



# The Epistle

November 2012

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Pastor

1205 San Antonio Creek Road | Santa Barbara, CA 93111

(805) 683-4492 | fax (805) 964-2774

Email: [office@saintbarbara.net](mailto:office@saintbarbara.net) | <http://www.saintbarbara.net>

## What Does it Mean to be “Greek” Orthodox?

One of the biggest misconceptions about the Greek Orthodox Church is that you have to be Greek to be Greek Orthodox. One does not need to be of Greek descent to be Greek Orthodox, just as it is not necessary to be from Rome in order to be Roman Catholic. What is important is not so much whether or not one is Greek, but whether or not one is *Orthodox*.

The Eastern Orthodox Church (commonly referred to as the Orthodox Church) is the second largest Christian Church in the world, with up to 300 million adherents worldwide. The Orthodox Church is composed of several self-governing (autocephalous) ecclesial bodies, each geographically and nationally distinct, but theologically unified. The 14 autocephalous churches worldwide in their order of precedence (seniority) are:

1. Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (Head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)
2. Greek Orthodox Church of Alexandria (Head of the Orthodox Church in Tanzania)
3. Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch (Head of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America)
4. Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem (By whom the Abbot of the Monastery of Mt Sinai is consecrated)
5. Orthodox Church of Russia\*
6. Orthodox Church of Georgia
7. Orthodox Church of Serbia
8. Orthodox Church of Romania
9. Orthodox Church of Bulgaria
10. Orthodox Church of Cyprus
11. Orthodox Church of Greece
12. Orthodox Church of Poland
13. Orthodox Church of Albania
14. Orthodox Church of the Czech lands and Slovakia

\* The Orthodox Church in America received autocephaly from the Russian Orthodox Church in 1970, but is recognized as autocephalous only by the Russian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Polish, and Czech-Slovak Churches. The Estonian Apostolic Orthodox Church is recognized only by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Each church has always had independent administration, but are united in faith, doctrine, Apostolic tradition, sacraments, liturgies, and services. Simply put, while these churches are independently administered, they are theologically One Church. What this means for the average parishioner is that as an Orthodox Christian, one may participate in any of these churches, no matter which church one was baptized into or raised.

Please note that even the churches of Alexandria, Antioch, & Jerusalem still carry the “Greek” Orthodox title. Once again, this is simply to denote that Christianity (and thus Orthodoxy) originated during a Hellenistic period. The Slavic churches dropped the “Greek” during times of nationalist revival, not as an indication that they are divided from the Greek Orthodox Church. So regardless of what national church you came from, as members and parishioners of Saint Barbara’s, you are most definitely “Greek Orthodox”!

# Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

*The mission of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church is to safeguard the 2,000 year old Traditions handed down by Christ and His disciples, by encouraging members to participate actively in the Sacramental life of the Church, and by furthering our knowledge of the Faith through education. In order to realize our role as stewards of God's vineyard and to grow spiritually as individuals and as a Parish, we will share our Faith with those who seek the knowledge of God, welcome and embrace all who join us in worship and fellowship, and reach out to those in need. Fulfilling our mission will draw us closer to God and His Kingdom, and allow us to experience the love of God (Agape) in our Parish and community.*

Rev. Father Simon Thomas  
Parish Priest

## SAINT BARBARA PARISH COUNCIL

JAMES PETERS - PRESIDENT	ALEX CHUCHAS
PAUL TZIOUVARAS – VICE PRESIDENT	BESSIE CONDOS
TERRY KERAMARIS - SECRETARY	CONNIE PAPPAS HILLMAN
RANDY LANGEL - TREASURER	TOM KAPERNEKAS
RUTH ANGELOS	MARY PAPADOR MENDOZA
TAYLOR CANFIELD	MICHAEL OSBORN

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

CHANTERS	ALEX TRIGONIS & RANDY LANGEL
CHOIR DIRECTOR	ANDRIANA KOLENDRIANOS
GREEK FESTIVAL	GEORGE PAPADOR
GREEK SCHOOL TEACHERS	GEORGIA GASTOUNIOTIS
ST. BARBARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM	MARY MAMALAKIS
MISSIONS	ALEX HAIMANIS
PARISH BOOKSTORE	PATRICIA DOVAS
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PRESIDENT	KARA OSBORN
V.I.P. COORDINATOR	SOFIJA NEDIC

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

ACOLYTES	ALEX TRIGONIS & RANDY LANGEL
DANCE GROUP DIRECTOR	FATHER SIMON THOMAS
YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR	SOPHIA KENRICK
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	ANGELA CANFIELD
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	YIANNI MAGOULIAS & MARGO GEORGHIOU
ORTHODOX SOCIAL NETWORK	BROOKE UYESAKA

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

AHEPA PRESIDENT	BILL POULIS
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE PRESIDENT	VALERIE KATSIKIS

## OFFICE PERSONNEL

VALERIE KATSIKIS – Office Administrator

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY \* 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA \* METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

## President's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November is here and the holidays are rapidly approaching which portends a busy time for all of us and the Parish. We are glad to see the re-energized Philoptochos Society moving forward at the Parish and as a part of the National Society carrying out their mission of doing good works.

