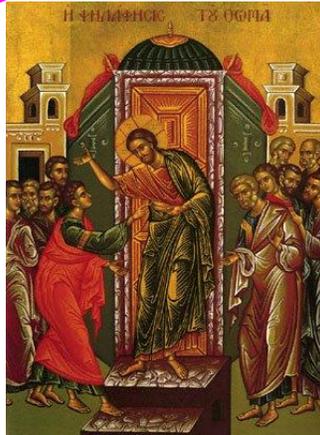




Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
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Durham NC 27713 919-484-1600
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com
www.stbarbarachurchnc.org
News & Announcements
May 9, 2021

Thomas Sunday
Κυριακή του Θωμά

Happy Mother's Day



- [The Holy Prophet Esaias \(Isaiah\) 5/9/2021](#)
- [Christopher the Martyr of Lycea 5/9/2021](#)
- Monk-martyr Nicholas who lived in Vuneni, of Larissa in Thessaly **5/9/2021**
 - Epimachos the New Martyr of Alexandria **5/9/2021**
 - The New Martyrs of Novo Selo, Bulgaria **5/9/2021**

Broadcast Prep Time 9:55 to 10:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy & Broadcast start time 10:00 a.m

Sunday Service Viewing Broadcast Instructions:

You are asked to please click on to
<https://stbarbarachurchnc.org/youtube>

We will begin streaming at around 9:50 am, and the service will start at 10:00 sharp.

Also, we need everyone to click the subscribe button to register, as this is important to keep our Saint Barbara broadcast alive for future services.

Thank You,

Crist Frangakis

The Sunday Epistle Reading

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.



The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἰσχύς αὐτοῦ.

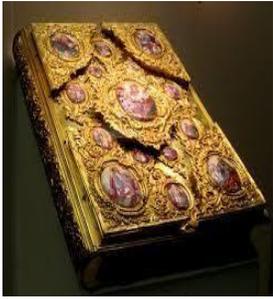
Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.

Πράξεις των Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα 5:12-20

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, διὰ δὲ τῶν χειρῶν τῶν ἀποστόλων ἐγένετο β σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα ἐν τῷ λαῷ πολλά· καὶ ἦσαν ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἅπαντες ἐν τῇ στοᾷ Σολομῶντος. Τῶν δὲ λοιπῶν οὐδεὶς ἐτόλμα κολλᾶσθαι αὐτοῖς, ἀλλ' ἐμεγάλυνεν αὐτοὺς ὁ λαός· μᾶλλον δὲ προσετίθεντο πιστεύοντες τῷ κυρίῳ, πλήθη ἀνδρῶν τε καὶ γυναικῶν· ὥστε κατὰ τὰς πλατείας ἐκφέρειν τοὺς ἀσθενεῖς, καὶ τιθέναι ἐπὶ κλινῶν καὶ κραββάτων, ἵνα ἐρχομένου Πέτρου κἂν ἡ σκιά ἐπισκιάσῃ τινὶ αὐτῶν. Συνήρχετο δὲ καὶ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν πέριξ πόλεων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, φέροντες ἀσθενεῖς καὶ ὀχλουμένους ὑπὸ πνευμάτων ἀκαθάρτων, οἵτινες ἐθεραπεύοντο ἅπαντες. Ἀναστάς δὲ ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς καὶ πάντες οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ - ἡ οὖσα αἵρεσις τῶν Σαδδουκαίων - ἐπλήσθησαν ζήλου, καὶ ἐπέβαλον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀποστόλους, καὶ ἔθεντο αὐτοὺς ἐν τηρήσει δημοσίᾳ. Ἄγγελος δὲ κυρίου διὰ τῆς νυκτὸς ἠνοιξεν τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, ἐξαγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἶπεν, Πορεύεσθε, καὶ σταθέντες λαλεῖτε ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ τῷ λαῷ πάντα τὰ ῥήματα τῆς ζωῆς ταύτης.

The Sunday Gospel Reading

The Gospel According to John 20:19-31



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην Ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα 20:19-31

Οὔσης ὀψίας τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ τῇ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ. Ἐχάρησαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον. Εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, καὶ γὰρ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον· ἃν τινῶν ἀφῆτε τὰς ἀμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἃν τινῶν κρατῆτε, κεκράτηνται.

