

The Epistle

April 2014

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Pastor

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Proclaiming the Word of the Lord

Every year during Great Lent, priests can be heard encouraging the faithful to participate in the various services. This is especially true on Palm Sunday when seemingly everyone comes out of the woodwork, priests take advantage of the opportunity to encourage their “visiting” parishioners to attend the services of Holy Week. Did I say encourage? I also meant persuade, request, cajole, demand, order, plead, implore, beg, etc. Sometimes, even in that order.

At times I wonder how people view Holy Week, and by that I mean Christ’s last week alive on earth, when all they have to reference is Palm Sunday and Pascha. They go from a Jesus who is very much alive and triumphantly entering into Jerusalem, to a Jesus who has died, and they are now waiting for His Resurrection. As miraculous as that is, at some point, don’t you have to say to yourself, “Wait, I think I missed something here...”?

Well, you missed just a little: The Bridegroom Services and all the teachings associated with these services, Holy Unction, the Mystical Supper, the betrayal of Christ, His trial, His scourging and humiliation, His crucifixion and death, the removal of His Body from the Cross, His burial, the Lamentations, His decent into Hades, and the empty tomb ... to name a few. All these things, and more, are experienced in the beautiful Holy Week services of the Orthodox Church!

This all reminds me of the Prophet Jonah, with whom I have a certain affinity. The short version (and that’s saying something, for a book of the Bible that is only 4 chapters!) is that Jonah was called by God to go to the city of Nineveh and warn the inhabitants that God was going to destroy them. Jonah was not pleased with this request, and fled from God and the duty before him, because, “I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Jonah 4:2). You see, the inhabitants of Nineveh repented, and God did not destroy them after all, as Jonah expected. He felt like his work was all for naught.

How does this apply? Whether one participates fully in Great Lent and Holy Week, or whether one comes only for the Resurrection service, the Light of Christ still shines as bright! We will still hear the Paschal Sermon attributed to St. John Chrysostom: “*For the Master is generous and accepts the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour, in the same way as him who has labored from the first. He accepts the deed, and commends the intention. Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord ... The table is fully laden: let all enjoy it.*” It would seem that all that encouragement is for naught ...

And yet, it isn’t ... and neither was Jonah’s. You see, had Jonah not gone to Nineveh, the inhabitants would not have been informed of their need to repent. They would have continued in their ways that displeased God, and God would have followed through with His threat of destruction. They were saved both by Jonah, who instructed them in their need to change, and the inhabitants, who responded with repentance.

(Continued on page 3)

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

ERNEST KOLENDRIANOS - PRESIDENT	ANGELIQUE CHUCHAS
BESSIE CONDOS – VICE PRESIDENT	JOHN P. DEMOURKAS
RUTH ANGELOS – SECRETARY	JACKSON KWIATKOWSKI
RANDY LANGEL – TREASURER	GEORGE PAPADOR
TAYLOR CANFIELD	MARY PAPADOR MENDOZA
ALEX CHUCHAS	PAUL TZIOUVARAS

PARISH MINISTRIES

CHANTERS	ALEX TRIGONIS & RANDY LANGEL
CHOIR DIRECTOR	ANDRIANA KOLENDRIANOS
GREEK FESTIVAL	GEORGE PAPADOR
GREEK SCHOOL TEACHER	GEORGIA GASTOUNIOTIS
ST. BARBARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM	MARY MAMALAKIS
MISSIONS	ALEX HAIMANIS
ORTHODOX SOCIAL NETWORK (OSN)	VALERIE KATSIKIS
PARISH BOOKSTORE	PATRICIA DOVAS
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PRESIDENT	GEORGIA GASTOUNIOTIS
V.I.P. COORDINATOR	SOFIJA NEDIC

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

AHEPA PRESIDENT	BILL POULIS
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE PRESIDENT	CAROL ARGER

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

This is just one of the ways in which I feel that affinity to Jonah. When we as clergy encourage the faithful to attend and participate in the services, we do so because we have been called by God for this task. We know that some will heed our voice and respond appropriately. Even if it is only a small number that responds, we also know that this brings salvation to the people to whom we have been entrusted ... *all* the people! Remember, even Sodom could have been saved had only 10 faithful men been found within the city (see Genesis 18:22-33). Finally, even though many will not heed our voice, and some may even ridicule us, we know that God will bring His salvation, because He is merciful.

So when you hear your priest encouraging you to participate in Great Lent and the services of Holy Week, understand that he is not doing this for his sake, but for yours. He is doing what he has been called to do, in order to bring God's salvation to the people.