We just completed our General Assembly with reports from all of our ministries with the big news being that we are closing our deficit significantly and with a big and continuous push on Stewardship and with our Hall rentals accelerating we are moving in the right direction.

Our Feast Day commemorating Saint Barbara this year is Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Sadly, we mourn the loss of Nasia Cosmides, a true servant of God.

As always, please feel free to give us your thoughts on the direction of our Parish.

In His Service, Jim Peters

## Liturgical Calendar

**Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Feast of Saint Kosmas**

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

**Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Great Vespers – 5:00 pm

**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

Orthros – 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

**Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Synaxis of the Archangels Michael & Gabriel**

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

**Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Feast of Saint Nektarios**

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

Orthros – 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

**Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Feast of St. John Chrysostom**

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

**Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Great Vespers – 5:00 pm

**Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

Orthros – 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

**Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple**

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

**Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

Orthros – 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

**Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**

Great Vespers – 7:00 pm (In San Luis Obispo)

**Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Feast of Saint Andrew**

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

## Let us Celebrate Saint Barbara

**Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Great Vespers at 6 pm, followed by a Lenten Meal at 7 pm

**Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** - Orthros at 9 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am

For information on all events contact the Church Office at 805-683-4492 or e-mail @ [office@saintbarbara.net](mailto:office@saintbarbara.net)

## Saints Cosmas & Damian, the Unmercenary Physicians

November 1<sup>st</sup>



The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian were natives of Asia Minor. Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children, but their mother, St Theodota, raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, she preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord

Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). The fame of Sts Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When St Cosmas learned what had happened, he became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenarys. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus' friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith.

Two fiercesome men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, "My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?"

They replied, "We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian," and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened to her. Glorifying God, she went up to the icon of the holy brothers and tearfully offered prayers of thanksgiving for her deliverance. And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life.

Saints Cosmas and Damian are the Patron Saints of the Philotochos Society.

## *Alex's 2<sup>nd</sup> Journey to Africa*

*"Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, that you did for me."*

(Matthew 25:40)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September three of us left Athens; Petros - the dentist, Bianca – an international law student, and I. We traveled through Istanbul on Turkish Airlines with a stop in Rwanda, and arrived in Kampala, Uganda at 3:00 AM. After dealing with suitcases and visas it was 4:00 AM, and a taxi was waiting to drive us the 4½ hours to the Tanzania border. At the border we got our visas, and Yanni (a young Greek man) was waiting for us. We then drove another 1½ hours to Bukoba. I wasn't tired even after traveling all night. I was just anxious to see the brothers and sisters with a big smile, and hugging them and seeing the hope they have that we'll bring comfort for their medical problems.

About 6:00 PM the medical team arrived from the USA. Dr. Curly teamed with Alex G. organized the team of 18. Most of them were from Project Africa Global Inc., a non-profit organization in Los Angeles that Dr. Curly and her husband Reggie (a pharmacist) belong to. We met in the Archdiocese home and they provided dinner for us. His Eminence thanked us for the sacrifice we made to come and help the people. They suffer from all kinds of disease (malaria, worms, back pain, etc.). They have no water, no electricity, no sanitation, and only enough food for a day. I saw a woman washing clothes in a dirty creek. The water was brown. And children drink from the rain water from the dirty creeks. We left to stay in three different places, two houses and a hotel.

At 8:00 AM the minibus picked us up for the ten minute drive to the clinic. Four years ago a group of Greek doctors from Kedas (a non-profit organization in Greece), built a hospital. But they did not have permanent employees (doctors, nurses, etc.), and the government closed the hospital. Maria and Felice (long term OCMC missionaries), and Yanni, reopened the hospital as a clinic. It is very impressive. They hired 15 local people (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, cleaning staff, etc.), and started to see patients. This time they charged the people a small amount of money for the visit and medicine. Because, before when doctors visited the hospital everything was free, and the people would take the medicine and sell it to the pharmacist in Bukoba. Maria (a young, energetic, beautiful lady) and Yanni, when he's in Tanzania, oversee the clinic.

This time in the medical group we had Doctor MJ Reed, a general surgeon, and a surgical nurse Linda (both beautiful ladies with big hearts). They went to the hospital operated by the government and performed surgeries like hernia repair, mass excision and resection, colostomy, and exploratory laparotomy. The middle of the week, immigration came and tried to take money from us (\$400 each) for their pockets. We lost a day because they did not allow us to work, but his Eminence called the headquarters and found out it was illegal and straightened out the problems forever.