Θωμᾶς δὲ εἷς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς. Ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταί· Ἐωράκαμεν τὸν Κύριον. Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὴν χεῖρά μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω. Καὶ μεθ' ἡμέρας ὀκτὼ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν. Ἐρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ εἶπεν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾶ· Φέρε τὸν δάκτυλόν σου ὧδε καὶ ἴδε τὰς χεῖράς μου, καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν μου, καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος, ἀλλὰ πιστός. Καὶ ἀπεκρίθη Θωμᾶς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου. Λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Ὅτι ἐώρακάς με, πεπίστευκας· μακάριοι οἱ μὴ ἰδόντες καὶ πιστεύσαντες. Πολλὰ μὲν οὖν καὶ ἄλλα σημεῖα ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐνώπιον τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, ἃ οὐκ ἔστι γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ· ταῦτα δὲ γέγραπται ἵνα πιστεύσητε ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἵνα πιστεύοντες ζωὴν ἔχητε ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ.

Being A Mother



After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said, "I love you, but I know this other woman loves you too, and she would love to spend some time with you."

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my MOTHER, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

"What's wrong, are you well?" she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

"I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you," I responded. "Just the two of us." She thought about it for a moment, and then said, "I would like that very much."

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up, I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

"I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting."

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

"It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said.

"Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation - nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed.

"How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home.

"Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son."

At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: "I LOVE YOU" and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till "some other time."

~ Author Unknown

Η συγκινητική ιστορία μίας μητέρας

«Δεν κάνω θυσίες για τα παιδιά μου, γιατί όλη μου η ζωή είναι αυτά...» λόγια μιας μάνας που όσο απλά κι αναμενόμενα θεωρούνται, συγκλονίζουν πάντα για το απόλυτο της ανιδιοτέλειας, της αγάπης της και μάλιστα μιας αγάπης, που γεννήθηκε και γιγαντώθηκε μέσα από δυσκολίες και συνεχή αγώνα.

Η 50χρονη Μαρία ζει σε ένα χωριό της Κω. Έχει τρία παιδιά. Το πρώτο της, ένα κορίτσι, το απέκτησε όταν ήταν 18 ετών, γεννήθηκε με νοητική στέρωση.

«Όταν σε ηλικία 8 μηνών καταλάβαμε ότι η μικρή έχει πρόβλημα αφοσιώθηκα σε αυτήν. Δεν ήθελα να κάνω άλλα παιδιά γιατί ήθελα να υπάρχω μόνο γι αυτήν. Ήθελα να έχει όλη μου την αγάπη» λέει στο ΑΠΕ-ΜΠΕ.

«Όταν μου είπαν οι γιατροί το πρόβλημα, το δέχθηκα αμέσως. Δεν σκέφτηκα ούτε στιγμή να την αποχωριστώ. Είπα, αυτό μου έδωσε ο Θεός, με αυτό θα προχωρήσω. Την πήγαινα στο νηπιαγωγείο στο χωριό, πριν το ειδικό σχολείο και θυμάμαι μία μέρα μια γιαγιά που με ρώτησε, αυτό είναι το άρρωστό σου το παιδί; Της απάντησα ναι, δεν είπα τίποτα άλλο. Τι να πω; Δεν έκλεισα το παιδί στο σπίτι. Έβγαινα έξω μαζί με την κόρη μου, παντού».

Τελικά, με την προτροπή του συζύγου της, απέκτησαν και δύο αγόρια, 27 και 16 ετών, σήμερα. «Όταν ήρθε το δεύτερο παιδί ήμασταν ακόμη καλύτερα. Η μεγάλη άρχισε να συμπεριφέρεται διαφορετικά, της άρεσε που είχε αδελφό. Εγώ πάλι, για να μην στενοχωρηθεί για τίποτα η κόρη μου και για να ανταποκρίνομαι στις ανάγκες και των δύο, έκανα τη νύχτα μέρα». Όμως, παρά τις προσπάθειες, παρά το συνεχή αγώνα, οι τύψεις για τη **μάννα** παραμένουν... θα μπορούσε πάντα, να ήταν καλύτερη...

