

# The Epistle

June 2014

*Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church*

*Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Pastor*

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## *The Purpose of the Meeting Between Pope Francis & Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Jerusalem*

*"The forthcoming meeting of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis in Jerusalem this coming May is expected to be a strong symbolic confirmation of the commitment and determination to continue the path which the two great Church leaders inaugurated half a century ago."*



On Sunday, May 25, 2014, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis will meet at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to commemorate a meeting in the Holy Land fifty years ago by their revered predecessors, Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI.

The historic meeting in 1964 marked the beginning of a new era in the relations between the Churches of Rome and Constantinople, and indirectly between Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy as a whole. The significance of that event can only be fully appreciated if placed against the background of a millennium branded

with theological estrangement and mutual mistrust between the two great traditions of the Church.

The 1964 meeting in Jerusalem was the beginning of a long journey, which the succeeding generations were called to continue. Looking back at the fifty years after the event, both Churches can be grateful that a great deal has been achieved both in the "dialogue of love" (namely, the general exchanges and communications between their leaders and representatives) and in the "dialogue of truth" (namely, the official theological dialogues and conversations). The spirit of fraternal love and mutual respect has replaced the old polemic and suspicion. There is still a lot to be achieved and, indeed, the path seems to be long. This path, however, must be followed in spite of difficulties; there is no alternative.

The forthcoming meeting of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis in Jerusalem this coming May is expected to be a strong symbolic confirmation of the commitment and determination to continue the path which the two great Church leaders inaugurated half a century ago. Their contemporary witness is in the same spirit of love and faithfulness to the truth of the Gospel, as was transmitted to us by the great Fathers of the Church. Moreover, the problems facing humanity throughout the world call for cooperative leadership between these leaders of Christianity.

All of this makes the forthcoming meeting of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Jerusalem an event of great significance.

# 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
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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

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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

# *The Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church: What Has Changed in Fifty Years*

*by Father Thomas FitzGerald*

When Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew meet in Jerusalem on May 25-26, 2014, they will recall the meeting of their predecessors Pope Paul IV and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in the same city in 1964. In the midst of prayer and recollection in the Holy Places, the leaders of the Catholic Church and Orthodox Church will give thanks to God for the dramatic change in the relationship between their churches in the past fifty years. They will recall the prayer of the Lord for his disciples 'that they all be one' (John 17:21).

Within five decades, the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church formally have moved from isolation to engagement, from monologue to dialogue, and from misunderstanding to mutual enrichment. These developments can only have taken place with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and with the commitment of devoted clergy and laity to the process of reconciliation.

While the relationship between the churches may differ from place to place, these are some of the significant developments in the past fifty years:

- ❖ The Ecumenical Patriarchate has the special responsibility of guiding the Orthodox dialogue with the Catholic Church. This Orthodox dialogue with the Church of Rome has the approval of the Fourteen Autocephalous Orthodox Churches.
- ❖ The Catholic Church recognizes the preeminent leadership of the Ecumenical Patriarch among all the Orthodox.
- ❖ After centuries of alienation, both the Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church have formally committed themselves to the restoration of full communion through an agreed understanding of the Apostolic Faith. Both Churches now see themselves as 'Sister Churches' with the responsibility of maintaining the Apostolic Faith and healing their division.
- ❖ For the Catholics, this commitment to reconciliation was expressed at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and in subsequent statements. For the Orthodox, this commitment was expressed in the decisions of the Pan-Orthodox-Conferences (1961-1968) and in subsequent statements.
- ❖ Both churches recognize a state of schism exists. This schism resulted primarily from different understandings of authority in the Church and specifically the role of the Bishop of Rome. The division developed over centuries and reached a point of schism in the fifteenth century (1484). Theological differences were compounded by linguistic, political and cultural factors.
- ❖ Both churches recognize that the restoration of unity requires prayer for reconciliation, the resolution of differences in teachings and practices, and a common witness to the Gospel in the society. As the schism occurred over time, so also the process of reconciliation will take place over time.
- ❖ Orthodox and Catholic look to the day when they can heal the schism and share in the Holy Eucharist. Both Orthodox and Catholics recognize the Eucharist to be the center of church life and personal piety. However, the schism prevents the faithful in both churches from joining together in the celebration of the Eucharist.
- ❖ The Anathemas of 1054 were removed by the Church of Rome and the Church of Constantinople in 1965. The original acts of excommunication were directed against particular persons, not against the churches as a whole. Although some later historians set 1054 as the date of the schism, in fact this was only one of a number of events that weakened the bonds between the churches. Indeed, the relationships continued after this, until at least the fifteenth century.
- ❖ Popes and Ecumenical Patriarchs have met frequently since 1964. These meetings symbolize the new relationship between the churches. They also provide opportunities for the senior hierarchs to pray together and to discuss issues of church life.
- ❖ Every year, the Ecumenical Patriarchate sends a delegation to Rome to observe the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in Rome on June 29. Likewise, the Church of Rome sends a formal delegation to Constantinople to observe the feast of St Andrew on November 30.