May the blessings of the Lord be with you always ...and I'll see you during Holy Week,

Father Simon

President's Report

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO STRATEGIC PLAN

On Monday and Tuesday, February 24th and 25th, I accompanied Father Simon, Bessie Condos, Angelique Chuchas, Alex Chuchas and Paul Tziouvaras to the Annual Clergy-Laity Assembly at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center east of Fresno. The entire meeting centered exclusively upon launching the Strategic Plan for our Metropolis which consists of seven states (Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Alaska) of 1.2 million square miles and 67 Parishes and Missions with 3 Monasteries. The result of over 18 months work by some 50 dedicated Clergy and laity to address important issues and concerns facing our Holy Metropolis are briefly summarized. To read the Executive Summary and full text (96) pages) go online to: www.sanfran.goarch.org

Via a disciplined and methodical process, the Planning Committee received input from many of our faithful throughout the Metropolis and Archdiocese and created a detailed analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of our Metropolis and reaffirmed the MISSION STATEMENT of the Archdiocese and Metropolis which is to:

- +Proclaim the Gospel of Christ
- +Teach and spread the Orthodox Christian Faith
- + Energize, cultivate, and guide the life of the Church in the United States according to the Orthodox Christian Faith and Tradition

To drive our culture and priorities, and provide a framework for decision-making, we will embrace the following shared CORE VALUES:

- | | |
|---|--|
| +Christ-centered | +Inclusiveness and engagement |
| +Active participation in sacramental life | +Courage |
| +Education | +Communications using all media |
| +Integrity, transparency and accountability | +Minister to all generations and strengthen our families and relationships |
| +Stewardship | +Financial responsibility |
| +Outreach and evangelism | |

We will grow the Greek Orthodox Christian Church in the Western United States through Christ-centered stewardship, worship, education, evangelism and philanthropic outreach. To address the challenges of our Mission Statement, 11 areas of focus were organized to identify and address Key Goals in each area:

VISION TASK FORCES

1. Education
2. Liturgical Life
3. Missions & Evangelism
4. Philanthropic Outreach
5. Stewardship
6. Youth
7. Specialized Ministries - Wellness

OPERATIONAL TASK FORCES

8. Communications
9. Finances
10. Metropolis Organization & Development
11. Parish Organization & Development

These eleven Task Forces developed detailed action plans for how to achieve 37 strategic objectives/goals which meet the SMART Goal Criteria for being Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and with an achievable Timetable. At all times, it was ensured that our Parishes, Parish-level ministries and parishioners were the focus of every aspect of the Plan.

Now the real work begins as we commit ourselves to dedicating the necessary resources (human, financial, time) to prioritize our efforts and work diligently to achieve this blueprint that offers us an exciting road map to our sacred destiny. Please walk with us as we take this journey of faith.

The future of the faithful and Parishes of our Metropolis of San Francisco depends on how diligently we pursue this Strategic Plan as Stewards of God's many blessings.

With this Strategic Plan we have a clear road map of how our Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco will welcome all people with joy, peace and love on their journey to THEOSIS (Union with God) and salvation through Churches that save, heal, preach the Gospel and guide the faithful.

You, our Parishioners, by providing your time, talents and treasure in the future, will make this vision a reality.

I was personally inspired by the passion and humility of the many presenters of this Strategic Plan at the Assembly. I am confident that we all can and will "do more" for our Church.

On behalf of the Saint Barbara delegation (which was the largest at the Assembly),

In His Service,
Ernest Kolendrianos
President, 2014 Parish Council

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 Jeronimos of Mwanza
Father Simon & Presvytera Stephanie and children
Parishioners of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
Parishioners of Saint Barbara's in Kazinga, Tanzania
Metropolitan Paul (Yazge) of Aleppo
Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim (Syriac) of Aleppo

Presvytera Krissy Flesoras (health)
Alex Chuchas (employment)
Angelique Chuchas (health)
Michael Domagala (health)
Vasili Economidou (cancer)
Bill & Helen Gekis (health)
Sorel (Sophia) Kolendrianos (Rett Syndrome)
Jim Peters (health)
Jheri E. Redding (Lyme disease)

Liturgical Calendar

Wednesday, April 2nd

Presanctified Liturgy – 6:00 pm
Lenten Dialogue

Friday, April 4th

Akathyst Hymn – 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 6th

Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

Orthros – 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Monday, April 7th

Great Compline – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 9th

Presanctified Liturgy – 6:00 pm
Lenten Dialogue

Saturday, April 12th

Saturday of Lazarus

Orthros – 8:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday

Orthros – 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Bridegroom Service – 6:00 pm

Monday, April 14th

Holy Monday

Bridegroom Service – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, April 15th

Holy Tuesday

Bridegroom Service – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 16th

Holy Wednesday

Presanctified Liturgy – 9:00 am
Sacrament of Holy Unction – 6:00 pm

Thursday, April 17th

Holy Thursday

Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper – 9:00 am
Passion Service – 6:00 pm
All Night Vigil

Friday, April 18th

Holy Friday

Royal Hours – 9:00 am
Descent from the Cross – 3:00 pm
Lamentations Service – 6:00 pm

Saturday, April 19th

Holy Saturday

Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil – 9:00 am
Canon of the Resurrection – 11:00 pm
Resurrection Service – 12 midnight

Sunday, April 20th

Great and Holy Pascha

Agape Vespers – 12 noon

Wednesday, April 23rd

Feast of Saint George the Great Martyr

Orthros – 8:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Sunday, April 27th

Sunday of Saint Thomas

Orthros – 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Happy Name Day!