«Το δεύτερο παιδί μπορεί να έχει νιώσει άσχημα γιατί όταν ήταν ακόμη μωρό, το άφησα για περίπου έξι μήνες με τον πατέρα του και τους παππούδες του στην Κω για να πάω σε ειδικό σχολείο στην Αθήνα και τη Ρόδο την κόρη μου, επέστρεψα στο νησί μόλις άρχισε να λειτουργεί κι εδώ ειδικό σχολείο. Είναι πολύ δύσκολο, να είσαι ανάμεσα σε δύο παιδιά, να αφήνεις το μωρό σου πίσω και να πρέπει προσφέρεις στο μεγάλο γιατί σε έχει περισσότερη ανάγκη».

Και τα προβλήματα δεν σταμάτησαν... Το 2006, πέθανε ο σύζυγός της από καρκίνο. Η Μαρία ήταν 42 ετών, δεν εργαζόταν μέχρι τότε, καθώς ήταν πάντα δίπλα στην κόρη της και στα άλλα δύο παιδιά της. «Μετά το θάνατο του άνδρα μου φοβήθηκα, αν και ήμουν αυτή που έτρεχα πάντα σε όλα, είχα μια πλάτη να ακουμπήσω... όταν πέθανε συνέχιζα να κάνω τα ίδια, αλλά δεν είχα κάπου να στηριχθώ. Σκεφτόμουν, τι θα κάνω με τα παιδιά, τι θα γίνει με την κόρη μου που έχει το πρόβλημα, αν φύγω κι εγώ... Για δύο χρόνια μετά το θάνατο του συζύγου μου υπήρχα μέσα στο σπίτι, αλλά δεν ήμουν παρούσα...».

Μέχρι τη στιγμή που αντέδρασε ο μεγάλος της γιος και η Μαρία φοβήθηκε ότι θα τον χάσει... Τα παιδιά της αποτέλεσαν το κίνητρο για να ξαναζήσει... «Ο γιος μου, μου είπε, "αν συνεχίσεις έτσι, εγώ θα φύγω, αποφάσισε τι θέλεις ή θα βγάλεις τα μαύρα, θα σταθείς στα πόδια σου και θα αλληλοστηριζόμαστε ή θα φύγω". Και είπα στον εαυτό μου, "Μαρία σήκω, προχώρα γιατί έτσι θέλει η ζωή, προχώρα πρέπει να είσαι εκεί και για τα τρία παιδιά σου". Τώρα, ο γιος μου έρχεται με αγκαλιάζει, λέει, "μανούλα μου" και το λέει μέσα από την ψυχή του. Κέρδισα πάλι το παιδί μου».

Όπως διηγείται η Μαρία, στο πλαίσιο αυτής της προσπάθειας που έκανε για να σταθεί στα πόδια της μετά το θάνατο του συζύγου της, εντάσσεται και η απόφασή της να πάει σε νυχτερινό σχολείο. «Έπρεπε να νιώσω καλά για να στηρίξω τα παιδιά μου. Πηγαίνω δύο χρόνια στο γυμνάσιο και του χρόνου τελειώνω. Με στηρίζουν τα αγόρια μου, κάνουν παρέα στην αδελφή τους τα βράδια, κι εγώ πηγαίνω σχολείο. Θέλω να πιστεύω ότι με το σχολείο ήρθα πιο κοντά στα παιδιά μου, και περισσότερο στο μικρό μου».

Όσο για την οικονομική της κατάσταση, τα προβλήματα έγιναν μεγάλα από την ώρα που πέθανε ο σύζυγος της, παρά το γεγονός ότι τη βοηθούν οι δικοί της άνθρωποι, η μάνα της και οι αδελφές της, καθώς έχασε τον πατέρα της δύο χρόνια μετά το θάνατο του συζύγου της. «Εργάστηκα σε εποχικές δουλειές, για κάποια διαστήματα στο δήμο και φέτος, περιμένω απάντηση για μια δουλειά στον τουριστικό κλάδο, αλλά είναι δύσκολο. Τα ωράρια του ειδικού σχολείου θέτουν περιορισμούς στις ώρες που μπορώ να εργάζομαι...».