❖ Theologians from both churches meet regularly to discuss issues of division and points of agreement. The North American Consultation began in 1965. The Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops in the United States began in 1981. The Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue was established in 1989.

❖ The issues that have divided the churches are being examined in depth. These include different understandings of primacy and conciliarity as well as different understandings of the relationship of the persons of the Holy Trinity. At the same time, the theologians of both churches have affirmed a common understanding of the Holy Trinity and the Church as well as Baptism and the Eucharist. In looking to the future, they have recognized that the early church affirmed a diversity of practices and theological emphasis provided that the unity of the faith was preserved.

❖ These official theological dialogues have been enriched by the recent studies by Orthodox and Catholic scholars who have examined the theological, historical, cultural and linguistic factors that contributed to the schism.

❖ Catholic theologians are studying the Orthodox practice of synodality, of a married priesthood, and of the process of recognizing the dissolution of a marriage.

❖ Theological students and seminarians from each church have studied with those from the other tradition.

❖ Orthodox and Catholic Bishops have addressed together critical social and moral issues in the American society.

❖ Led by their bishops, many Orthodox and Catholic clergy and laity have participated in pilgrimages to Rome and Constantinople.

❖ At the local level, many Orthodox and Catholics have come together for special prayer services, retreats and conferences.

❖ Members of both churches recognize that they honor Mary, the Mother of God, as well as the saints and martyrs. They have come to appreciate the saints which are honored in both traditions. These saints serve as an unbroken bond between the Orthodox and Catholic churches.

❖ The relics of many saints have been returned by the Catholic Church to the Orthodox. In 2004, for example, the relics of St Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom were returned to Constantinople by Pope John Paul II.

❖ Orthodox and Catholic read the spiritual and theological writings of teachers from each other's church. They have been enriched by the studies of the Scriptures and Fathers of the Church.

❖ Many Catholics have deepened their appreciation of the meaning of icons, and their place in worship and teaching.

❖ Marriages of Orthodox and Catholic have dramatically increased. The Catholic Church recognizes marriages of an Orthodox and Catholic in good standing blessed by an Orthodox priest.

❖ With the blessing of their pastor, Orthodox young people are free to attend Catholic schools. And, Catholic young people are free to attend Orthodox schools. The differences in church practices are recognized. There can be no attempt to proselytize.

❖ Many Catholic and Orthodox parishes join together in sponsoring food pantries and meals from the needy. In this way, they express a common commitment in the name of Christ to the well being of the society.

Speaking of the quest for unity, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew says: "We know that the process of reconciliation is not always easy. The division between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church has persisted for centuries. Yet, we firmly believe that, with the guidance of the Risen Lord, our differences are not beyond resolution. Moreover, we believe that we have a solemn obligation to our Lord to heal our painful divisions. For this reason, we must be persistent in our prayer. We must increase our expressions of love and mutual respect. We must strengthen our theological dialogue."

*Rev. Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is Professor of Church History and Historical Theology, and former Dean at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, MA. He is the Orthodox Executive Secretary of the North American Orthodox-Catholic Bilateral Consultation in North America.*

## Orthodox Church Highlights Synodality, the Holy Spirit Creating Community

*By Father Ronald Roberson, C.S.P., who holds a doctorate from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. Father Roberson now lives at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C., and is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

In an interview with the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* published March 5, Pope Francis was asked about the significance of the meeting he was planning to have with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in the Holy Land in late May. In his response, the pope said that, "Orthodox theology is very rich. And I believe that they have great theologians at this moment. Their vision of the Church and of synodality is marvelous." What did the pope mean by this?