Reggie and I spent almost three days going through all the medicines and inventoried everything and stored them in the pharmacy. We gave the list to Angela (the computer expert), and she put everything in the computer along with all the patients health history. The next time they visit the clinic they'll have the medical histories, even in Tanzania. The technology is ahead thanks to Yanni who organizes and has control of everything.

Saturday we did outreach at Kobushwa, where St. Paul's sister church is located. We set up the clinic in the priest's home. There were a lot of people waiting to shake hands and hug us. About 1:00 it started raining for an hour, and many people left. That was not a good day for them, but we saw all the people who stayed. Monday we traveled to Kazinga, where Rose Marie and James Towle donated the money to build the St. Barbara Church. It is beautiful on top of the hill. About 250-300 people greeted us, and waited to see the doctors. It was the longest day of the trip (15 hours). We saw 145 people, and then had to stop because there was no electricity and everyone was exhausted. Broke my heart to see people waiting for 5-6 hours and we couldn't see them. Of course the kids were waiting for candy. I had a lot, and I had an incredible experience seeing how happy they were for just one candy. Every day for lunch we had peanut butter and jelly, and bananas. For dinner rice, french fries, mashed potatoes, chicken wings, and sometimes beef that was tough to chew, and bananas and fried bananas.

The truck for the drilling rig has arrived in Tanzania. The Archbishop is waiting for the government permits they need in order to use the truck. And, they should be able to start drilling wells soon.

I'd like to share the following observations. This is a place to ask for help and to give help. For two weeks I felt physically, mentally, and spiritually very strong. I saw first hand how making the decision of living simple could change someone else's life. This project is not finished, each well will cost \$3000-\$5000. I hope and pray that with the grace of God, and your prayers and help we will continue to support the project. Water is critical to health, social, and economic development for nearly 900 million people. What inspires me is the dignity of human life. God created all of us equal. The children in Tanzania need love, they are my inspiration. I hope they will be an inspiration for you. Please help us help them. God bless you.



*The truck for the drilling rig being loaded for transport.*

## **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 18, 2012**

The candidates proposed at the October 21<sup>st</sup> Parish Assembly are (in alphabetical order): Tom Blake, Angelique Chuchas, George Dovas, Randy Langel, Jim Peters and Paul Tziouvaras. Randy Langel, Jim Peters and Paul Tziouvaras are current members of the Parish Council whose terms have expired. Current Parish Council members who will continue to serve are Ruth Angelos, Taylor Canfield, Alex Chuchas, Bessie Condos, Connie Pappas Hillman, Tom Kapernekas, Terry Keramaris, and Mary Papador Mendoza. Michael Osborn, whose term expires this year, will not be running for re-election. We thank him for his service!

Elections will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> immediately following dismissal from services. Absentee ballots and sign-in sheet will also be available in the Church office for one week prior to elections. Requests for absentee ballots must be signed and dated, and may also be faxed well in advance to the Church office (805-964-2774) - please allow time for mailing.

We appreciate those who come forward to serve our Parish family.

Gregory Pantages  
Board of Elections Chair  
[gregpinsb@gmail.com](mailto:gregpinsb@gmail.com)

# Parish Assembly Pastor's Report

(by Father Simon Thomas)

At the Parish Assembly held on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, I gave a report that I hope put the financial position of the Parish into perspective. As many parishioners were not present for various reasons, I thought it best to share the highlights of the report with you all. The purpose of the report was to look back at all the projects that have been done over the past 6 years, and to bring attention to all the upcoming projects that need our attention. Further, I wanted to make a relatively concise report regarding the financial impact these projects have had on the Parish, and how we can go forward to complete the anticipated projects.

Without getting too bogged down by Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Statements (these are always available in the Church Office, by the way!), we should begin by looking at how much money the Parish has available. On **January 1, 2007**, Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church had **\$80,047** in the bank. On **October 1, 2012**, SBGOC had **\$171,360** – or an **increase of \$91,313!** The increase in funds over these 6 years can be attributed to three things: 1. The contributions made by you, the parishioner; 2. The sale in 2007 of the house co-owned by Fr. Paul Paris and the Parish; and 3. The bequest made by Jonathan Wolff in 2010.