«Η οικονομική κρίση έχει επηρεάσει τη ζωή μας πολύ. Ο χειμώνας που πέρασε ήταν ο χειρότερος από τότε που πέθανε ο άνδρας μου. Η οικογένεια στηρίζεται στο επίδομα που παίρνει η κόρη μου και σε μια πολύ μικρή σύνταξη του συζύγου μου. Ο Απρίλιος ήταν πολύ δύσκολος μήνας. Μου λέει όμως, ο γιος μου, "ρε μάνα εσύ έχεις περάσει τόσα, τώρα θα το βάλεις κάτω;". Έτσι λοιπόν, λέω σε όσους αντιμετωπίζουν προβλήματα, να μην το βάζουν κάτω, κάθε μέρα είναι διαφορετική. Κάθε μέρα ξυπνάμε και αν είμαστε καλά, λέμε, θα τα καταφέρουμε».

Τι εύχεται η Μαρία για το μέλλον... «με την κόρη μου δεν θα αλλάξουν τα πράγματα. Θα πρέπει κάποιος να είναι πάντα δίπλα της. Θέλω να μπορούμε να συνεχίσουμε τη ζωή μας και οι τέσσερις. Να έχω μια δουλειά και οι γιοι μου να κάνουν τις δικές τους οικογένειες, να προχωρήσουν».

Στην ερώτηση ποια είναι η ανταμοιβή για τον αγώνα της, η Μαρία απαντά, «να ακούω τα παιδιά να λένε "Μανούλα μου!". Όταν ακούς τις λέξεις αυτές είναι το ομορφότερο δώρο για μένα στη ζωή...» Ιδιαίτερα από την κόρη της... «ήρθε από το σχολείο πριν λίγες ημέρες και μου λέει, με αφορμή τη γιορτή της μητέρας: "όλες οι μανούλες μας γιορτάζουν, μανούλα μου!"».

Πηγή: ΑΜΠΕ





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

April 8, 2021

The Holy Apostles of the Seventy Herodion, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, and Hermes

My Beloved concelebrants in the Lord, esteemed Parish Council Presidents and members, Philoptochos Presidents and members, Revered Monastics and faithful,

I greet you my beloved with love and joy as we approach Holy Week.

My heart is filled with renewed joy and happiness, as we draw near to the most Holy time of the year, as we become participants in Christ's, Death, Burial and Resurrection. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the faithful participated in Holy Week services from their homes—an unprecedented phenomenon. As the Body of Christ, we lamented that we were not able to be physically present to receive God's transformative Sacramental blessings. One year later, we find ourselves in a different situation; though the Coronavirus is still with us, we are blessed to have—with some limitations—our spiritual homes open.

As we move forward and some restrictions are being eased, my mind cannot help but remember the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, *"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being."* (1 Cor. 10:23-24)

I would like to convey to all the faithful of the God-protected Metropolis of Atlanta, in a spirit of love and well-being, that we were able to host a webinar with the Clergy and Parish Council Presidents on Tuesday, April 6, in which additional changes to the COVID guidelines were discussed.

This current letter is a follow-up to [the one that was sent on March 30, 2021, which can be viewed HERE](#). Below, you will find answers to the questions that were submitted both before and during the webinar.

With the help of all those who joined, a sense of peace and understanding was achieved as we strove toward our main focus, which is to help the faithful return to worship. Perhaps not everyone will return immediately, however, we must do our best to meet the needs of the faithful, using common sense, flexibility, patience and understanding. In peace and harmony, we must work towards our ultimate goal, which is the reopening of our communities for worship and fellowship.

I would like to reiterate that everyone must continue to follow all the State and local regulations in your particular area as we move forward in our parishes.

With this in mind, there are some additional adjustments to our current guidelines.

Contact Tracing

- We will continue to write down the names of all those who attend each service, so that if an outbreak occurs all who attended that service may be notified.

Physical Distancing

- All State and local regulations should be followed for distancing requirements; however, pastoral discretion, kindness and flexibility must be considered in serving the needs of all parishioners. For larger households and individuals who are comfortable sitting closer together (including those who have been vaccinated), space may be designated in the church to facilitate this. Additionally, for households and individuals who are more comfortable with physical distancing, space may be designated in the church to facilitate this as well. Where possible, communities that have the required space should consider designating certain areas available for those who wish to worship with respect to physical distancing recommendations, and other areas for those who are more comfortable seated in closer proximity.

