person's chin by the altar servers. The communicant may not touch it and absolutely no wiping of mouths.
- No antidoron will be distributed at the time of Communion but instead at the end of the service.

After services

- After the dismissal, the clergy will distribute the antidoron wearing a mask and gloves and they will not offer their hands for reverence.
- Clergy and faithful will refrain from handshakes or hugs.
- There will be no coffee/social hour or Sunday school classes until further notice. Parishioners should leave the Nave as soon as the Divine Liturgy is concluded.

Remember that parishioners who are at a higher risk for severe illness from Covid-19 as defined by civil authorities, or those who are uncomfortable with returning at this time, are given dispensation by Metropolitan Alexios to refrain from attending in person. We encourage those faithful to participate in the experience of our sacred worship at home, by continuing to watch our live streams which we will continue to provide. We look forward to the time when all may feel safe in returning to Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that have been continuing their weekly practice of making a Sunday offering, and lighting a candle by means of using the donations prompt on our website. We appreciate those who are maintaining the Church by means of their Stewardship and Building Fund donations. During these difficult times I want to say that your support is not taken lightly because it means so much to all of us at Saint Barbara.

May the Lord Keep You Strong in your Life so that Nothing but the Love of God will take it over.

Fr. Stavroforos Mamaies

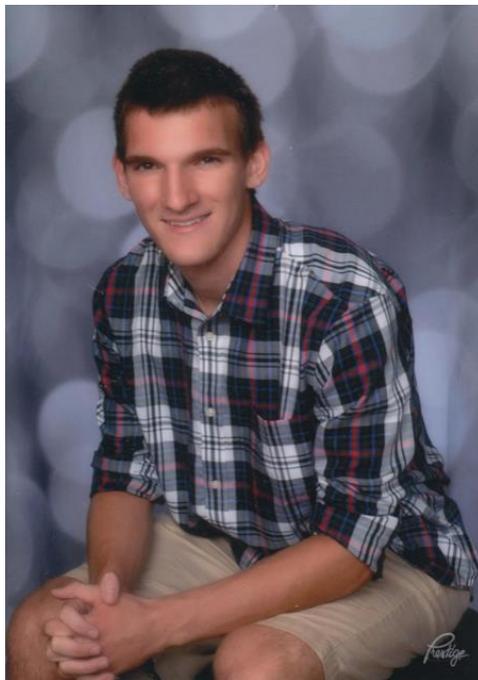
Fr. Stavroforos

STEWARDS AS OF JULY 6, 2020

Our 2020 Stewardship drive has slowed. As of July 6, 2020, we have 139 Stewards, or 87% of our goal of 160 for the year. Please help us meet our annual goal by pledging your support. Your time, talents and treasury are critical to the success of our Ministries.

We need your help during these trying times. 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. Our expenses don't stop. 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. Thank you.

