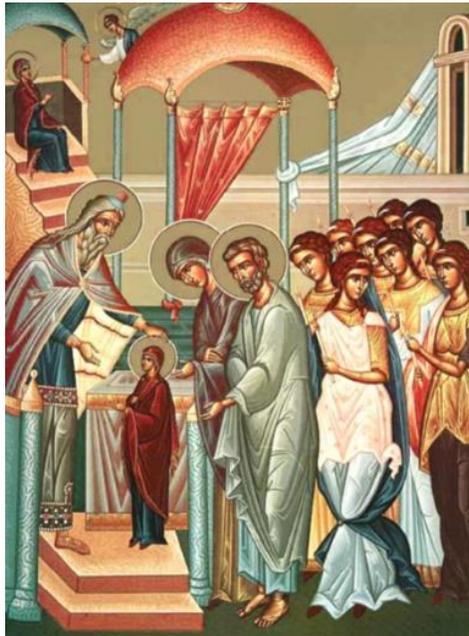




Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
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News & Announcements
November 21 2021

The Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple
Τα Εισοδια της Θεοτοκου



Wishing You a Happy Thanksgiving

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

But Everyone Please wear your mask!

In accordance with CDC information a few months ago, some of the pandemic restrictions were lifted for attending services. However, with the recently new surge of the Covid variance cases, we recommend that everyone attending service(s) wear a mask, whether vaccinated or not. Masks will be available at the candle stand for those who may need them. We look forward to seeing you in person.

Matins & Great Doxology at 9:00 a.m.

Broadcast Prep Time 9:55 to 10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy & Broadcast start time 10:00 a.m.

The Sunday Epistle Reading

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Verse: For he has regarded the humility of his servant.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:1-7



BRETHREN, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον, καὶ ἠγαλλίασε τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτῆρί μου.

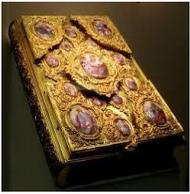
Στίχ. Ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπείνωσιν τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παυλοῦ τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα 9:1-7

Ἀδελφοί, εἶχεν ἡ πρώτη σκηνὴ δικαιοῦματα λατρείας, τό τε ἅγιον κοσμικόν. Σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη, ἐν ἣ ἦ τε λυχνία καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων, ἣτις λέγεται ἅγια. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ δεύτερον καταπέτασμα σκηνὴ ἡ λεγομένη ἅγια ἁγίων, χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα θυμιατήριον, καὶ τὴν κιβωτὸν τῆς διαθήκης περικεκαλυμμένην πάντοθεν χρυσίῳ, ἐν ἣ στάμνος χρυσῆ ἔχουσα τὸ μάννα, καὶ ἡ ῥάβδος Ἀαρὼν ἡ βλαστήσασα, καὶ αἱ πλάκες τῆς διαθήκης· ὑπεράνω δὲ αὐτῆς Χερουβὶμ δόξης κατασκιάζοντα τὸ ἱλαστήριον· περὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔστιν νῦν λέγειν κατὰ μέρος. Τούτων δὲ οὕτως κατεσκευασμένων, εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίσιν οἱ ἱερεῖς, τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες· εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἅπαξ τοῦ ἔνιαυτοῦ ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, οὐ χωρὶς αἵματος, ὃ προσφέρει ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἀγνοημάτων.

The Sunday Gospel Reading

The Gospel According to Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28



At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν Ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσῆλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς κώμην τινά· γυνὴ δέ τις ὀνόματι Μάρθα ὑπεδέξατο αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς. καὶ τῆδε ἦν ἀδελφὴ καλουμένη Μαρία, ἣ καὶ παρακαθίσασα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἤκουε τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ. ἡ δὲ Μάρθα περιεσπᾶτο περὶ πολλὴν διακονίαν· ἐπιστᾶσα δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, οὐ μέλει σοι ὅτι ἡ ἀδελφὴ μου μόνην με κατέλιπε διακονεῖν; εἰπέ οὖν αὐτῇ ἵνα μοι συναντιλάβηται. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Μάρθα Μάρθα, μεριμνᾷς καὶ τυρβάζῃ περὶ πολλά· ἐνὸς δὲ ἐστὶ χρεία· Μαρία δὲ τὴν ἀγαθὴν μερίδα ἐξελέξατο, ἣτις οὐκ ἀφαιρεθήσεται ἀπ' αὐτῆς. Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ λέγειν αὐτὸν ταῦτα ἐπάρασά τις γυνὴ φωνὴν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου εἶπεν αὐτῷ· μακαρία ἡ κοιλία ἡ βαστάσασά σε καὶ μαστοὶ οὓς ἐθήλασας. αὐτὸς δὲ εἶπε· μενοῦνγε μακάριοι οἱ ἀκούοντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ φυλάσσοντες αὐτόν.

Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple

The second great feast of the Theotokos is the celebration of her entrance as a child into the Jerusalem Temple which is commemorated on the twenty-first of November. Like the feast of her nativity, this feast of Mary is without direct biblical and historical reference. But like the nativity, it is a feast filled with important spiritual significance for the Christian believer.

The texts of the service tells how Mary was brought as a small child to the temple by her parents in order to be raised there among the virgins consecrated to the service of the Lord until the time of their betrothal in marriage. According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to be “nourished” there by the angels in order to become herself the “holy of holies” of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine child who was to be born in her.

There is no doubt that the verses of the Old Testament Psalm 45, used extensively in the services of the feast, provided a great inspiration for the celebration of Mary’s consecration to the service of God in the Jerusalem Temple.

Hear, O Daughter, and consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father’s house, and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your Lord, bow to him . . .

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes, in many-colored robes she is led to her king, with her virgin companions, her escort, in her train.

With joy and gladness they are led along, as they enter the palace of the king.

Instead of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations, therefore, the peoples will praise you forever and ever (Ps 45.10–17).

The Orthodox Church understands these words of the psalm to be a prophecy directly related to Mary the Theotokos. According to the Gospel of Saint Luke which is read at the Vigil of each of her feasts, Mary herself speaks the following words:

My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. For behold, hence-forth all generations shall call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation (Lk 1.47–50).

The main theme of the feast of Mary's entrance to the Temple, repeated many times in the liturgical services, is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the living temple of God, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of old that "the dwelling of God is with man" and that the human person is the sole proper dwelling place of the Divine Presence (Ezek 37.27; Jn 14.15–23; Acts 7.47; 2 Cor 6.11; Eph 2.18–22; 1 Pet 2.4; Rev 22.1–4).

Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Divine Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation (Troparion). The most pure Temple of the Saviour, the precious Chamber and Virgin, the Sacred Treasure of the Glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. Truly this woman is the Abode of Heaven! (Kontakion).

The fortieth chapter of Exodus about the building of the tabernacle is read at Vespers, together with passages from the First Book of Kings and the Prophecy of Ezekiel. Each one of these readings all end with exactly the same line, "for the glory of the Lord filled the house [tabernacle] of the Lord God Almighty" (Ex 40.35; 1 Kg 8.11; Ezek 44.4).

Once again on this feast, the Old Testament readings are interpreted as symbols of the Mother of God. This "glory of the Lord" is referred to the Mother of Christ and it "fills" her and all people after her who "hear the word of God and keep it" as the Gospel of the festal liturgy proclaims (Lk 11.37–28). The epistle reading at the Divine Liturgy also proclaims this very same theme (Heb 9.1–7).

Thus, the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is the feast which celebrates the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. When the child Mary enters the temple, the time of the temple comes to an end and the "preview of the good will of God" is shown forth. On this feast we celebrate—in the person of Christ's mother—that we too are the house and tabernacle of the Lord.

... We are the temple of the living God, as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Cor 6.16; Is 52.11).

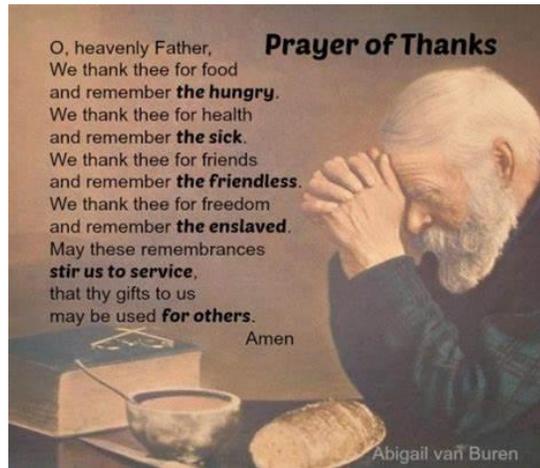


God created us to receive the power of gratitude throughout the year, not just during the Thanksgiving holiday. When we give praise and thanksgiving we deepen our joy. As you count your blessings you are able to recall God's goodness. One of the best ways to give thanks is through prayer. When your prayer words align with your mind, you are able to experience the peace and joy of having a heart of gratitude. We have collected some of our favorite Thanksgiving prayers below to help you begin!