During these 6 years, however, many **Major Repairs** took place. In fact, a total of **\$366,301** was spent on Major Repairs to our campus from 2007-2012. Those repairs, with actual costs, are listed below:

Church Dome (2011-2012) -	\$150,777	Orthodox Center Foyer Water Damage (2012) -	\$2,307
Parish House Loyola (2012) -	\$108,651	Orthodox Center Attic Door (2011) -	\$537
Church Water Heater (2011) -	\$1,320	Church Steps Flagstone Repair (2011) -	\$8,491
Church Lighting (2010) -	\$3,717	Plumbing in Kitchen (2009) -	\$6,904
Education Center Roofing (2009) -	\$11,808	Orthodox Center Roofing/Parking Lot (2009) -	\$33,483
Education Center Flooring (2009) -	\$14,293	Parking Lot/OC Water Heater (2009) -	\$13,513
OC Carpet/Dance Floor (2008) -	\$10,500		

We also made a number of **Capital Improvements** to our campus, totaling **\$147,177**. The projects, also with actual costs, are listed below:

Freezer in Storage Shed (2012) -	\$10,616	Orthodox Center Blinds (2011) -	\$3,782
Orthodox Center Tables (2011) -	\$2,732	Orthodox Center Chairs (2011) -	\$15,752
Office Copy Machine (2010) -	\$13,701	Church Sound System (2010) -	\$3,132
Divine Liturgy Books (2010) -	\$960	OC Sound System & TV (2010) -	\$9,651
Office Computer (2010) -	\$2,441	Ed Center Shutters (2009-10) -	\$7,322
Street Sign on Corner (2008-10) -	\$11,860	Merv Corning Portraits (2008) -	\$2,623
Freezer in Storage Shed (2008) -	\$3,505	Liturgical Items (2007, 2011) -	\$5,169
Wall Icons (2007-09) -	\$22,450	Royal Doors (2007-08) -	\$29,000
Priest Computer & Printer (2007) -	\$2,481		

The total amount spent on **Major Repairs and Capital Improvements** from 2007-2012 is **\$513,478**. Furthermore, we have been able to give **Charitable Contributions** of at least **\$260,720** during that time to local, national, and global projects and ministries. These are listed below:

Local Santa Barbara Ministries -	\$30,670	National Ministries -	\$7,039
Mission Tanzania -	\$129,511	Mission Luncheons (Orphanages) -	\$23,500
Philotochos (Rett Syndrome, Greece) -	\$70,000		

We have been blessed to have more than half a million dollars available to not only begin to repair our campus, but to also improve it, all the while giving more than a quarter of a million dollars to those less fortunate than us. In total, extraordinary expenditures (outside our operational budget) were **\$774,198** or about \$130,000/year!

It is clearly evident that God has blessed us over these past 6 years to accomplish these things. *What is even more amazing is we have done it during a recession, without being dependent up major fundraisers or personal solicitations!* Stewardship has been the only thing we have pushed while accomplishing all the above.

The challenge our parish continues to face is a shortfall in the annual budget for the operation of our parish. Recognizing this, significant effort has been made to cut, reduce, and minimize expenses. In fact, despite inflation and the significant rise in general of costs, our expenses are essentially the same as they were over a decade ago! Below is a comparison of the expenses from years 2001, 2006, and 2011:

<b>Expense Comparison:</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>
Clergy Package	\$112,301	\$136,474	\$118,310
<b>Medical Insurance</b>	<b>\$13,267</b>	<b>\$18,924</b>	<b>\$22,320</b>
Church Expenses	\$10,480	\$10,919	\$7,565
Flowers	\$3,442	\$2,004	\$716
Occupancy Expenses	\$53,758	\$85,191	\$81,287
Insurance	\$11,565	\$18,712	\$15,587
<b>Archdiocese Assessment</b>	<b>\$7,200</b>	<b>\$26,400</b>	<b>\$41,500</b>
Office Expenses	\$25,947	\$16,072	\$14,953
Webmaster	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,258
Parish Ministries	\$6,286	\$6,672	\$2,932
Orthodox Center	\$12,856	\$16,246	\$8,335
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$297,671</b>	<b>\$363,321</b>	<b>\$342,811</b>

While we have reduced expenses in most areas, significant increases are seen in health insurance and the Archdiocesan assessment. The increase in health insurance is no surprise, but the assessment deserves some explanation. In 2001, the formula for each parish was to give 15% of total parish income, which for our parish would have totaled \$45,000 (15% of \$300,000 as seen below). To be fair, most parishes at that time did not give 15%. However, few parishes were around the 2% Saint Barbara's was giving at that time. Fortunately, our parish has been meeting our assessment for the past 5 years, and combined with the increase in the health insurance premiums, the increase in total expenses for our parish has been accounted for. As a result, we have been able to cut the budget deficit for 2013 to just over \$17,000 – our smallest deficit in years.