It has long been recognized that the great Eastern and Western traditions of the Church are different, but that at the deepest level they are not contradictory but complementary. In its 1964 Decree on Ecumenism, the Catholic bishops acknowledged at the Second Vatican Council that the traditions of the East offer a different perspective on our faith that should be respected; that the East has its own ecclesiastical laws and customs, its own spiritual, theological & liturgical heritage. They went on to say in paragraph 16 that "this holy Council solemnly declares that the Churches of the East ... have the power to govern themselves according to the disciplines proper to them, since these are better suited to the character of their faithful, and more for the good of their souls."

Many theologians in recent times have written that to a large extent these differences between East and West can be traced back to their different perspectives on the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Both of them have their roots in the New Testament and both are equally valid.

One perspective, more typical of the West, sees the Holy Spirit as primarily at work in individuals, giving them the strength to accomplish certain tasks or to carry out a mission. Here Christians are thought of as dispersed, as being sent forth by the Spirit to bring the good news to the nations. And so we think of the Holy Spirit at work in the pope, the bishops and other individuals in the Church.

But the other perspective, more typical of the East, sees the Spirit as primarily at work not in individuals but in communities. Here the Spirit is perceived chiefly as the Spirit of fellowship or communion, not as dispersing God's people but gathering them together, especially at the Eucharist. This point of view explains why, in the East, there has always been the strong emphasis on the synodality or conciliarity in the Church that Pope Francis referred to.

In the East, for example, Orthodox patriarchs have very limited personal authority and for the most part can only act with the agreement of the other bishops. Assemblies composed of clergy and laypeople often play a primary role in the governing of these Churches, sometimes even in the election of a new primate. When a bishop ordains a priest, he does so as head of a Eucharistic community, and the new priest is ordained not to be set apart, but to be placed in a specific community within the web of relationships that the Spirit creates. In Eastern parishes, the priest serves as the spiritual father, but the property is owned by an elected parish council, which also plays a role in setting the general direction of the parish.

This emphasis on the Spirit creating communion among Christians explains why in the East it is incomprehensible for a priest to celebrate a private Mass alone, and why priestly ministry ordinarily takes place within the stable bonds of communion either within a family or a monastic community. Russian theologians in particular have presented this ideal of the whole Church as a great council, where the Spirit gathers everyone together, giving each and every person specific gifts that are fruitful only in relation to others in the community.

This is not to say that Pope Francis is necessarily in favor of any of the specific examples of the Eastern understanding of the Holy Spirit's presence in the Church that I have mentioned here. But he clearly has a general appreciation of the Eastern tradition. Both East and West have their own perspective on these matters, and they have much to learn from one other.

## *Saint Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp*

Each summer, some 400 young people from all over our Metropolis attend Saint Nicholas Ranch summer camp, a wonderful youth ministry of our Metropolis, in which young people can enjoy a week of fun, fellowship and growing in their faith. **This year, all of Saint Barbara's youth aged 8-17 are encouraged to attend the first week of camp, Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.** If you are interested in attending, please contact Fr. Simon.

## *St. Athanasius Orthodox Church SUMMER SCHOOL*

June 23 July 10, 2014 Grades K6

Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:45 - 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8:45 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

- Bible centered Curriculum
- Special Outdoor Activities
- "Adventure Days" to the Beach, St. Barbara Monastery, SB Zoo & Magic Mountain!

Tuition: \$275 for 1 child \$400 for 2 children \$500 for 3 children (Scholarships available - speak with Fr. Nicholas Speier)

Please register by June 20, 2014 by contacting Fr. Nicholas or the church office:

OFFICE@STATHANASIUS.ORG 8056855400

## *NEWS & NOTES*

### *Births...*

**Konstantinos Paul Kapernekas**, son of Tom & Sasha, on May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Godparents are Vivi & Paul Tziouvaras

### *Memorials...*

**AHEPA & DOP Members**, May 18<sup>th</sup>

## *Summer Hours at Saint Barbara's*

The Sunday Divine Services will be celebrated from Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> as follows:

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

*Please make note of these changes!*

## *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*

**Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council**

Orthros – 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday of Souls**

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Pentecost Sunday**

Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

Kneeling Vespers

**Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday of All Saints**

Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Saint Matthew**

Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Feast of Saints Peter & Paul**

Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

## *Happy Name Day!*

**5<sup>th</sup> Saint Dorothea-** Dorothy Anthimiades, Dorothea Lasswell

**15<sup>th</sup> All Saints-** Everyone Celebrates!!!

**19<sup>th</sup> Saint Jude-** Jude Khoury

**29<sup>th</sup> Saints Peter & Paul-** Paula Edmonds, Paul Hanges, Petar Nedic, Paul Zettas

**30<sup>th</sup> Synaxis of the Apostles-** Paul Tziouvaras

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.