God is always with us. He has promised to never leave us. Rather than being anxious, we should pray, and we should pray with a thankful attitude. We should thank God not only for what He is going to do, but we should thank Him for what He already is doing. He has saved us. He provides for all our needs. He strengthens us when we are weak. He has promised not to give us anything that we cannot bear.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." ~ [John 16:33](#)

Peace is the opposite of anxiety. Wouldn't it be better to face the trials of our lives in peace, knowing that God has a plan and He will work it out for His purpose and our good? Now that is really something for which to thank God. Isn't it amazing that the key to peace is thankfulness? There is something about giving thanks to God that washes the anxieties out of our hearts and fills us with peace.



November 2021

28- Sunday– 13th Sunday of Luke – 9:00 am

December Religious Service Calendar

3 – Friday – Vespers for the Feast of Saint Barbara– 7:00 pm

4 – Saturday - Feast of Saint Barbara – 9:00 am

5 – 10th Sunday of Luke – 9:00 am

6 – Monday – Feast of St. Nicholas – 9:00 am

12 – Sunday – 11th Sunday of Luke/Saint Spyridon – 9:00 am

19 – Sunday Before Nativity – 9:00 am

24 – Friday - Eve of the Nativity – 6:30 pm

26 – Sunday after the Nativity – 9:00 am

27 – Monday – Feast of St. Stephen – 9:00 am



Tree Decorating Sunday November 28th After Church

Today's General Assembly

There will be a General Assembly TODAY in the Social Hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The agenda for the meeting will include:

- Preliminary Financial Report for 2021
- Proposed Operations Fund and Mortgage Fund budgets for 2022
- Nominations for Parish Council elections
- Any other items community members wish to raise
- General remarks by Father Stavroforos



Friday, December 3 - Saint Barbara Great Vespers
Saturday, December 4 - Saint Barbara Feast Day Matins & Divine Liturgy
Parish Candidate Seminar for Raleigh & Durham Churches after services
Sunday December 5 – Saint Barbara Luncheon
Sunday, December 12 – Election Day time to Cast Your Votes for the Parish Council

St. Anthony's Sr. Group activities for December



Saturday, 12/11/2021 at 3pm - Holiday Music by the NC Symphony *** RSVP to Toula by Thursday, 10/21/2021

TENATIVE activity depending on attendance - trying to get group rate. Anticipated cost under \$40 per person.

Tuesday, 12/28/2021 at 9am - early New Year's breakfast at Creedmoor Cafe *** RSVP to Toula by Wednesday, 12/22/2021

For more information Email Toula Capetanos toulacapetanos@yahoo.com. Please honor the RSVP dates in order to insure your place for each event



Enrollment Continues

After a pandemic-induced shutdown, we are hoping to start up our St. Barbara Greek School program soon. We would like to target Saturday, October 23rd for the first day of classes. Since we have had success with masking and social distancing in our Sunday School, we are confident that we can provide a safe learning environment for our child and adult classes.

If you and/or your child have interest in Greek School this year, we have attached a registration form to this email. You can also simply reply to this email with the following details (adults need not worry about age and grade level!):

Student's name:

Age:

Grade in School:

Previous Greek School Experience (yrs):

Address:

Telephone number:

E-mail address(es):

Since we have had such a long hiatus, we assume it might take a few weeks to determine class levels. We will then follow up with new books and a more concrete schedule. If you know of anyone else who might be interested, feel free to pass this information along. If you have any questions, please just let us know!

Thanks so much,

Evy Glekas, Greek School Director edglekas@gmail.com

George Glekas, Greek School Assistant glekasg@yahoo.com



"When you eat or drink or do anything else, always do it to honor God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

Everyone looks forward to coffee hour after Divine Liturgy on Sunday. It's a time to socialize and catch up with other members of St. Barbara's. Hosting coffee hour gives members a chance to donate their time to this social ministry that feeds the body after Divine Liturgy feeds the soul.

We need a volunteer for coffee hour coordinator. Duties **DO NOT** include set up and clean up – rather the coordinator is responsible to remind the group responsible for setting up and cleaning up for coffee hour, assisting their fellow parishioners who host coffee hour by letting them know what is expected/needed and ensuring there are enough coffee hour supplies on hand.

Everyone enjoys the wonderful fellowship and tasty treats that bring us together every Sunday after socially after the Divine Liturgy. Please help if you can; we need a coordinator so that we continue to enjoy a cup of coffee and each other's company every Sunday. We will teach you everything you need to know! Please contact Daniel Przybyl if you are able to help.