20th Anastasi- Anastasia Fell, Ernest Kolendrianos, Anastasia Stavros-Domagala

23rd - St. George – George Anthes, George Cosmides, George Dovas, George Fakinos, Georgia Gastouniotis, Georgia Hanges, George Hroundas, George Mamalakis, George Papador, Georgia Papador, George Papazacharioudakis, George Scarvelis

29th- Jason – Jason Argyropoulos, Jason McGillivray

If we have inadvertently omitted your name, or listed your name on the wrong day, please contact the Church Office so that we may update our records.



St. George the Great Martyr

April 23rd

The Holy Great Martyr George the Victory-Bearer, was a native of Cappadocia and grew up in a deeply believing Christian family. His father was martyred for Christ when George was still a child. His mother, owning lands in Palestine, moved there with her son and raised him in strict piety. When he became a man, St George entered into the service of the Roman army. He was handsome, brave and valiant in battle, and he came to the notice of the emperor Diocletian and joined the imperial guard with the rank of military commander.

When the emperor began a full-scale persecution of the Christians, St George distributed all his wealth to the poor, freed his servants, and then appeared in the Senate. The brave soldier of Christ spoke out openly against the emperor's designs. He confessed himself a Christian, and appealed to all to acknowledge Christ: "I am a servant of Christ, my God, and trusting in Him, I have come among you voluntarily, to bear witness concerning the Truth." "What is Truth?" one of the dignitaries asked, echoing the question of Pontius Pilate. The saint replied, "Christ Himself, Whom you persecuted, is Truth."

Stunned by the bold speech of the valiant warrior, the emperor, who had loved and promoted George, attempted to persuade him not to throw away his youth and glory and honors, but rather to offer sacrifice to the gods as was the Roman custom. The confessor replied, "Nothing in this life can weaken my resolve to serve God." Then by order of the enraged emperor the armed guards began to push St George out of the assembly hall with their spears, and they then led him off to prison.

The next day at the interrogation, St George again refused to deny Christ. Then Diocletian gave orders to subject St George to intense tortures. At first the sufferer loudly cried out to the Lord, but soon he quieted down, and did not utter even a single groan. Diocletian decided that the tortured one was already dead, and he gave orders to remove the battered body from the wheel, and then went to a pagan temple to offer thanks. While there, St George was restored to health by God. When the soldiers led him to the pagan temple where the emperor was, the emperor could not believe his own eyes. In confusion and in terror the pagans looked St George over carefully, and they became convinced that a miracle had occurred. Many then came to believe in the Life-Creating God of the Christians.

Two illustrious officials, Sts Anatolius and Protleon, who were secretly Christians, openly confessed Christ. Immediately, without a trial, they were beheaded with the sword by order of the emperor. Also present in the pagan temple was Empress Alexandra, the wife of Diocletian, and she also knew the truth. She was on the point of glorifying Christ, but one of the servants of the emperor took her and led her off to the palace.

The people, weighed down with their infirmities, began to visit the prison and they there received healing and help from the saint. The exploits and the miracles of the Great Martyr George had increased the number of the Christians, therefore Diocletian made a final attempt to compel the saint to offer sacrifice to the idols. They set up a court at the pagan temple of Apollo. On the final night the holy martyr prayed fervently, and as he slept, he saw the Lord, Who raised him up with His hand, and embraced him. The Savior placed a crown on St George's head and said, "Fear not, but have courage, and you will soon come to Me and receive what has been prepared for you."

St George gave thanks to God and prayed that he would end his life in a worthy manner. At the place of execution the saint prayed that the Lord would forgive the torturers who acted in ignorance, and that He would lead them to the knowledge of Truth. Calmly and bravely, the holy Great Martyr George bent his neck beneath the sword, receiving the crown of martyrdom on April 23, 303.

2014 Offering Opportunities for Pascha

The following is a list of items needed for the special services during Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. Your donations are much appreciated and add to the beauty of our services. Please let us know if you would like to make a donation toward any of the items listed below.

General Items:

7 Containers of Olive Oil (\$25 each, or bring in yourself) - \$175
3 Boxes of Charcoal (\$30 each) - \$90
3 Bottles of Communion Wine (\$25 per bottle) - \$75
6 Beeswax Candles for Solea (\$50 each) - \$300

Great Lent:

Flowers for the Sunday of the Adoration of the Holy Cross - \$50

Palm Sunday:

Palms for Palm Sunday (\$50 each) - \$100
Flowers for Icon of the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem - \$100

Bridegroom Services:

Flowers for Nymphios Icon - **Donated**

Holy Wednesday Unction Service:

Aromatic Scent for Holy Unction - \$25
Beeswax Candles (\$10 each) - **Donated**

Holy Thursday Crucifixion Service:

3 Candles for the Cross of Christ (\$25 each) - \$75
12 Candles for Gospel Readings (\$10 each) - \$120
Flowers for the Icon of the Crucifixion - \$50
Wreath for the Cross of Christ - \$120

Holy Friday Apokathelosis Service:

New White Linen Sheet for the Body of Christ - **Donated**
Rose Petals - \$50

Holy Friday Lamentation Service:

Rose Petals - \$50
Rose Water - **Donated**
Flowers for the Epitaphion - \$600
Orchid for the Gospel - \$50

Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy:

Rose Petals - **Donated**

Holy and Great Pascha:

Beeswax Candles for the Resurrection (\$10 each) - **Donated**
Flowers for the Resurrection Icon - **Donated**
10 Easter Lilies (\$25 each) - \$250
8 Orchids for Resurrection (\$40 each) - \$320

May you have a blessed Lent!

