

## Announcements

- ❖ We will be collecting 2016 Stewardship Pledge Cards after Liturgy this morning.
- ❖ Our monthly bulletin, *The Epistle*, is available on the parish website and via email. Visit our website [www.saintbarbara.net](http://www.saintbarbara.net) and sign up, if you would like to keep up to date with what is happening in our Parish.

## Religious Education & Services

- ❖ Sunday school registration is open and available online at [http://www.saintbarbara.net/ministries/sunday\\_school/registration.php](http://www.saintbarbara.net/ministries/sunday_school/registration.php)

## Parish Activities

- ❖ **Today is Vasilopita Sunday.** The blessing and distribution of the Vasilopita (Saint Basil bread) will take place following the Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Center during Coffee Hour. Representatives of each parish ministry will be called forward to receive a piece of Vasilopita. Offerings will be gathered at this time for Saint Basil's Academy. Please make your check payable to *St. Barbara Philoptochos* with "Saint Basil Academy" written in the memo portion of your check.

## Blessing of the Harbor/Epiphany Dive for the Cross, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Immediately after Liturgy on **Sunday, January 10th**, our parish and the parish of St. Athanasius will join together to do a **Blessing of the Water at the Santa Barbara Harbor in front of the Yacht Club.** Our local AHEPA chapter will be sponsoring the event and will arrange a light lunch with gifts for the divers. We will be blessing the fishing fleet at the same time. Please contact the office if you have a child who would like to swim for the cross.



## *Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church*

1205 San Antonio Creek Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Phone: (805) 683-4492 † Fax: (805) 964-2774

[www.saintbarbara.net](http://www.saintbarbara.net) † [office@saintbarbara.net](mailto:office@saintbarbara.net)

Volume XXXIII † Number 1

We welcome you to Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church and are blessed that you have come to our worship service. We hope that this worship experience is both enlightening and inspirational. Each Sunday is the day in which we commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christian Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection and we rejoice in the Lord's triumph over death.

If you are a visitor to our Parish we encourage you to follow the Divine Liturgy book to assist you in following the Liturgy. While we are joyful that you have come to join us in worship, we must let you know that the sacraments are reserved for those who are Baptized and Chrismated in the Orthodox Faith. Though we may share a common belief in the Holy Trinity, not all churches are one in faith and practice. We believe that Holy Communion is not the means to Christian unity but it is in fact the fullest expression of that unity. We fervently pray for this unity in every divine service of the Orthodox Church. While visitors from other faiths are not able to receive Holy Communion today, we welcome all to receive the blessed bread that is distributed by the Priest at the end of the service. Feel free to contact Fr. Haralambos, if you desire to learn more about the Orthodox Church, the Church of the New Testament.

We would like to remind all Orthodox Christians to be spiritually prepared and in proper canonical standing with the Church in order to partake of the Holy Eucharist.

## FEASTS CELEBRATED TODAY

On this, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, we commemorate:

- Sunday before Epiphany
- Malachi the Prophet
- Gordios the Martyr of Caesarea
- Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
- Righteous Genevieve of Paris
- Righteous Peter of Atroas
- Righteous Akakios the Wonderworker
- Righteous Thomais of Lesbos

By their holy intercessions, Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

*Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016*  
*Sunday before Epiphany*

**Hymn for the Resurrection (Sixth Tone)**

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

**Hymn for the Sunday before Epiphany (Fourth Tone)**

Make ready, O Zebulum; prepare yourself, O Naphthali; cease to flow, O River Jordan; receive in joy the Master who comes to be baptized. Adam, rejoice with the first mother. Do not hide in Paradise, as before, for He came to see us, even naked, that He might clothe us as we were before. Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

**Hymn for Saint Barbara (Fourth Tone)**

Let us honor Saint Barbara; for the all-modest one prevailed over the snares of the enemy, and was freed from them as a sparrow, with the Cross as aid and weapon.

**Seasonal Kontakion (Fourth Tone)**

Appearing in the streams of the Jordan today, the Lord cries out to John, "Do not be afraid to Baptize Me for I have come to save Adam, the first to be created."

***This Week's Servers***

Epistle Readers: Greek: Angelique Chuchas  
English: Randy Langel

Acolytes: Connor Blake, Theophanis Fox, Cainan Iorio,  
Jacob Kaminsky, Dimitri Richardson

Prosfora: Connie Pappas Hillman

Ushers: William Poulis, Alex Haimanis

Coffee Hour: Vasilopita

***Memorial***

A memorial service will be prayed following Liturgy this morning for the handmaid of God, **Rosalie Ann Forinash (7 years)**, wife of Dr. Robert Forinash.

***Epistle Reading - 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:5-8***

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

***Gospel Reading - Mark 1:1-8***

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

***This Week's Schedule***

**Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday before Epiphany**

- ❖ Orthros, 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- ❖ Pledge Card Collection
- ❖ Vasilopita

**Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, Forefeast of Epiphany**

- ❖ Royal Hours, 8:00 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am
- ❖ Blessing of the Water, 10:30 am

**Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany**

- ❖ Orthros, 8:00 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
- ❖ Blessing of the Water, 10:00 am

**Thursday, January 7, Feast of Saint John**

- ❖ Orthros, 8:00 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday after Epiphany**

- ❖ Orthros, 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- ❖ Sunday School
- ❖ Blessing of the Water (Santa Barbara Harbor)