## *Missions Update*

Mr. Chris Cutter will be leaving on June 5<sup>th</sup> for Tanzania. Mr. Cutter is a mechanical engineer who has volunteered two months of his time to assemble the drilling equipment and teach the local people how to operate it. God willing this month, we will have news of the first wells being dug and the so desperately needed clean water finally getting to the people of Tanzania. Thank you to all who made this project possible. And we hope and pray that you will continue to support this project so that we will have money to continue drilling new wells. God Bless!



## *Feast of the Holy, Glorious, and Paramount of the Apostles, Peter & Paul*

June 29<sup>th</sup>

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of Jonas; you shall be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)” (John 1:42).

On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression.

After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4).

In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?” And he asked, “Who are You, Lord?” And the Lord said, “I am Jesus Whom you persecute; it is hard for you to kick against the pricks.” And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias, he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness.

And straightway - O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that “Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stoning, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles.

His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by Saint John Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

### **The Icon of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

The Orthodox Church has a beautiful presentation of the importance and prominence of the Apostles Peter and Paul with the icon that shows both Apostles standing together, embracing one another.

Both Apostles, being chosen by our Lord, were instrumental in the establishment and growth of the early Church through their boldness, spiritual strength, and wisdom. Thus they are recognized as “pillars” of the Church, having offered all even unto death for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

### **Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul**

The Feast and commemoration of the Apostles Peter and Paul is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. Prior to this day, the Orthodox Church observes the Apostles’ Fast, a period of fasting that begins on the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints. This Sunday is always one week after the Sunday of Pentecost, so the length of the Apostles’ Fast varies from year to year depending on the date of Pascha.

The Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul is followed on June 30 by the Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles.

## ***Spotlight on the Bookstore***

*Finding God in Times of Sorrow and Despair*, By Fr. Anthony Coniaris. This is a book of 171 readings. Many of them you will read in less than a minute. I invite you to look at this book, spend a minute or two looking at the table of contents. You will see topics such as cancer, barrenness, depression, loneliness, and death. You will find something positive in every reading.

One reading is called, “Drop it in the wastebasket of God’s forgiveness. There are certain things in life for which the wastebasket is the only right place. A good therapy for depression is not to lug into today all the mistakes, failures, frustrations, and hates of yesterday. No one can stand up under that kind of load. Did we make a mistake yesterday? - drop it in the wastebasket. Did we commit a sin yesterday? Don’t let it linger in your soul as guilt. Repent and bring it to the Lord in prayer and confession, Drop it in the wastebasket of God’s forgiveness.”

Sorrow and despair come to all of us, no one is immune from it. Everyone has a measure of sadness in their life. Often we do not accept it or we hide from it. This book helps us to cope with despair and turn it into an asset. My favorite quote from the book is from the author Paula D’Arcy. “Through death we all will eventually lose the presence of those whom we love. But we won’t lose love.” All in all, a very powerful book to have on your bookshelf. I think this is one of Fr. Coniaris’ best books.

## *Saint Barbara Philoptochos Chapter #4019*

With Festival fast approaching many of us are busy with preparations and baking.

**Pennies & Prayers Canisters:** Pennies & Prayers is a joint program of the Philoptochos and the Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism, to support Mission Parishes in our Metropolis. Traditionally, Easter season is designated as the time for Pennies & Prayers program. All canisters are located in the Narthex, if you don't have one as yet, please take one home with you this month, putting any loose change or bills you can spare in it, and bringing it back on **Pentecost (June 8<sup>th</sup>)** and either give it to Pam Alexander or just drop off at the Church Office.