Masks

- Masks are to continue being worn by all those attending services, with the momentary removal of the mask just before receiving the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Unction.

Candles

- After an offering is given, and the person has sanitized their hands, they may take their own candle(s) and light them.

Veneration of Icons and Liturgical Items

- Veneration of Icons, the Holy Cross, etc., may occur with the person being masked. If a person decides to momentarily remove their mask to venerate, then there will need to be a dedicated layperson or Altar Server to sanitize the venerated items.

Chanters and Choirs

- Multiple chanters at one chant stand may resume as long as all face forward and are properly distanced from the congregation. Masks are required when not chanting.
- Choirs may resume with masks as spacing may not be adequate to accommodate everyone. However, if masks are removed, then COVID distancing guidelines should be adhered to. Attention should be paid on spacing so that none of the Choir members face the congregation or each other, (if choirs ordinarily face the congregation, please ensure that a safe amount of physical distance is placed, so that the choir will not be in close proximity to the congregation). Choir Directors should avoid standing directly in front of the choir facing them, unless they are wearing a mask or a face shield. Another alternative would be to have a plexiglass separator installed. Masks are required when not singing.

Trays

It is encouraged, but not mandatory, to find other means of receiving donations rather than passing trays. Some suggestions may include:

- Traditional way (wearing gloves and masks)
- Through texting as set up by the parishes' bank
- Website
- Donation app
- Tray at entrance or exit of church
- Other

Youth, Education, and Hellenic Culture Diakonia

- When possible and permitted by State and local regulations, all education classes (Day, Afternoon, Sunday School, and Adult) as well as youth, young adult ministries and meetings may resume in-person teaching and gatherings following all COVID distancing guidelines as described by the CDC including the wearing of masks

Fellowship

- When possible and permitted by State and local regulations, fellowship, luncheons and coffee hours may resume with people following physical distancing guidelines, as these events permit masks not be worn while eating, drinking, etc. Once a person has finished, their mask is to be worn. Any food is to be served by designated individuals who are wearing gloves and masks. Buffets are discouraged, except in instances where the food is distributed by designated servers in proper safety attire (gloves and masks), and where the food lines allow for proper social distancing.
- Dancing may also resume, provided that all are wearing masks and that hands will be washed or sanitized before and after dancing. Handkerchiefs may also be used as an alternative to holding hands.

Education, Hellenic Culture and Youth Diakonia

- When possible and permitted by State and local regulations, all education classes (Day, Afternoon, Sunday School, and Adult) as well as youth, young adult ministries and meetings may resume in-person teaching and gatherings following all COVID distancing guidelines as described by the CDC including the wearing of masks.

Please accept these changes with compassion and consideration for everyone as we try to bring the faithful back to worshiping in a customary manner in their spiritual home, so that we may address *“one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ to God the Father.”* (Eph. 5:19-20)

May the journey through our Lord's passion bring us to the celebration of Pascha, I remain,