A Brief Summary of Orthodox Holy Week

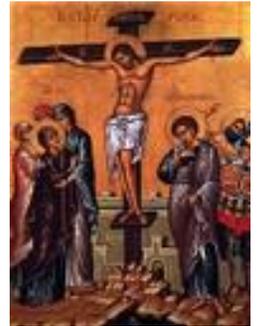
Every Sunday of the Ecclesiastical Year, being a "little Pascha", commemorates the glorious Resurrection of Christ, but each day of Holy Week has its own special character.



On **HOLY MONDAY** we remember Joseph, the son of Jacob, who was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery. After much suffering, there came triumph for him in Egypt. He is, thus, a prototype of Christ. To commemorate this, we celebrate the Bridegroom Service on Palm Sunday evening. The Gospel for the day tells about the barren fig tree, speaking of the world's failure to bear fruit in Christ.

HOLY TUESDAY presents the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Preparing for the coming of Christ requires proper preparation and wakefulness, which are the foundations of vivid faith. We also hear the condemnation of the hypocritical Scribes and Pharisees.

HOLY WEDNESDAY presents the story of the woman who poured precious ointment on Jesus. Her action of love is in contrast to that of Judas who betrayed the Master. In the evening the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Unction is celebrated.



HOLY THURSDAY depicts the Mystical (Last) Supper of Christ with His Apostles, including the washing of the feet of the Apostles, the betrayal of Judas, and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

HOLY FRIDAY is the day of the Passion, Crucifixion and death of Christ (celebrated Holy Thursday evening). The morning service of the Royal Hours observes the hours of Christ on the Cross. In the afternoon, we view the removal of Christ from the Cross, and His burial.



HOLY SATURDAY speaks of the entombment of Christ and His descent into Hell, the realm of the dead (celebrated Holy Friday evening). It begins in mourning and lamentation, but ends with the glory that is to burst forth on the Great Day of the Resurrection.

Please remember these important points during Holy Week:

1. St. James wrote: *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters (priests) of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up"* (James 5:14-15). Please remember that Holy Unction is not to be taken home. Those who are unable to attend the Unction service due to illness, hospitalization, or in a Nursing Home, please contact the Church Office before April 11th to schedule an appointment for Father Simon to visit them.
2. In order to receive the Holy Sacraments in the Orthodox Church, one must be a baptized and confirmed member of the Orthodox Christian Faith, living in proper ecclesiastical order.

Pascha Flower and Icon Decorating

Holy Pascha is on April 20th this year. As part of the activities associated with this most important event, we will be decorating icons and Christ's tomb on the following dates:

1. On **Friday, April 11th** at 10:00, we will decorate three icons (Lazarus, Nymphios, and Entry into Jerusalem) in preparation for Lazarus Saturday on April 12 and Palm Sunday on April 13th.
2. On **Thursday, April 17th** at 10:00 am, we will fashion the floral wreath to place on the Christ icon and we will decorate the crucifixion icon.
3. On **Friday, April 18th** beginning at 8:30, we will decorate Christ's tomb, prepare rose petals, and decorate two icons.

Your help is urgently needed to ensure that these floral projects are completed on time! Please contact Catherine McDavid at your earliest convenience at catherine.mcdavid@icloud.com to let her know if you can assist on any of these dates.

Red Easter Eggs

Parishioners often dye red Easter eggs that are distributed in Church following the Service of the Resurrection as well as, at the Agape Picnic. This year we will need over **40 dozen eggs dyed**. Could you dye 2 dozen eggs? If you have the time and could do more than 2 dozen, that would be greatly appreciated. **Please contact the church office with the amount you will donate. All eggs should be delivered to the Church by Holy Thursday, April 17th.** Please leave them in the kitchen refrigerator. Thank you very much for your contribution. It is greatly appreciated. **P.S. Please hard boil eggs sufficiently and oil them after they are dyed!**

Spotlight on the Bookstore

One of the greatest remedies and highly recommended practices for spiritual healing and growth from the Saints of our Church is to read spiritual books.

Today, many spiritual readings are available to us. Over the past 25-30 years hundreds of books from the Holy Fathers have been translated into English, as well as the biographies, works, and writings of contemporary elders from Greece, Russia, Romania, Serbia, and many other countries. There is something to read for every challenge or question we face in regards to our soul and life in general.

We are fortunate at St. Barbara's to have a well-stocked bookstore filled with so many spiritual gems. Now that we are in this special period of Lent, trying to focus more on our soul and draw closer to God, we will be starting to highlight some of these gems in hopes of whetting your appetite to read some of them!

To start with, there is no greater book than the Bible to read. How about reading just a little every day? The bookstore has the Orthodox Study Bible (including in it a timeline of "How to Read the New Testament in a Year" as well as some simple, daily prayers). If we all start that basic habit, it will undoubtedly change our life and heal us individually and as a community!