Ackerley, John & Elly	Dais, George & Helen	Mamaies, Fr. Stavroforos	Quint, Angelia
Alexander, Dr. Susan	Delagrammatikas, George	Mangum, Daniel & Dr. Hrisavgi	Rheinhardt, Keith & Alexia
Alexiades, Alec & Frances	& Christal	Mariakakis, Johnny & Catherine	Rudnick, Ben & Irene
Alger, Amy	Demetriades, Gus & Vanessa	Marinos, Dr. Pete & Joan	Safarikas, Al & Christine
Amos, Matt & Vickie	Dennos, Anne	Martin, Azeb	Saloupis, Peter
Arapoglou, Alexander & Laurel	Dennos, George & Patricia	Mavroidis, Panagiotis	Sarris, George & Jenny
Assimos, Dean & Jan	Dorton, Betty	& Dimitra	Stavarakakis, Mattheos & Marika
Arvanitis, Marina	Easton, Bryan & Maria	Mavrogiorgos, Dr. Nikolaos	Stephens, Hon. Ron & Vicky
Bakis, Basile & Mary	Edwards, Tia	& Charlot, Dr. Marjorie	Stutts, Linda
Bakis, George & Marie	Ferris, Laurice	McCoy, Josh	Sullivan, William & Jennifer
Balafas, Nicholas & Eugenia	Fitzherbert, Dimitra	McGovern, Victoria	Sunas, Marian
Boska, Marilyn	Frangakis, Crist & Maria	McKillip, Cathy	Tesfatsion, Senait
Barbee, Effie	Gerondelis, Socratis & Aliki	Megaro, Matthew & Tina	Theodosiadis, Zacharias
Becak, Thalia	Georgiou, Nicholas	Mehalek, John & Dawn	& Marinetou, Efstanthia
Beridze, Tamar	Gkouloumis, Konstantinos	Mermigas, Nicholas	Theophanous, Rebecca
Biggs, John & Diana Dobrica	& Mantzouka, Eleftheria	Napier, David & Courtney	Trohanis, Donna
Blackley, Agape	Glekas, Dr. George & Dr. Amy	Nolas, Billy & Julie	Tryphonos, Tryphonos & Suzanne
Bonfiglio, Barbara	Glekas, Jim & Evy	Odzak, Larry & Hope	
Bourbous, Nick	Goodwin, Len & Elaine	Paliouras, Cindy	Tzilvelis, Jane
Callahan, Katherine	Grasso, V. & Elenie	Paliouras, James & Helen	Valakas, Antonia
Carr, Sophie	Greene, Marlyana	Paliouras, John & Dena	Varelas, Dimitrios
Capsalis, Anne	Kacoyanis, Anna	Paliours, Nicholas	Varelas, Georgina
Capsalis, Manuel & Carole	Kacoyanis, Paul	Panos, Peter & Evelyn	Varelas, John
Christakos, Andrew & Cheryl	Kamilaris, Christos & Janet	Panov, Yuri & Elena Eliseeva	Vlachos, Demetra
Christakos, Arthur	Kantner, Ed & Eve	Pantelidis, James & Stella	Vurnakes, James & Frances
Christakos, Eleni	Karamalegos, Antonios & Claire	Pantermakis, George & Janet	Walter, August
Christakos, Lia	Karas, George & Karen	Papanikas, Kleanthis	Walter, Ray & Eleni
Christie, George & Deborah	Kash, Dr. Thomas & Dr Zoe McElligott	& Angelika	Waters, Alexa
Chronaki, Bessie	Katsiagianis, Wendy	Papanikas, Sam & Cleopatra	& Gerhard, William
Chronaki, Bessie	Korach, Dr. Kenneth & Karen	Papazoglou, Matina	Watters, Jacques & Christine
Cocolas, Erie	Koutouzakis, Helen	Pappas, Katherine	Wilson, Preston & Catherine
Constantinou, Catherine	Kuyper, Dr. Andrew	Pappas, Dr. Ted & Theky	Wippich, Robert & Roberta
& Wes Platt	Kujyper, Dr. Lee & Pauline	Paraschos, Sophia	Witham, Grace & Brantley, Nick
Constantinou, Costa	Lambiris, Elias & Madelene	Pashales, George	Xenakis, Betsy
Constantinou, Lou	Lockett, Paul & Melanie	Przybyl, Daniel & Lori	Zaferatos, Dino & Kerri
Costas, Dean	Loden, Martha	Qaqish, Dr. Olgha	Zehia, Christina
Dababnah, Sharan	Livas, Katherine	& Arboleda, Mario	Zehia, Tony & Evelyn
			Zoumbos, Vasili



ΕΝΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΟ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ

Belatedly, a big thank you to Nicholas Georgiou from the St. Barbara community for joining Dr. Pete Marinos and Panayiotis Mavroidis as cantor for the Lenten and Holy Week services. Together, our three chanters helped everyone celebrate the blessed season of Lent and the joy of Easter.



As the pandemic drags on, it is imperative that S. Barbara Church up its game in the streaming services we offer. Right now, we have a makeshift setup using Father Stavroforos laptop, a cheap webcam and a microphone on a table.

We need to do better! And we can. And thanks to the generosity of the ladies of Philoptochos, we have a budget to make it happen.

If you have any knowledge or experience in the audiovisual field and are willing to help design and implement a better solution, please contact John Varelas at johnvarelas@gmail.com or (919) 749-3645.