Let us now turn to the income side of things for the same time period:

<b>Income Comparison:</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>
Regular Income	\$231,166	\$261,382	230,476
Stewardship	\$125,979	\$152,444	\$145,503
<b>Special Event Income</b>	<b>\$50,921</b>	<b>\$19,538</b>	<b>\$2,774</b>
Total Income	\$302,543	\$298,926	\$246,874

While our regular income has stayed the same, and stewardship has increased, our total income has decreased significantly. Our special event revenue (Golf Tournament, Poinsettia Ball, Grand Raffle, etc.) is specifically where that decrease can be found. Unfortunately, the revenue lost from the absence of these special events has not been made up in other areas, indicating that people are giving less to the parish.

A further challenge is that we anticipate about another **\$1,000,000** worth of repairs over the next 10 or so years. The bulk of these repairs center around the water damage to the Church Sanctuary, only partially rectified when we completed the dome. The anticipated projects and the estimated costs to complete are listed below:

Kitchen Water Heater	\$5,000	Termite Damage Repairs	\$100,000
Ed Center Trellis Painting	\$5,000	Exterior Painting & Weep Screed	\$80,000
Ed Center Stairway Repair	\$18,000	Church Chandeliers	\$10,000-\$50,000
Church Carpeting (Donated)	\$10,000	Church Door Replacement	\$50,000
Parking Lot Seal and Repair	\$18,000-\$35,000	Church Water Damage Repair	\$750,000



There are many solutions to the challenges facing our parish, but they all begin with stewardship. Stewardship is the driving force behind every parish. We have been entrusted with this beautiful campus and parish, in fact, made stewards of the House of God. Our stewardship indicates our level of commitment to Christ and His Church. Stewardship is God's command to give back to Him a portion of the blessings He has given you – in time, talent, and treasure. The question is: How committed are you?

**Time** – Our participation in the Life of the Church is an indication of our stewardship of time. Our week is full of commitments and activities – is the Church one of those? Sunday morning services, parish ministries, and special events are all priorities to those who give stewardship of time.

**Talent** – When we use our abilities to serve God, who gave them to us, this is an indication of our stewardship of talent. For some, it may be working to help around the campus. For others, it may be organizing and running a fundraiser. Whatever it may be those who use their expertise in a specific field in order to help the church give their stewardship of talent.

**Treasure** – When we offer back to God a small portion of the financial blessings we have received from Him, this is an indication of our stewardship of treasure. Our Parish has been encouraging a 2% Stewardship giving model for many years. While total stewardship has increased as a result of this program, as a parish, we are giving less than 1%. The Median Household Income in Santa Barbara County for 2010, according to the US Census Bureau, was \$60,500. That means that our Median Stewardship should be \$1,300 per year (or a little over \$100/month). The reality is that our Median Stewardship is \$600 per year (or \$50/month). The Biblical model is 10% stewardship. Those who commit to the Church financially give their stewardship of treasure.

## *PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS*

**The Philoptochos Society held elections on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**, and the following officers were elected: Bessie Condos (President), Georgia Gastouniotis (Vice President), Catherine McDavid Smith (Recording Secretary), Linda Peters (Corresponding Secretary), Tina Winford (Treasurer), Vivian Pahos (Assistant Treasurer), Kara Osborn (Immediate Past President). Officers received the oath of office from Fr. Simon on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, and will hold office until April 2013 when there will be another election. As many of you know the Philoptochos Society has been noncompliant for several years and the next six months will provide an opportunity for the organization to become compliant as a full-fledged Philoptochos Chapter.

Needless to say, we need to grow our membership so that we can continue our philanthropic efforts at the national, metropolis, and local levels. Monthly meetings are listed on the parish calendar at the church web site and are held on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy. **The next meeting is November 11<sup>th</sup>.**

The membership year coincides with the ecclesiastical year—September-August. There seems to be some confusion regarding Membership dues. Many people prefer to pay during a calendar year that may be helpful in organizing your taxes. Some of you may have made your donation in January and in that case, your contribution has been applied to the 2011-2012 Membership Dues that have been sent in April to the National Philoptochos and to the Metropolis. Others have made Membership payments in the past two months and your dues have been applied to the current 2012-2013 Membership year (Sept. 2012-August 2013). **If you would like to participate in Philoptochos as a Member in good standing, able to vote, meet National and Metropolis Obligations along with voting to contribute to our local charities, I encourage you to please submit your Dues for the 2012-2013 year.** When submitting your check, please specify in the memo area “Membership Dues 2012-2013.”

**If you have been a previous member or would like to join or have any questions about Philoptochos, please contact Bessie Condos ([bcondos@cox.net](mailto:bcondos@cox.net)).** This is a perfect opportunity for you to give back to your church with your talents, time and support. **Some of the upcoming activities include polishing ecclesiastical items in our church on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and hosting a reception following Vespers on Monday evening, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, for our Feast Day.** Plans are underway for additional initiatives so please join us.

## Parish, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

### **Choir**

We enthusiastically welcome new singers to join us for the 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy.