"If we read the Sacred Scripture with faith," says St. Basil the Great, "we will feel that we see and hear Christ Himself. What is it we need, an actual voice or the One Who speaks to us through the Scriptures? It is all the same. In Sacred Scripture, God speaks with us just as truly as when we speak with Him through prayer. For this reason, prayer and the reading of sacred books must be our continuous occupation. Pray or read continually if you want to be with God at all times."

Festival Pastry Workshops

SAVE THE DATES & MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. Melomacaronas, Terry Keramaris,

Saturday, May 17, 9 am. Koulourakia, Georgia G. and Helen McGillivray

Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. Kourabiedes, Andriana K.

**Please call to Volunteer for a joyous day of fun, fellowship and baking.
Many helping hands make the shaping and baking go quickly. So volunteer today!
Andriana 685-8982, Helen 965-6727**

Scholarship Program 2014

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the Scholarship Program guidelines for 2014. Applications can be picked up in the Church Office from April 6 until May 6. They can also be requested by email. Applicants must be high school seniors or students enrolled in a postsecondary institution who are, or whose parents/legal guardians are, stewards in good standing of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church during 2013 and 2014. ("Good standing" is defined in the Uniform Parish Regulations, or UPR, as being current in stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish, abiding by all the regulations in the UPR and the Parish Bylaws, and cooperating in every way toward the welfare and well-being of the Parish.)

Selection criteria, in order of priority, are the following:

- (1) **Church Involvement:** Young people who are actively involved in the life of the parish will be given preference over those who don't participate or do so only marginally. Students who are attending college in another city and who participate in the life of the parish near their college will likewise be given preference over those who don't participate or do so only sporadically.
- (2) **Financial Need:** Some students who are very active in the parish may not need financial help, while for others a parish scholarship may be a tremendous blessing. Thus applicants will be asked what they anticipate their financial need to be, whether they are applying for financial aid at their college or university, and whether they are currently receiving financial aid.
- (3) **Academic Record:** This criterion includes grade point average as well as extracurricular activities.
- (4) **Community Service.**

All materials must be received in the **Church Office by 5:00 P.M. on May 6, 2014**. No late materials will be accepted, and none will be returned. All information received will be kept strictly confidential.

Missions Update

Two weeks ago we were able to send Adam Mwesigwa to Tanzania, and after waiting for more than a year for the paperwork for the truck; he was finally able to get the tax exemption from the government. In another week, he will have the registration, and in a few days we will select a mechanical engineer from the United States to go to Tanzania to assemble the drilling equipment and teach the local people how to operate it. We are very happy that we will finally be able to move ahead with providing the clean water that will greatly reduce the amount of disease for these less fortunate people in Tanzania. Thank you for all your support, and I hope I can count on your continued help with this project as each well will cost \$3500-\$5000.



JOIN US TO CREATE
A WORLD FREE OF MS.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Last year we were not able to participate due to how late Pascha was in May, but we will be back on track this year! This will be year six quickly approaching of our Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church participating in Walk MS: Santa Barbara! Please join us on Saturday, May 3rd at Leadbetter Beach/California, Santa Barbara - Walk MS 2014 event and I'm inviting you to join our church team!

As a parish, let's show how committed we are to helping our local community! In past years we have had 25 participants walking, strolling or running! In 2009 we raised \$2,945!

Multiple sclerosis is an unpredictable, often disabling, disease of the central nervous system that interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Millions of people are affected by MS and the challenges of living with its unpredictable symptoms, which range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Join our team!

Your gift helps support cutting-edge research and programs and services for everyone impacted by MS. Ending MS means no one will receive an MS diagnosis again. Every step counts. Every dollar helps. Every connection matters.

If you would like to join our team or make a donation, please contact Presvytera Stephanie Thomas: s_c.thomas@yahoo.com or by phone 805-685-5751.

By joining the team, you will be signing up for a great event and an important cause. Each mile we walk brings us that much closer to a cure.

Thank you. I hope you join our team and the MS Movement!
Presvytera Stephanie Thomas

VIP's



The V.I.P. Seniors had their last monthly meeting on March 13, 2014 at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club with 14 members attending. On the clear, warm, spring day the Seniors enjoyed the beautiful harbor view, good food, friendships and they celebrated the birthday of one of the oldest members of our parish. Delight Vames reached her 93rd birthday this year. May God bless her with good health and peace! The V.I.P. Seniors are going dark for the month of April due to Lent. The next meeting will be on May 8, 2014. More information will be forthcoming.

Saint Barbara Philoptochos Chapter #4019

Our National President, Aphrodite Skeadas, shared some wonderful news about Philoptochos recently. It was the Grand Opening of the National Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy in New York. In witness of all the chapters generosity, the Chapter Giving Tree stands adorning the prominent wall at the Center. On each leaf of the tree is inscribed the name of each Philoptochos Chapter which comprises our national body. The women of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society continually demonstrate their love and compassion for those in need. President Skeadas announced, because of the outstanding assistance offered by all the chapters, the Stewards of the Society, the sum of \$1,479,320 has been disbursed in the year 2013. A summary list is available at our Chapter Philoptochos file for anyone who is interested in seeing the disbursements.

April 5th is the day for cleaning our Church from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you are able to assist, please contact Bessie Condos.