**Please mark your calendar for A Membership Tea to be held Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm** at Casa La Cumbre, 61 La Cumbre Circle, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

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

**SAVE THE DATE:** Philoptochos will be hosting a "Crab Feed" to be held February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Orthodox Event Center. Flyers will be available soon.

**To become a Philoptochos member,** please join us at one of our meetings. **The next general meeting will be held June 8<sup>th</sup> after Liturgy.**

### *Festival Pastry Workshops*

**SAVE THE DATES & MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!**

Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. Melomacaronas, Terry Keramaris

Friday, July 18, 1 p.m. Karithopita, Georgia G. and Helen McGillivray

Saturday, July 19, 1 p.m. Yaourttopita, Georgia G. and Helen McGillivray

**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**

### *Volunteers for June 2014*

#### Epistle Readers:

1	Greek: Alex Trigonis	English: Yianni Magoulis
8	Greek: Terry Keramaris	English: Dean Papazacharioudakis
15	Greek: Angelique Chuchas	English: Randy Langel
22	Greek: Alex Trigonis	English: Mike Pahos
29	Greek: Voula Aldrich	English: Theophilos Lasswell

#### Acolytes:

Connor Blake, Cainan Iorio, Dean Richardson, Dimitri Richardson

#### Ushers:

1	Bessie Condos, Art Markos
8	Paul Tziouvaras, Brian Iorio
15	William Poulis, Alex Haimanis
22	Paul Tziouvaras, George Papazacharioudakis
29	William Poulis, Brian Iorio

#### Prophoro Bakers:

1	Sophia Kenrick
8	Angelique Chuchas
15	Connie Pappas Hillman
22	Valerie Katsikis
29	Sophia Kenrick

#### Altar Flowers:

1	Available
8	Available
15	Available
22	Available
29	Available

#### Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

1	Sunday School BBQ
8	Bessie Condos
15	No Host
22	No Host
29	No Host

# Parish, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

## **Sunday School**

Summer is nearly upon us and with that Sunday school will close its doors for the season. This school year has been a fulfilling and productive one. The children really learned about their Christian Orthodox Church, their faith and Biblical truths. Christian education is essential for our parish to thrive and we have been very blessed this year with these dedicated teachers and families.

Many thanks to these wonderful teachers: Margo and Jackson Kwiatkowski who taught High School; Olya Benbow who taught Middle School, Angelique Chuchas who taught the elementary class. These teachers were all committed, always prepared, and developed stronger relationships with our children. Each teacher let their love for our Lord Jesus Christ radiate in their classrooms. Thank you for your dedication!

Many thanks to all the following individuals who also contributed throughout the Sunday School year: Krista Blake, Megan Burge, Elsa Fryer, Stefanie Kourakis, Sophia Kenrick, Vivi Tziouvaras, and Presvytera Stephanie. You all made Sunday School a joyful place to be!

## **Youth Choir**

Congratulations to our choir and Sunday School graduates! Keep singing along with the chanters this summer, and get ready to learn all new hymns when we resume in September with Sunday School. Many, many thanks to the parents, teachers, and volunteers who made Sunday School youth choir a success this year!!

## **Greek School**

Congratulations to our children and adults from Greek school for a very successful year! Due to their commitment by attending classes weekly and their enthusiasm in learning the Greek language, there has been great improvement, and we are very proud of their accomplishment.

Information about classes for next fall will be available this summer.

## **VIP Seniors**

The V.I.P. Seniors will be celebrating summer with a picnic at the park. **Come join us on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 11:00 AM at the Rocky Nook Park.** Just bring your favorite lunch and something

to share. Family and friends are welcome. It will be a day of friendships and fellowship.

## **Toumba & Zoi Dancers**

Thank you very much for the parents who met on 5/18 to discuss costumes, dances and the new group formations! Without your involvement these decisions cannot be made. Here is a recap of the decisions that were made by the parents in attendance:

1. Zoi (which means "Life") will consist of ages 6-11yrs.
2. Toumba (which means "Tumble") will consist of ages 5yrs and below who are interested in dancing.
3. Zoi and Toumba will be wearing the same costumes they wore for the March 25<sup>th</sup> performance for our Saint Barbara Greek Festival July 26 & 27.
4. The dancers will be performing the same dances all together with the exception of the Syrto that just the Zoi kids will be performing...same performance that was done at the March 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration.
5. After the Food Festival Zoi will get a new suite of dances and Toumba will get a new song or two and the two groups will be performing separately.
6. New costumes for the smaller children in Toumba are tabled until we talk again in August or September.
7. All dancers will need black shoes and white tights for dancing at the Greek Festival in July! Zoi girls will still need a white blouse to wear with Corfu costumes.