### **Youth Choir**

Youth choir will practice this month will after church on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Practice is open to all Sunday School children. For more information, contact Sophia Kenrick at 967-1470 or louloudaki@gmail.com.

### **Orthodox Social Network**

In October, twelve fun-loving people met for dinner at Arnoldi's Café and had a nice time sitting under the string lights and watching kids play bocci ball. Afterwards, dessert was at Spoons!

All couples are welcome, from the not yet newlywed to those with children taller than they are. Check you inbox for upcoming information on the November event.

### **VIP's**

To usher in the Autumn season, on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the V.I.P. Seniors traveled to Demetria Winery, where they enjoyed a delicious lunch with wine and fellowship. They also worked on plans for the **Thanksgiving Feast which will be on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 in the Orthodox Center.** Look for more information coming soon. This occasion requires a lot of planning and work. Any senior interested in attending and participating please call Sofija Nedic at 967-2680.

### **Youth Groups**

Thank you for your support of the Youth Groups! With the Axxess Sales we raised \$120 plus an extra \$30 in gifts. These monies will go towards Youth Programs!

### **Sunday School**

The holidays are upon us! A wonderful way to get our hearts prepared for the true beauty and richness of the season is to be with our friends and family during church and Sunday school. Together we can be reminded and learn what many blessings we are thankful for, and what joy giving can be bring. We look forward to an enriching and fun holiday season with all the Sunday school families!

### **Toumba Dance Group**

Toumba practice will be on Sunday's after Divine Liturgy. This month practice is on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to seeing all our dancers!

### **Greek School**

Greek classes for children and adults are offered weekly at the Redding Education Center. We meet every Tuesday with first level beginning at 6:00 pm and second level at 7:00 pm.

First level class consists of children and adults and second level with young adults. Since we are in the beginning process, anyone that is interested in learning the Greek Language on both levels may attend.

For further information and to sign up for classes please contact me via email [ginagaston@verizon.net](mailto:ginagaston@verizon.net).

## Saint Barbara Church Directory

### **UPDATE**

If you would like your *address updated, family picture, or business added* to the church Directory, please contact Presvytera Stephanie Thomas by **December 1st, 2012**.

Updated pictures and addresses will be mailed in the January 2013 New Year Mailing to all Stewards.

## Community Organizations

### **Order of AHEPA, Santa Barbara Chapter 243**

[www.ahepa20.org/chapters](http://www.ahepa20.org/chapters) E-mail [ahepa243@gmail.com](mailto:ahepa243@gmail.com)

AHEPA continues to be a vibrant organization. The mission of the AHEPA Family of Santa Barbara is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility and Individual Excellence. Santa Barbara Chapter 243 has a goal to expand and strengthen its educational efforts and the lifelong development of mind and body, the classic Hellenic definition of Paideia. We have our meetings on the third Monday of the month, usually at Harry's Plaza Café in the Ranchero Room, starting at 6:30 p.m.

We have had many speakers at our meetings and will continue to do so. Each of the meetings with a guest speaker will be open to members of the community and we invite you to join us, have dinner, and listen to an inspiring and informational speaker. We try to have the names and topics of the speakers announced in the Epistle in advance so that members of the community will be advised and attend.

We are open to new members who want to be a part of our organization. If you are interested in joining, or attending a meeting to see if you would like to join Ahepa, please call Bill Poulis at (805) 682-4733.

### **Daughters of Penelope, Santa Barbara Chapter Delos 103**

[www.dophq@ahepa.org](http://www.dophq@ahepa.org); [www.dopdistr20.org](http://www.dopdistr20.org)

The Daughters of Penelope Garage Sale last month was a success as we sold a lot of nice things including office furniture and supplies, clothes and household goods. The Glendi co-hosted with AHEPA was much fun and everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Proceeds were distributed to scholarship funds.

**Our Annual Holiday Pastry Sale begins this month. Please submit your orders so you will be guaranteed some tasty treats for the holidays.** See the order form included in this Epistle.

**The Daughters of Penelope will be hosting coffee hour on November 11<sup>th</sup> in celebration of Founders' Day.** Please stop by the table we will have setup to learn more about us and to see some of our history and involvement.

For more information about the Daughters of Penelope you can visit the national website at [www.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org), as well as our district website at [www.dopdistr20.org](http://www.dopdistr20.org). If you are interested in becoming a Daughter, please call Helen McGillivray at 965-6727.

---

## 2012 PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

This year we will once again offer the opportunity to send out a Community Christmas Card. With this card, you have the opportunity to exchange Christmas and New Year greetings with the entire parish. This card is professionally done and inscribed with greetings along with the names of all the contributors. **You can be included by donating \$25.00** to the St. Barbara Community Christmas Card. The deadline to return this form with your check to the church office is **Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please **print your name** below just as you want it to appear on the card.