Please volunteer your time as Holy Week is getting closer. Contact Catherine McDavid Smith or Presvytera Stephanie to assist with flowers as we decorate the Icon of the Crucifixion, the Wreath for the Cross of Christ and as we decorate the Epitaphion with flowers.

A thank you to Connie Hillman for collecting all the items for the Kids 'n' Cancer basket and to everyone for donating towards the basket. It has been mailed.

April 13th is Palm Sunday and Philoptochos will be hosting the Coffee Hour. Please contact Georgia Gastouniotis if you are able to assist.

I am happy to announce our next speaker that will be speaking to us Sunday, May 4th, in the Education Center (if more space is needed we will move to the Orthodox Center), is Dr. Mary Ann Evans, Ph.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist, "wife, mother and grandmother". The Topic will be "Navigating the Seasons of our Lives". Please see the attached flyer. More flyers will be available at the Orthodox Center table.

SAVE THE DATE for the second annual "Essence of the Mediterranean" to be held September 20th, 2014 at the St. Barbara Orthodox Event Center from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

To become a Philoptochos member, join us at one of our meetings. The **next meeting will be on April 6th after Liturgy.** May our Lord and Savior guide us all during this Great Lent as we prepare for Holy Week and Pascha!

Volunteers for April 2014

Epistle Readers:

6 Greek: Alex Trigonis	English: Theophilos Lasswell
13 Greek: Terry Keramaris	English: Ruth Angelos
20 Greek: Angelique Chuchas	English: Yianni Magoulis
27 Greek: Voula Aldrich	English: Dean Papazacharioudakis

Acolytes:

Connor Blake, Cainan Iorio, Dean Richardson, Dimitri Richardson

Ushers:

6 William Poulis, Brian Iorio
13 George & Mary Mamalakis
20 Bessie Condos, Art Markos
27 Paul Tziouvaras, Brian Iorio

Prosporo Bakers:

6 Sophia Kenrick
13 Angelique Chuchas
20 Connie Pappas Hillman
27 Valerie Katsikis

Altar Flowers:

6 Available
13 Available
20 Available
27 Available

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

6 Available
13 Palm Sunday
20 Agape Picnic
27 Available

PHILOPTOCHOS



THE PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PRESENTS

DR. MARY ANN EVANS, Ph.D.
Clinical Neuropsychologist
"wife, mother and grandmother"



Sunday, May 4th
St. Barbara Education Center
12:00 noon

The Topic will be
"Navigating the Seasons of our Lives"

Dr. Evans will discuss the lessons she learned about how to manage the stresses and challenges of multiple roles throughout our stages of being a woman and how we can become our best selves.

Questions and Answers will follow

Babysitting will be available

Parish, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Sunday School

Saturday of Lazarus breakfast and family activity day is April 12th. Please join us for Liturgy at 9:00 am. A lenten waffle breakfast with fresh fruit and fresh juice will be served following the service. Fun and special Easter activities for all ages are planned from 11:00-1:00. Please encourage family and friends to attend.

If you have any questions please contact Angela Canfield: 805-448-1727

Choir

April will continue to be busy for the Choir, as we prepare and rehearse the Lenten and Holy Week Hymns. 46 singers from Southern California turned out for The Metropolis Church Music Federation sponsored CMI workshop which Andriana facilitated at St. Nicholas in Northridge March 15th. With great enthusiasm, they gathered to work on vocal/choral skills and read through music by a diverse group of Orthodox composers. It was a great day, and we all look forward to the next CMI, with the expressed desire for more time spent on Vocal/Choral skills!

The choir has always encouraged young singers to join us on Sundays and we are delighted to report that Elena Velliotes and Andriana Tziouvaras have added their lovely voices to the Choir Sunday mornings. And Xenia Tziouvaras, when home during breaks from College, brings her beautiful voice to St. Barbara. The choir offers the opportunity to our young students to learn to use their singing voices for prayer and we welcome and encourage them to give the Choir a try.

Reminder to save the dates for the Summer Church Music Conference: June 26-29, to be held in the Oakland Cathedral of the Ascension.

Youth Choir

Youth choir practice will continue during Sunday School on April 13 and 27. In addition for gearing up for Pascha, we will be practicing some pieces for graduation. Please keep singing at home, in the pews, and whenever the spirit moves you.

Youth Group

Save the Date!!!!

There will be an outing schedule in May so be on the lookout for activity date and location information coming soon!

Greek School

We are so proud of the children in Greek School. Their commitment and enthusiasm in learning the Greek language is beyond expectations. They work hard and attend classes weekly. The Greek School Program Director, Georgia Gastouniotis, said, "Preparing for the Greek Independence Day celebration was more than I can say. They actually memorized their lines in Greek. They were awesome!"

The schedule for Greek classes during the pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays and spring break will be: NO Class Tuesday, March 25th. Classes will resume Tuesday, April 1st and Tuesday, April 8th at 5:30 pm. NO classes Tuesday, April 15th and Tuesday, April 22nd. Classes will resume to our regular schedule on Wednesday, April 30th and will continue the same every Wednesday through the month of May at 5:30 pm. The last class will be held Wednesday, May 28th.