Paternaly yours with love and blessings,

+ ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta

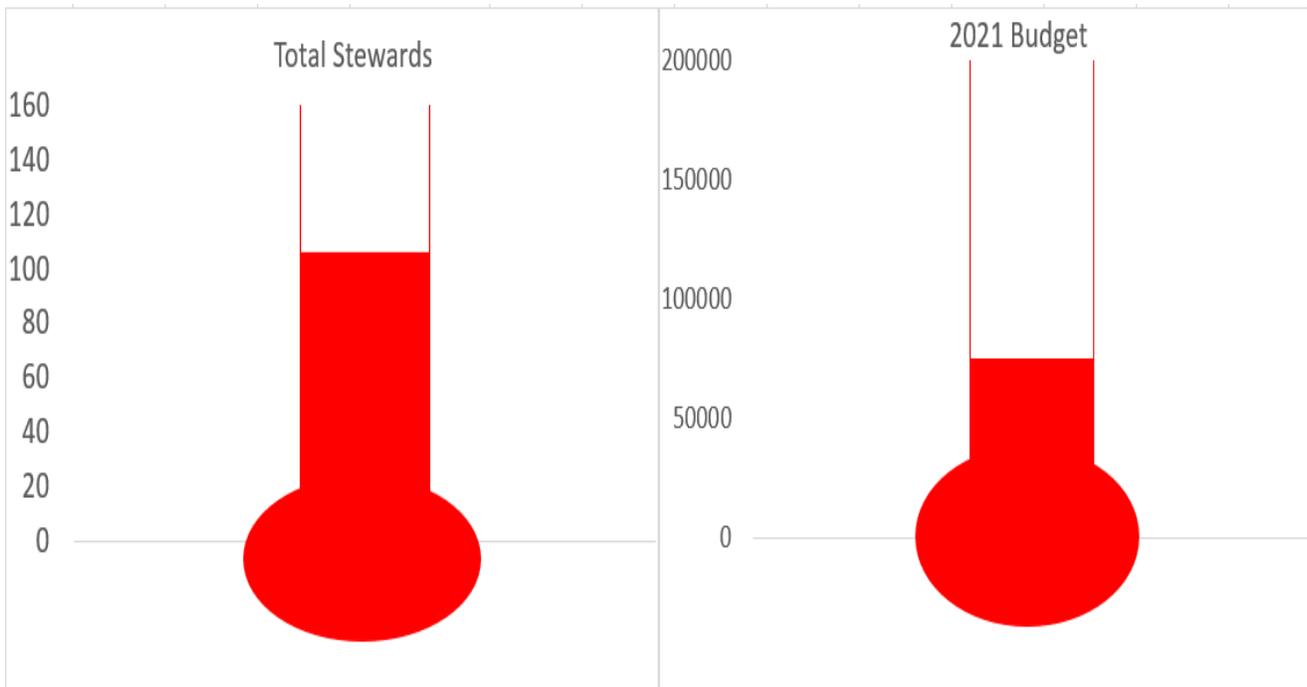
❖ 2021 Stewardship Campaign

❖ Dear Parishioners and Friends:

❖ With your help we can meet our goal of 160 stewards and \$200,000. Please pledge today at: www.stbarbarachurch.org/donation

❖

❖ *Give with joy*



❖

❖

❖

Thank you to all our stewards. Your generous stewardship ensures that our beautiful St. Barbara continues as a vibrant community where everyone is welcome. Stewards are caretakers.

❖ *Thank you again.*

Stewards as of May 6, 2021

Thank you for your continuing support of St. Barbara. As of May 6, 2021 we had 114 Stewards or 71% of our 2021 goal of 160. Please join us to meet our annual goal by pledging your support. Your time, talents and treasury are critical to the success of our ministries and meeting our operating expenses.

We continue to need your help during these trying times. Please give prayerful consideration to your 2021 contribution as soon as possible. The Church's mission and expenses continue in the face of the Covid pandemic. Please help your Church. Thank you. We depend heavily on Stewardship support to meet our needs.