---

Please make your check payable to **St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church** in the amount of \$25.00

# Saint Barbara Prayer List

Please contact the Church Office to add/remove someone from the list.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew  
Archbishop Demetrios of America  
Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco  
Metropolitan Jeronymos of Mwanza  
Father Simon & Presvytera Stephanie and children  
Parishioners of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
Parishioners of St. Barbara's in Kazinga, Tanzania

Monsignor John Yanek (surgery)  
Presvytera Krissy Flesoras (health)  
Vasili Economidou (cancer)  
Sorel (Sophia) Kolendrianos (Rett Syndrome)  
Jheri E. Redding (Lyme Disease)  
Mary Stamos (health)

## NEWS & NOTES

### *Weddings...*

**Melisa Seley & Alexander Scordelis** on October 6<sup>th</sup>, the sponsor is Steven Scordelis

### *Deaths...*

**Nasia Cosmides, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

### *Memorial Services...*

**George Poulos (40 days)** on October 14th, sister of Jayne Poulos

**Genevieve Failing (10 years)** on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, mother of Pat Dovas

### *In Memory of...*

**Waren Hull**, by George & Mary Mamalakis

**Nathalie Gleboff and Anne Bronson**, by Catherine McDavid Smith

**George Poulos**, by Gicas & Stella Pollalis

## Volunteers for November 2012

### Epistle Readers:

4	Greek: Tom Pappas	English: Theophilos Lasswell
11	Greek: Xenii Tziouvaras	English: Ruth Angelos
18	Greek: Alex Trigonis	English: Yianni Magoulis
25	Greek: Terry Keramaris	English: Tasso Ioannidis

### Acolytes:

Connor Blake, Tasso Ioannidis, Cainan Iorio, Dean Richardson, Dimitri Richardson

### Ushers:

4 George Mamalakis, Art Markos  
11 Mary Mamalakis, Bessie Condos  
18 Paul Tziouvaras, George Papazacharioudakis  
25 Alex Haimanis, Nick Pappas