For information on first level contact Georgia at ginagaston@verizon.net

NEWS & NOTES

Memorials...

Anastasios "Tom" Pappas (40 Days) March 23rd, husband of Carolyn, and father of Anastasia, Agaitha, Christina, Eugenia and Alex.

In Memory of...

Anastasios "Tom" Pappas, by Angad Kaur, Hirohisa Naito and Michiyo Kanno, Elizabeth Morina, Sofija Nedic, Silvia Kessel, Angad Kaur Khalsa, Helen McGillivray and family

Community Organizations

Greek Independence Day Celebration

My sincere appreciation and thank you to AHEPA and Santa Barbara-Patras Sister Cities members for assisting with the preparation and the meal in making the Greek Independence Day celebration that was held March 22nd a great success. I also want to thank George Fakinos, Taylor Canfield, Valerie Katsikis, Alexandra Iorio, even though they are not members, assisted in helping with clean-up. Also, a thank you to Andriana and Natalia Tziouvaras for picking up the decorations and their help in cleaning the center. If I missed someone's name my apologies!

A big thank you to Presvytera Stephanie and the Toumba dancers for entertaining us. They were awesome! The children from Greek School, Elpinike T., Demetri T., Sara Flora F., Dimitri R., Francesca R., Costa G., and Cainan I. even though he fell sick with a sore throat last minute, but they worked hard in preparing for the play. Also, a thank you to the adults Paul Tziouvaras, George Papazacharioudakis, and Terry Gastouniotis for their participation. Everyone did an incredible job in preparing for the play and I must say they looked wonderful and I was proud to see them performing with such enthusiasm.

-Georgia Gastouniotis, Greek Independence Day Chairperson

SB-Patras Sister Cities Group

You do not have to be Greek to be a member. Our membership fee is only \$35.00 per calendar year and we are taking applications for new members. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Georgia Gastouniotis at ginagaston@verizon.net, George Papazacharioudakis at gpapazach@msn.com, Vivi Tziouvaras at v.tzaxan@gmail.com or Debbie Merlo Ruccioni at debbie@debbiemerlo.com. Our meetings are held every other month and the next meeting will be held April 3rd, 2014.

Order of AHEPA, Santa Barbara Chapter 243

www.ahepa20.org/chapters E-mail ahepa243@gmail.com

The Mission of the Family of AHEPA, Santa Barbara Chapter 243, is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence. The Goal of AHEPA Chapter 243 is to expand and strengthen its educational efforts and the lifelong learning of mind and body, the Classic Hellenic definition of PAIDEA.

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. All meetings with a guest speaker are open to members of the community and we invite you to join us, have dinner, and listen to an inspiring and informational speaker.

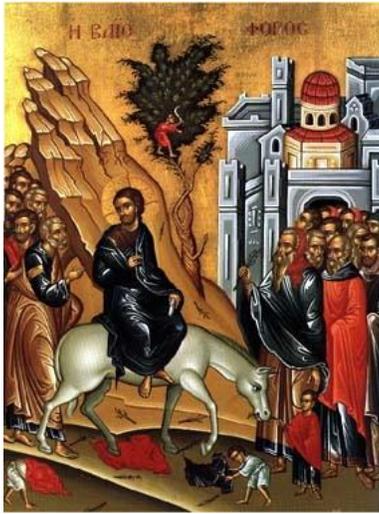
If you are interested in joining Ahepa, or attending a meeting to learn more about Ahepa, call President Bill Poulis at (805) 682-4733.

Daughters of Penelope, Santa Barbara Chapter Delos 103

www.dophq@ahepa.org; www.dopdistr20.org

Thank you for supporting our annual Easter Koulourakia sale.

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



Saturday of Lazarus Family Day

Please join us on
Saturday April 12th
Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am
Followed by a
Lenten Waffle Breakfast w/Fresh Fruit
Fun and Special Easter Activities



Resurrection Meal

Following the Midnight Liturgy of Pascha
in the Orthodox Center

For more information, please contact
the Church Office

Sponsored by the Parish Council



Annual Easter Agape Picnic

Sunday, April 20, 2014

Agape Vespers Service 12 noon

Manning Park, Picnic Area #9 (across from Montecito
Union School on San Ysidro Road, Montecito)

Traditional Easter Lamb Meal

Adults - \$25 Children (18 and under) - \$12

For more information on any of these events, please contact the Church Office

Stewardship 2014

What is Christian Stewardship?

Christian Stewardship is...

- ❖ Learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.
- ❖ Our active commitment to use all our time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- ❖ Caring for the needs of others.
- ❖ Offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- ❖ What a person does after saying "I believe", as proof of that belief.
- ❖ Devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church, and as Church universal.

From Williams & McKibben in *Oriented Leadership*

A huge "Thank You!" to all who have returned their 2014 Stewardship Commitment cards! After our follow-up coffee hour, 67 families have committed \$97,010.

As we begin our Lenten journey, the committee will be sorting through the Time and Talent forms and make sure to match everyone with the ministries in which they are interested. Please also make your voice heard during this beautiful Lenten season and find a place where your talents can shine. Read an Epistle or Old Testament passage. Make your favorite *νηστίσιμο* dish for a Lenten dialog. Lend your hands and gloves and toothbrushes to cleaning the church for Pascha.