THANK YOU!!!

A Unique Opportunity to Double the Value of Your 2020 Donations

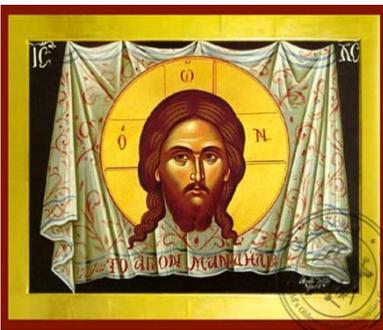
If you give more in 2020 than your combined 2019 dollar contributions to the Stewardship, Mortgage and Contingency Funds, your additional contributions will be matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor. The total amount available for matching funds is \$50,000. With full Parish participation in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

The "Holy Napkin", or the icon "Not Made By Hands", is the very first icon ever made, and it was made in a miraculous way by Our Lord Jesus Christ himself.

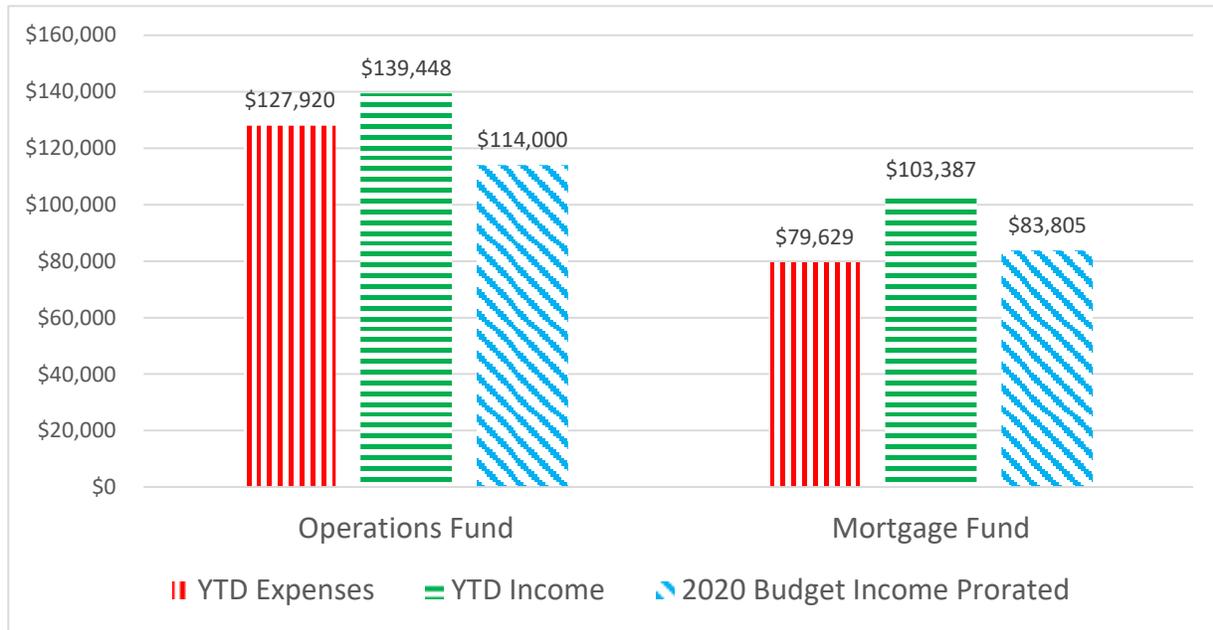


When King Avgarus (who had leprosy) heard of Jesus Christ's miracles and His power helping numerous people, he sent an artist from his court to invite Christ to come to his kingdom, Osroene. The artist was also asked to bring back a portrait of Christ, because the king felt that if he could only see the image of this notorious "Man", it would heal him. The artist tried many times to capture Jesus Christ's Face but was unsuccessful at accomplishing this task. The men-loving Lord took a cloth and brought it to His Face, and a true likeness was impressed on the cloth. This cloth was brought to King Avgarus and it healed him. This first icon given to us was "Not Made By Hands".