### Prophoro Bakers:

4 Sophia Kenrick  
11 Georgia Gastouniotis  
18 Connie Pappas Hillman  
25 Angelique Chuchas

### Altar Flowers:

4 Presvytera Mona Zozos  
11 Available  
18 John Demourkas  
25 Available

### Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

4 No Host  
11 Daughters of Penelope  
18 John Demourkas & family  
25 No Host

## Stewardship 2012

Aldrich, Voula  
Alexander, Pam  
Alexander, Sophie  
Anderson, John & Catherine  
Angelos, Dr. James & Ruth  
Angelos, Nick  
Anthes, George & Stacie  
Anthimiades, Dorothy  
Anton, Alice  
Arger, Jim & Carol  
Argyropoulos, Demetri  
Argyropoulos, Elias & Tina  
Argyropoulos, Symeon & Antoinette  
Ballas, Gus  
Barth, Charles & Pam  
Baskous, Jeanette  
Benbow, Peter & Olya  
Berrett, Sam & Julie  
Blake, Tom & Krista  
Bocek, Dan & Christina  
Burge, James & Megan  
Campbell, Gordon & Elene  
Canfield, Taylor & Angela  
Carlton, Gary & Karen Stathis  
Carroll, John & Lexy  
Casserly, Terrence & Eugenia  
Chachakos, Bill  
Chachakos, Jim  
Chuchas, Alex & Angelique  
Cocores, Ted & Christine  
Compogiannis, Chris  
Condodina, Alice  
Condos, Bessie  
Condos, Theony  
Cosmides, George & Nasia  
Daphne, Laurel  
Demourkas, John & Dana  
Demourkas, Katina  
Dovas, George & Pat  
Dyer, Hugh & Angie  
Earl, Gordon & Iuliana  
Fakinos, George & Barbara  
Fenger, Ellen  
Fictum, Jeff, Mary & Katina  
Fisher, Cleo  
Galanoplis, Beatrice (Peg)  
Gastouniotis, Dean & Georgia  
Georghiou, Diana  
Georghiou, Margo  
Goumas, Helen  
Haimanis, Alex  
Hanges, Andrew & Georgia  
Hanges, Paul  
Hayes, Chuck & Nikki  
Hillman, Catherine  
Hillman, Chris & Connie  
Hroundas, George, Joanna & Angelo  
Hull, Dorothy  
Hunt, Barbara  
Iorio, Brian & Alexandra  
Jensen, Cynthia  
Kallas, Anthony & Agnes  
Kaminsky, Ian & Iris  
Kapernekas, Tom & Sasha  
Katsikis, Valerie  
Katsiroubas, Nick  
Kenrick, Sophia  
Keramaris, Terry  
Khoury, Cherif  
Kingsbury, John & Katerina  
Kolendrianos, Chris & Megan  
Kolendrianos, Ernest & Andriana  
Kourakis, Matthew & Stefanie  
Kwiatkowski, Jackson  
Lamb, Glory  
Langel, Randy & Patti Stathis  
Lasswell, Theophilos & Dorothea  
Laury, Helen & John  
Magoulias, Efstratios Jon "Yianni"  
Mamalakis, George & Mary  
Manos, Michelle  
Martin, Nick  
Martin, Ted  
Matiosian, Mace & Phyllis  
McFadden, Timothy  
Mendoza, Alexis  
Mendoza, Richard & Mary  
Moreno, Lindsey & Paul  
Nedic, Sofija  
Nicolaou, Jaime & Soteris  
Osborn, Michael & Kara  
Pahos, Mike & Vivian  
Pantages, Greg & Rea Goumas  
Papadaki, Hariklia  
Papademetriou, Adelphi Seraphima  
Papador, George & Tracy  
Papador, Georgia  
Papalexis, Jim & Lee  
Papazacharioudakis, George  
Papazacharioudakis, Penny Cocores  
Pappas, Alex & Sydney  
Pappas, Anastasios & Carolyn  
Pappas, Nick  
Penoff, Dana  
Penoff, Nadya  
Peters, Jim & Linda  
Petronakis, Sam & Anna  
Phillips, Emanuel  
Plouffe, Photini  
Pollalis, Gicas & Stella  
Poulakos, Jennifer  
Poulis, William  
Poulos, Steve  
Ramirez, Alexandra & Michael  
Rishwain, Jeff & Connie  
Roen, Curtis & Georgina  
Roig, Francesc & Kathleen  
Santoli, Giuseppe & Sofia  
Sears, Jack & Emilie McMinn  
Smith, Catherine McDavid  
Solomon, Karen  
Spanos, Andrea & Luigi Ottieri  
Stathis, Cy & Helen  
Stathopoulos, Pete & Lisa  
Stockmal, Steve & Mariella  
Swider, Bob & Christy  
Terzopoulos, Christina & Marc Schillinger  
Theofanous, Theo & Danae  
Thomas, Fr. Simon & Presvytera Stephanie  
Tragos, Bill & Lilli  
Tragos, Christian & Tracy  
Tragos, Nick  
Trigonis, Alex & Alexandra  
Tripodes, Nikitas & Dena  
Tullis, Bud & Barbara  
Tyler, Max & Marisa  
Tziouvaras, Ahileas & Polyxeni  
Tziouvaras, Paul & Vivi  
Velliotes, Louie  
Vogel, Marina  
Winford, Gerald & Stamatina  
Yazadzhiev, Dimitar & Catherine  
Zozos, Presvytera Mona

## Stewardship 2012

The Stewardship Committee invites you to “Go and bear fruit” for St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church. As you complete your 2012 stewardship commitment, please give prayerful consideration to the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that God has bestowed on you to share with your Church in 2013. Participation from our entire community is *essential* for keeping our church and ministries going!

Everyone should have received a statement with amount committed and amount fulfilled for the year. Please make every effort to get up to date with your stewardship. **As of September 30, only 55% of stewards (76 out of 139) were up-to-date with their commitment. Moreover, 12% (17 out of 139) had not given anything toward their commitment this year.**

Table 1: 2012 Stewardship commitments and contributions as of Sept. 30

Annual Stewardship	Number of Stewards			
	Committed	Up-to-Date in Contribution	Behind in Contribution	No Contribution
\$0-\$149	11	8	0	3
\$150-\$299	21	12	4	5
\$300-\$499	26	16	8	2
\$500-\$749	30	14	13	3
\$750-\$999	6	4	2	0
\$1000-\$1249	18	5	11	2
\$1250-\$2999	18	13	5	0
\$3000-\$4999	5	3	1	1
\$5000-\$5999	1	1	0	0
\$6000+	3	0	2	1

### Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

1205 San Antonio Creek Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
 Telephone: (805) 683-4492 Fax: (805) 964-2774 Web: www.saintbarbara.net

### 2012 Christian Stewardship Commitment Card

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Print*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Commit to Stewardship in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and His Church for January – December of the year 2012, in gratitude for the gifts He has bestowed upon us. Our Commitment will be paid in installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on a (please circle one) weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

The amount being committed has increased from last year from last year

The Address above has changed

You are advised to consult your CPA or other tax advisor regarding the deductibility of all or part of this gift. The dollar amounts above are CONFIDENTIAL. For Authorized Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Personnel Only



*The  
Epistle*

*Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
1205 San Antonio Creek Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111*

**NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SANTA BARBARA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 113**

Address Service Requested