Mark your calendars for Dancers to be performing at our **Saint Barbara Greek Festival July 26 & 27, 2014! Here is what you need to block off on your calendars this summer in order for your child(ren) to participate:**

***Practice on both July 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> sometime around 4:30 or 5pm for 1 hour.*** (I understand some kids will be in summer camp programs possibly this week and I want to give the parents a chance to pick them up and bring them to practice please keep me posted if this time needs to be adjusted for that reason).

Toumba and Zoi will be dancing together on **Saturday July 24th** - 2 times (do not know the exact times, TBA) and **Sunday July 25th** - 1 time (TBA).

If you have any Questions, contact Presvytera Stephanie Thomas: [s\\_c\\_thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:s_c_thomas@yahoo.com)

# Sunday School



# Graduation and Promotion

Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Please join us as we honor and celebrate our students for their  
hard work and achievements!



Ceremony and Certificates will be distributed after  
the Liturgy

followed by a BBQ lunch in the Orthodox Center

# Community Organizations

## **SB-Patras Sister Cities Group**

You don't 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.tzxan@gmail.com or Debbie Merlo Ruccioni at debbie@debbiemerlo.com. Our meetings held every other month and the next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 4th, 2014.

Our new website is **www.sbpatrias.org**.

## **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)

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.

In an upcoming event, to be scheduled after Easter, UCSB Professor Alice Condodina, (both she and her husband, Bob, are members of our church) will speak on the Art of Dance. More details will be announced as to the exact location and time.

AHEPA has made arrangements for **an airbus trip to the Getty Villa** to see an Art Exhibit from Greece via the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C. entitled "ART OF BYZANTIUM, HEAVEN AND EARTH". The trip is **7-12-14 leaving the church at 9:30 a.m.** Members of the church community are welcome to attend. The cost is \$25.00 per person round trip. **Contact Bill Poulis, 682-4733 as soon as possible if you are interested. Limited seating is available.**

AHEPA, The Daughters of Penelope and The Patras Sister City Organization hosted a Greek Independence Day celebration on 3-22-14 at the Church hall. The event was well attended as a result of which AHEPA was able to contribute \$250.00 to the church.

AHEPA also contributed \$1,000 to the fund for the Senior Citizens of the church.

If you are interested in joining AHEPA, or attending a meeting to learn more about AHEPA, contact President

## **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 have been busy with usual activities this Spring. We completed our koulourakia baking of which we donated 30 dozen to the church for the Resurrection Meal and the Agape Picnic. We hope you enjoyed them!

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, along with our brother AHEPANS, we hosted a Memorial Service and light reception during fellowship in memory of Daughters and AHEPANS who have fallen asleep in our Lord. May their memory be eternal!

Recently we made cash donations to the AHEPA District Scholarship fund and to Guide Dogs of America.

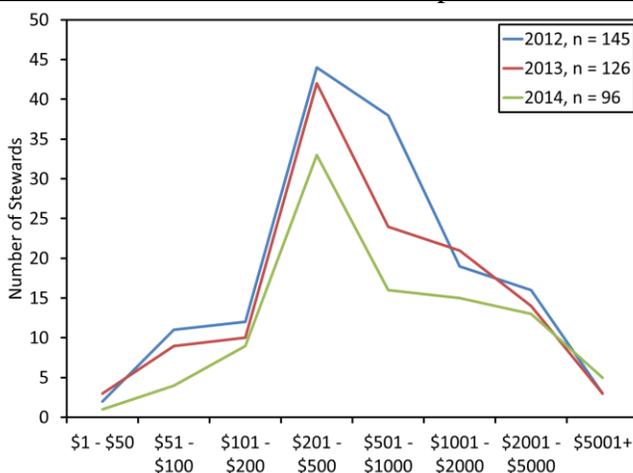
**Our next meeting is June 16<sup>th</sup>.** For more information about the Daughters of Penelope you can visit the national website at [www.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org), as well as our district website at [www.dopdistr20.org](http://www.dopdistr20.org). If you are interested in becoming a Daughter, please call Helen McGillivray at 965-6727.