Later when the Apostle Jude Thaddeus was sent to preach to Edessa, capital of the Osroene's kingdom, Avgarus converted to Christianity and became one of the first Christian kings.

The original Holy Napkin cloth was kept in Edessa until 944 when it was brought to Constantinople, and it has become a pattern from which all subsequent icons of Christ Not Made By Hands are made.

	June		Year to Date		2020 Budget
	June Expenses	June Income	YTD Expenses	YTD Income	Income Prorated
Operations Fund	\$21,484	\$15,527	\$127,920	\$139,448	\$114,000
Mortgage Fund	\$13,229	\$9,614	\$79,629	\$103,387	\$83,805



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 \$13,000/month.

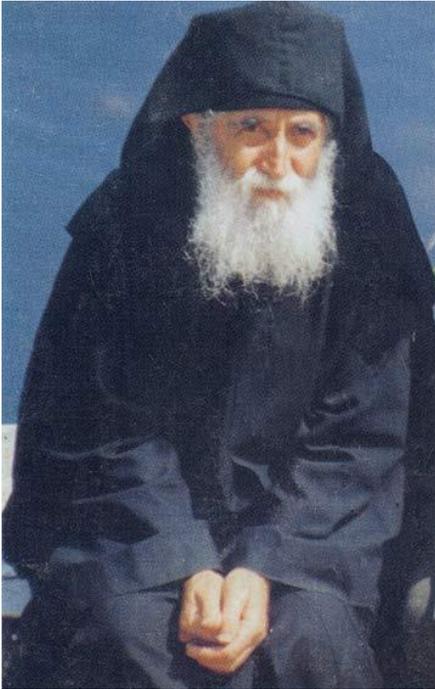
DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ The Parish Council has canceled all of the Mortgage Fund food event fundraisers through August. Our Parish budget for 2020 included \$34,000 in profits from our smaller food events. The only event still tentatively scheduled is the Athenian Grill in November, concurrent with the Philoptochos pastry sale which will have to be canceled if the pandemic situation doesn't improve dramatically. These fundraisers cover approximately three months of mortgage payments for the year.
- ❖ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parish Council has tentatively rescheduled the Greek Festival to the weekend of October 10th and 11th. We all pray that by October, this terrible pandemic has passed – primarily for the health and safety of our Parish family and all people everywhere but also so that we may have our Festival. This year, our Parish budget included \$62,000 in expected profits from the festival to cover our operating expenses; e.g., electricity, water, insurance, salary, etc.
- ❖ Our income is not keeping pace with our expenses. Our combined shortfall for June was just under \$10,000.
- ❖ As always, our concern, first and foremost, is the well-being of our parish community members. We understand that this this terrible crisis may have affected many in our community, through either loss of employment or business income, and you may currently be unable to give. Our prayers are with you, for your health foremost, and for a quick return to normalcy, and with normalcy, a return to successful employment and a prosperous business environment. May Our Lord bless your efforts with abundance.
- ❖ And finally, thank you so much to all of you who have already been giving online and by mail while we are apart. May Our Lord bless your continued generosity and may He keep us all safe and healthy until we gather again.

ST. PAISIOS THE ATHONITE: THE COMFORTER OF SOULS

July 12

Archimandrite Gregorios of Gregoriou



Saint Paisios the Athonite brings solace to every soul

Elder Paisios has no need of any praise or introduction from us. With his imitation of Christ's love, he satisfied both God and other people and this is why he's widely praised in the Church of God.

He had the rare gift of being able to bring solace to people of all works of life, irrespective of their level of education or their spiritual state. I remember the case of a psychiatrist/psychoanalyst who came to visit our monastery after an encounter with the Elder. Not only had he found peace, but he also told me that what the Elder had said to him was the last word in modern psychiatry. It's well known that the Elder didn't read books, other than the Gospels and Abba Isaak the Syrian.