Alexander, Dr. Susan	Demetriades, Gus & Vanessa	Lambiris, Elias & Madelene	Pashales, George
Alexiades, Alec and Frances	Dennos, Anne	Livanos, Geoge	Przybyl, Daniel & Lori
Alger, Amy	Dennos, George & Patricia	Livas, Katherine	Qaqish, Dr. Olgha
Amos, Matt & Vicky	Dorton, Betty	Lockett, Paul & Melanie	& Arboleda, Mario
Arvanitis, Marina	Easton, Brian & Maria	Loden, Martha	Quint, Angelia
Assimos, Dean	Edwards, Tia	Lagodinos, Nikolaos &	Rheinhardt, Keith & Alexa
Bakis, Basile & Mary	Fedorovska, Natalya	Patras, Konstantina	Rudnick, Ben & Irene
Bakis, James	Ferris, Laurice	Magnum Daniel & Dr. Hrisavgi	Safarikas, Al & Christine
Balafas, Nicholas & Eugenia	Fotinos, Nickolas & Myriam	Mamaies, Fr. Stavroforos	Saloupis, Peter
Barbee, Effie	Kacoyianis, Anna	Mariakakis, Johnny & Catherine	Shepard, Bernadette
Becak, Thalia	Frangakis, Dr. Crist & Maria	Marinos, Pete and Joan	Stavrakakis, Mattheos &
Biggs, John & Diana Dobrica	Gkouloumis, Konstantinos	Martin, Azeb	Stutts, Linda
Bonfiglio, Barbara	& Mantzouka, Eleftheria	Mavrogiorgos, Dr. Nicholas &	Sullivan, Bill and Jennifer
Callahan, Katherine Marie	Glekas, Dr. George & Dr. Amy	Dr. Marjory Charlot	Sunas, Marian
Capsalis, Manuel	Glekas, Jim & Evy	Messis, Panos	Tedfatsion, Senait
Carr, Sophie	Goodwin, Len & Elaine	McGovern, Victoria	Theophanos, Rebecca
Chamis, Christos & Alice	Hondos, Effie & Dina	Morris, Kostantinos	Trohanis, Donna
Christakos, Andrew & Cheryl	Kacoyianis, Paul	Nolas, Billy & Julie	Tylecote, Alexander & Emily
Christakos, Eleni	Kalaidzidis, Gregorios & Lindsay	Odzak, Larry & Hope	Tryphonos, Tryphon & Suzanne
Christakos, Lia	Kamilaris, Nicholas	Oladipo, Richard	Valakas, Antonia
Christi, George & Deborah	Karamalegos, Antonios & Claire	Paliouras, Cindy	Vurnakes, Jimmy & Frances
Claypoole, Chris & Michelle	Kash, Dr. Thomas & Dr. Zoe	Paliouras, Jim & Helen	Vlachos, Demetra
Cocolas, Erie	Kekis, Theoharis	Pantelidis, James & Stella	Watters, Jacques & Christine
Constantinou, Catherine &	Kepraios, William & Elaine	Pantermakis, George & Janet	Wilson, Preston & Catherine
Wes Platt	Klikas, Paul & Mann, Dana	Papazoglou, Matina	Wippich, Robert & Roberta
Constatinou, Costas	Korach, Dr. Kenneth & Karen	Pappas, Joanna	Xenakis, Betsy
Constantinou, Lou	Koutouzakis, Helen	Pappas, Katherine	Zaferatos, Deno & Kerri
Costas, Dean	Kuyper, Dr. Lee & Pauline	Pappas, Dr. Ted & Theky	Zehia, Christina
Delagrammatikas, Dr. George &		Paraschos, Sofia	Zehia, Tony & Evelyn
Chrystal			

Please remember your Church. If you have not, as yet, become a 2021 Steward of St. Barbara, please join your fellow Parishioners in supporting our beloved Church. Thank you.

GYROS-TO-GO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dear Parishioners and friends of St. Barbara Church,

Our May Gyros-To-Go event is getting closer and we still need lots more volunteers! We need volunteers in all areas. We are in desperate need of more runners in the afternoon! Without enough volunteers, we will need to cancel our fundraiser.

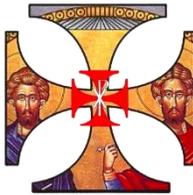
Working at the fundraisers is a great way to lend our time and talents to the church in stewardship. And it's fun! So please, if you haven't volunteered yet, please sign up. And if you signed up for one shift, please consider coming for the day instead (I'll bring donuts!)

These events help us pay our mortgage as well as being fun and a great way to enjoy quality time with you fellow parishioners. Volunteers will need to wear face masks while working around others.

If you would be willing to help all day or part of the day on May 15, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a44aaaa28a5f85-stbarbara1> and select one (or preferably two) volunteer slots.

Thank you,

The St. Barbara Parish Council



Philoptochos Board Meeting – May 23rd Philoptochos general membership meeting reminder - May 30

We have one more scheduled board meeting (5/23) and one more general membership meeting (5/30) for this year before we take the summer off. I would like for us to meet in person at church and not have a Zoom meeting.

I would also like to hold our general membership meeting at church and treat it as an end-of-the-year "party". Perhaps we could all bring a little something - unless someone has already signed up for the coffee hour that day. If it's not raining, we could even meet outside. We will need to have our board elections that day, but folks can vote, have a little something to eat and visit. I think the Covid lockdown has taken its toll on some people and this could be an opportunity to reunite and support one another.

We have clear guidelines for attending church and will be holding our Philoptochos meetings in person starting this month. Our last general membership meeting for this year is May 30 and we will meet after church in order to hold board elections and gather in fellowship. Please plan to attend as we will need a quorum in order to gather enough votes. If you are unable to attend, please contact Cindy Paliouras (cindy.paliouras@gmail.com), Election Committee Chair, and she will assist you in casting your vote. Please also contact Cindy if you are interested in running for the board.