## Stewardship 2014

June Stewardship- This month signals the beginning of vacation season, and there are plenty of ways you can take a break from the everyday activities you are used to. Try volunteering at a new booth this festival season. Take a master class from our award-winning pastry chefs as you roll out cakes and cookies. Show off your host or hostessing ability at Coffee Fellowship. You never know how fun it can be to share your time and talents until you try!

If travels take you away from sunny Santa Barbara this summer, please make an effort to get up to date with your stewardship commitment. As of May 18, we have **96 stewards committing \$121,125**. Of this, we have received **\$50,000**. Keep up the great work!

Distribution of Annual Stewardship Commitments



### 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](http://www.saintbarbara.net)

### 2014 Stewardship Commitment Card

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please check if address has changed*

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.

## 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  
Barth, Charles & Pam  
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  
Daphne, Laurel  
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  
Kallas, Agnes & Anthony  
Kapernekas, Tom & Sasha  
Katsikis, Valerie  
Kenrick, Sophia  
Keramaris, Terry  
Khoury, Cherif  
Kolendrianos, Chris & Megan  
Kolendrianos, Ernest & Andriana  
Kwiatkowski, Jackson  
Lamb, Glory  
Landry, Frank & Kalliroi  
Langel, Randy & Patti Stathis  
Laspitis-Balboa, Stella

Lasswell, Theophilos & Dorothea  
Laury, Helen Compogiannis  
Magoulas, Efstratios "Yianni"  
Mamalakis, George & Mary  
Martin, Nick  
Martin, Ted  
Matioisian, Mace & Phyllis  
Moreno, Paul & Lindsey  
Nedic, Sofija  
Nicolaou, Soteris & Jaime  
Pahos, Mike & Vivian  
Pantages, Greg & Rea Goumas  
Papademetriou, Adelphi Seraphima  
Papador, George & Tracy  
Papador, Georgia  
Papazacharioudakis, George  
Pappas, Carolyn  
Penoff, Dana  
Phillips, Emanuel  
Pollalis, Gikas & Stella  
Poulakos, Jennifer  
Poulis, William  
Poulos, Steve  
Ramirez, Michael & Alexandra  
Rishwain, Jeff & Connie  
Roen, Curtis & Georgina  
Scarvelis, George & Alexandra  
Smith, Catherine McDavid  
Solomon, Karen  
Stathis, Cy & Helen  
Stathopoulos, Peter  
Swider, Bob & Christy  
Theofanous, Theo & Danae  
Thomas, Fr. Simon & Pres. Stephanie  
Trigonis, Alex & Alexandra  
Tullis, Bud & Barbara  
Tziouvaras, Paul & Vivi  
Velliotes, Louie  
Vogel, Marina  
Weeks, Michael & Jean  
Winford, Gerald & Stamatina  
Zettas, Paul & Jennie

# JUNE 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Council</b> <b>Orthros, 9:00 am</b> <b>Liturgy, 10:00 am</b> Sunday school Graduation & BBQ	2	3  Council of Ministries, 6:30 p	4	5	6	<b>7 Saturday of Souls</b> <b>Orthros, 8:00 am</b> <b>Liturgy, 9:00 am</b> Festival Pastry Workshop- Melos, 8:00 am
<b>8 Pentecost</b> <b>Orthros, 8:30 am</b> <b>Liturgy, 9:30 am</b> <b>Kneeling Service</b> <i>Summer Hours Begin!</i> Pennies for Prayers Canisters Due!	9  Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm	10	11	12  VIP Picnic, 11 am at Rocky Nook Park	13	14
<b>15 Sunday of All Saints</b> <b>Orthros, 8:30 am</b> <b>Liturgy, 9:30 am</b> Happy Fathers' Day!	16  AHEPA/DOP Meetings	17	18	19	20	21
<b>22 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Saint Matthew</b> <b>Orthros, 8:30 am</b> <b>Liturgy, 9:30 am</b>	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>29 Feast of Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b> <b>Orthros, 8:30 am</b> <b>Liturgy, 9:30 am</b>	30					