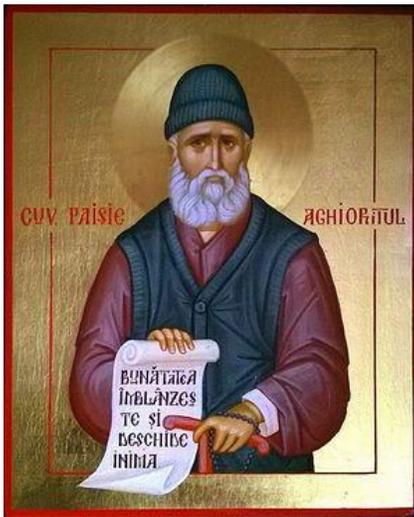
If it was to bring solace to a soul, he would spare neither time nor effort. There was once I was curious to know how he was able to cure a young man with severe psychological problems. Out of respect, I didn't ask him. Years later he satisfied my curiosity as follows: "When people have a problem you have to listen carefully, for as long as they're talking and not give any sign that you're tired, because then you'll lose everything. Well, I listened to that young man one day for nine hours, without moving. That's when my insides were damaged." It wasn't the only time that the sacrificial love of Father Paisios worked a miracle.

On another occasion, when I asked him about a difficult problem I'd encountered in confession, as a spiritual father, he told me: "Listen,

father, when you become a spiritual father, you have to be prepared to go down into hell for those you confess. Otherwise, don't bother. But what I have to say is that, if you go to hell, you'll make it paradise, because you'll have love." Amazing advice, that only a God-bearing person would be able to give.

It's well known that, in the last thirty years, Our Most Holy Lady has ensured an influx of new monks to the Holy Mountain. Father Paisios was one of those elders who helped many young men to take the decision to become monks. He even helped many young monks to take root on the Holy Mountain and to bear fruit. We felt him to be at our side in our struggle to take pastoral care of our young monks, a coach for many who were fighting the devil, the passions, the world.

Saint Paisios the Athonite teaches spiritual dignity and generous pride



The Elder often advised us to have spiritual dignity and generous pride. These were the virtues that distinguished him, too, as everybody knew who met him. I once went to visit him in his old kelli of the Precious Cross and after our chat I said goodbye to him, but he accompanied me for quite a way. As soon as I told him not to tire himself out and to go back to his kelli, he said goodbye and went back. If I hadn't said anything he'd have gone with me as far as our representative's house in Karyes.

I should also say that he rarely showed his gift of foresight and never to show off, but only for the benefit of souls. Once a young monk visited him. The young man was having bad thoughts about his abbot, who refused to have a short jacket made for him. Before the monk said a word, the Elder said to him: "What are these thoughts you're having about your abbot not giving you a jacket?"

He used to comfort young monks when they were troubled by some weakness they had, such as jealousy, which he called faults of immaturity. Naturally, he told them to grow up and get over them.

Father Paisios was also outstanding as regards the highest of all the virtues—[discrimination](#). He was able to help every soul to discover its true inclination and the direction given it by God, so that it could find its own tranquillity.

His love embraced the whole world. He helped so many people, particularly the young, to live a Christian life in the outside world and in a family.

When you talked to the Elder you felt you were in the arms of God.

It ought also to be stressed that Father Paisios was very sensitive to dogmatic issues. He once wrote to me that "Dogmas don't enter the European Union." In this he followed the path of all the holy Fathers, who believed and confessed that it was not only virtue but also the Orthodox faith that people needed to be saved.

His holy life was corroborated by his holy death. He accepted his painful illness as a gift from God and rejoiced at the thought that Christians living in the outside world, and who were suffering from the same illness, would find comfort in the fact that monks were also susceptible to it.

He had overcome any love of self. He wasn't concerned about his own illness, but when he was on his bed of pain he continued to think about his fellow-sufferers. Even in the last days of his life he was interested in people's problems. A God-fearing couple came to see him only a few days before he passed away. They had unmarried daughters and he told them: "I'm giving you a direct order to make sure that your daughters are properly set up." Through his prayers, his command and desire came to pass.

May your memory be eternal, venerable Elder. We're grateful for everything you've given us, for your consolation, and for your teaching, both through what you've told us and through the way you lived. Pray that we may follow your footsteps as you did those of Christ our Saviour.

Archimandrite Gregorios of Gregoriou

7/12/2016

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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