ON THE SUBJECT OF YOUTH: SAINT BARBARA YEAR END PLANS

Dear Father:

Catherine Constantinou and I, as the respective directors of HOPE/JOY and Sunday School at St. Barbara, have conferred with one another and also spoken with our core group of parental supporters within the Youth Program. Based on the feedback we received and the current status of vaccinations and public health information available, this is what we are proposing for the remaining 2020-2021 year at St. Barbara:

1. HOPE/JOY will have two more events:

a. Making palm crosses on Lazarus Saturday, April 24th, via Zoom (with a possibility of an in-person component as well). This will include pickup of palm fronds and a group meeting to make crosses together. Families will bring the crosses to church later that day so they can be handed out during the Palm Sunday service.

b. An in-person Easter egg hunt in May 16th. This will be an outdoors activity for the kids where they can be together but safely distanced. We also plan to host an ice cream social the same day and we are open to expanding the invitation to welcome older members of the community as well. Given the late timing of Easter this year, we anticipate this will be a joint egg hunt and end of the school year celebration for the kids.

2. Sunday School will continue remotely for the remainder of the school year, which will conclude on May 16th. We have been going continuously since September of last year and, despite not being able to be at church, we have kept our amazing group of kids together and in touch every week, a group that is around 12 to 18 kids every single Sunday. While everyone is eager to get back to church, we want to make sure that younger parents have time to get fully vaccinated (as vaccines will not open to all adults until April 6th and then, depending on the vaccine, it can take 21 to 28 days before receiving both shots, and another two weeks before full vaccination benefits are achieved). This would be right around the time Sunday school would be breaking for the summer. **Until then, to make sure that our families don't feel torn between going to church in person and having the kids attend Sunday school, we propose to move the time of the Sunday school Zoom meetings later into the afternoon (with a start time of 1:30 or later), so families have plenty of time to go to church without the fear of missing Sunday school.**

Our plan for the fall will be to return to in-person Sunday school, with social distancing and masks, as the children will not yet have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Doing this will require a lot of upfront planning, so we will need the summer months to prepare. We need precise head counts of who will be attending, so we can be sure to have enough space for all of the children to be safely spaced out. We also need to recruit a sufficient amount of youth workers (2 per class, with up to 3 classes total) who can commit to teaching every Sunday. We will also need volunteers to help with cleaning before and after each class. We have our work cut out for us, but I am hopeful that we will get the support we need.

Despite the pandemic restrictions, we have had an amazing year so far and we pray for a continued year of blessings as we move forward.

In Christ,
Catherine Constantinou
Catherine Wilson



AHEPA NEWS

Christ is Risen ! - Truly He is Risen ! Χριστός Ανέστη ! - Αληθώς ανέστη !

Esteemed AHEPA brothers,

- 1) Our scholarship award this year goes to High School graduate Sean Sullivan. Sean and his whole family are devoted parishioners of St. Barbara's and he serves Father Stavroforos at the altar at most Services.
- 2) Our St. Barbara's Church is organizing a fund-raiser = Gyros to Go" on Saturday, May 15th, and a few more volunteers are needed. If you would be willing to help part of the day or more on May 15, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a44aaaa28a5f85-stbarbara2> and select one (or preferably two) volunteer slots.
- 3) AHEPA DAY - declared by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese on every third Sunday in May – will take place on Sunday, May 16th. Our chapter will host the coffee hour at St. Barbara's that Sunday, with all the safety precautions observed, and we are glad that this effort will be led by our vice-president Jim Paliouras and his wife and AHEPA's great friend, Lady Helen Paliouras. If you are able to contribute any items to the coffee hour, please make sure that these are individually packed, or wrapped, so that they can be served safely.
- 4) Our AHEPA brother Socratis Gerondelis passed away on Easter Day and we express our deep condolences to his family. And we also know that our Lord "trampled death by death and bestowed LIFE to those in the tombs". So although we mourn our brother's departure, with firm belief and faith in the mercy of our Lord, we celebrate Socratis' life.

AHEPA IS STRONG - AHEPA IS GROWING - AHEPA NEEDS YOU