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

2014 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 Jan–Dec 2014, in gratitude for the gifts He has bestowed upon us. This Commitment will be paid in installments of \$ _____ on a (*please circle one*) weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis.

The amount being committed is 2% or more of our annual household income.

Signed: _____

The dollar amounts above are CONFIDENTIAL.

You are advised to consult your CPA or other tax advisor regarding the deductibility of all or part of this gift.

For Authorized Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Personnel Only

Stewardship 2014

Aldrich, Voula
Alexander, Pam
Alexander, Sophie
Anderson, John & Catherine
Angelos, Dr. James & Ruth
Anthes, George & Stacie
Anthimiades, Dorothy
Anton, Alice
Argyropoulos, Symeon & Antoinette
Ballas, Gus
Canfield, Taylor & Angela
Carlton, Karen & Gary
Carroll, John & Lexy
Casserly, Terry & Eugenia
Chachakos, Bill
Chachakos, Jim
Chuchas, Alex & Angelique
Cocores, Ted & Christine
Compogiannis, Chris
Condodina, Alice
Condos, Bessie
Day, Derrick & Darcy
Domagala, Terilee & Michal
Fakinos, George & Barbara
Fell, Ryan & Stacey
Fenger, Ellen
Gastouniotis, Dean & Georgia
Gekis, William & Helen
Geoghiou, Diana
Hanges, Andrew & Georgia
Haimanis, Alex
Hillman, Catherine
Hillman, Chris & Connie
Hroundas, George
Hunt, Barbara
Jordan, James & Tatiana
Kallas, Agnes & Anthony
Kapernekas, Tom & Sasha
Katsikis, Valerie
Kenrick, Sophia
Keramaris, Terry
Khoury, Cheri
Kolendrianos, Chris & Megan

Kolendrianos, Ernest & Andriana
Kwiatkowski, Jackson
Lamb, Glory
Landry, Frank & Kalliroi
Langel, Randy & Patti Stathis
Laspitis-Balboa, Stella
Lasswell, Theophilos & Dorothea
Mamalakis, George & Mary
Martin, Nick
Martin, Ted
Matiosian, Mace & Phyllis
Moreno, Paul & Lindsey
Nedic, Sofija
Nicolaou, Soteris & Jaime
Pahos, Mike & Vivian
Papademetriou, Adelphi Seraphima
Papador, George & Tracy
Papador, Georgia
Papazacharioudakis, George
Penoff, Dana
Phillips, Emanuel
Pollalis, Gikas & Stella
Poulakos, Jennifer
Poulis, William
Poulos, Steve
Rishwain, Jeff & Connie
Roan, Curtis & Georgina
Scarvelis, George & Alexandra
Smith, Catherine McDavid
Solomon, Karen
Stathis, Cy & Helen
Swider, Bob & Christy
Theofanous, Theo & Danae
Thomas, Fr. Simon & Pres. Stephanie
Trigonis, Alex & Alexandra
Tullis, Bud & Barbara
Tziouvaras, Ahileas & Polyxeni
Velliotes, Louie
Vogel, Marina
Weeks, Michael & Jean
Winford, Gerald & Stamatina
Zettas, Paul & Jennie

APRIL 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Greek Class, 5:30	2 Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm Lenten Dialogue	3	4 Akathyst Hymn, 6pm	5 DOP Koulourakia Baking, 8 am Altar Guild, 10 am
6 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Orthros, 9 am Liturgy, 10 am Sunday School Support a Mission Priest Scholarship Applications Available Philoptochos Meeting	7 Great Compline, 6 pm Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm	8 Greek Class, 5:30	9 Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm Lenten Dialogue	10	11 Decorate Icons	12 Saturday of Lazarus Orthros, 8 am Liturgy, 9 am Lenten Waffle Breakfast and Family Activity Day
13 Palm Sunday Orthros, 9 am Liturgy, 10 am Sunday School Palm Sunday Luncheon Bridegroom Service, 6 pm	14 Holy Monday Bridegroom Service, 6 pm	15 Holy Tuesday Bridegroom Service, 6 pm	16 Holy Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, 9 am Decorate Icons & Wreath Holy Unction, 6 pm	17 Holy Thursday Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil, 9 am Passion Service, 6 pm All Night Vigil	18 Holy Friday Decorating Tomb of Christ, 8 am Royal Hours, 9 am Descent from the Cross, 3 pm Lamentations Service, 6 pm	19 Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy of St. Basil - Resurrection Vigil, 9 am Canon of the Resurrection, 11pm Resurrection Service, 12 am Resurrection Meal
20 Great and Holy Pascha! Agape Vespers & Picnic at Manning Park, 12 noon	21 Office Closed DOP/AHEPA meetings	22 Greek Class, 5:30	23 Feast of Saint George Orthros, 8 am Liturgy, 9 am	24	25	26 Festival Pastry Workshop, 9 am (Melomakarona)
27 Thomas Sunday Orthros, 9 am Liturgy, 10 am Sunday School Youth Choir	28 Philoptochos Board Meeting, 6 pm	29 Greek Class, 5:30	30			