

The Epistle

June 2015

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Pastor

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Orthodox Geology 101: Wind, Fire, Water, and You

(By Christian Gonzalez. Christian is a Young Adult Ministries Coordinator for Y²AM, who has his MA from Azusa Pacific University in Marriage and Family Therapy and is working toward a second MA in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry from Luther Seminary. Christian and his family live in Phoenix, Arizona.)

Between my sophomore and junior years of college, I spent 8 weeks in the Black Hills of South Dakota working on obtaining needed science credits. Included in this was a 4-week Geology course, which (before taking) I was excited about. I mean, I had a Rock Tumbler when I was a kid, so I figured geology would be a cinch.

It wasn't. It was **boring as rocks**. Although, I admit I was amazed that the **earth had been shaped by powerful forces over time** – through **erosion**. I mean, it's crazy when you consider the **absolute power of water and wind**.

Every river, at one point in time, was likely just a **little stream**. But over (a very long) time, that stream, **with the help of wind**, carved a place in the earth to make it **deeper and stronger**, turning it into a **powerful and life-giving river**. But it's not just wind and water that play a huge part in the formation of the earth: **fire does as well**. In multiple ecosystems, **fire actually plays a renewing role to the earth** as it both **burns debris and aids in re-vitalizing of life**. In all of these cases, it's amazing that these forces play two roles: they simultaneously **break down the earth** while also **shaping it to sustain life**.

No wonder, then, that this Sunday of Pentecost, **the Holy Spirit – the Lord, the Giver of Life – is described as all three: wind, fire, and water**. Except the earth that the Holy Spirit forms is **the dirt God forms into human beings, conforming them to the image of Christ**.

On Sunday, we will hear that the apostles were gathered together, when “suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent **wind**, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of **fire**, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them” (Acts 2:2, 3). Here the Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles, empowering them to **bear witness** to Christ.

In the Gospel, we will hear Christ say, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘**Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.**’” **Now he said this about the Spirit**, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified” (Jn. 7:37-39).

Wind. Fire. Water. **Erosion and re-vitalization.**

The erosive qualities of the Holy Spirit are the same ones that reveal Him to be **the Giver of Life**. God sends His Spirit “upon the apostles in the form of fiery tongues, so that, clothed with power from above, they might become witnesses to Christ to all the ends of the earth, calling all human beings to faith in Christ and salvation.”^[1]

(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
MARINA VOGEL- Vice President	JOHN P. DEMOURKAS
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TAYLOR CANFIELD	BILL PERTSULAKES
ALEX CHUCHAS	PAUL TZIOUVARAS

PARISH MINISTRIES

CHANTERS	ALEX TRIGONIS & RANDY LANGEL
CHOIR DIRECTOR	ANDRIANA KOLENDRIANOS
GREEK FESTIVAL	PAUL TZIOUVARAS
GREEK SCHOOL TEACHER	TBD
ST. BARBARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM	MARY MAMALAKIS
MISSIONS	ALEX HAIMANIS
ORTHODOX SOCIAL NETWORK (OSN)	VALERIE KATSIKIS
PARISH BOOKSTORE	GLENN RITSEMA
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PRESIDENT	GEORGIA GASTOUNIOTIS
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	ALEX CHUCHAS
V.I.P. COORDINATOR	SOFIJA NEDIC

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR	SOPHIA KENRICK
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	ANGELA CANFIELD
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	ANNA CROSSMAN

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

AHEPA PRESIDENT	JIM ARGER
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE PRESIDENT	CAROL ARGER

OFFICE PERSONNEL

VALERIE KATSIKIS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY * 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA * METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

The power of the Holy Spirit in the apostles is that **He forms them as witnesses to Christ's power over death.** He does this not only through their words, but by making them **witnesses in their own deaths**, as nearly all will become **martyrs** – witnesses to Christ's victory in their own bodies.

The *wind, fire, and water of the Spirit has formed **the earth that they are** into true images of Christ.* It is the Spirit which God breathed into Adam when He formed Him from the dust of the earth. And it is **that same Spirit who descends upon us** on Sunday. He works to perfect us, to form us as witnesses – not just in what we proclaim or say, **but in who we are.** Fr. John Behr writes:

We are to become witnesses – that is, monuments, examples, martyrs – of what Christ has effected. We are to be consumed by the fire of the Spirit, so that we are incorporated into the life of God, to become the very body of Christ, so that each and everyone of us becomes a partaker in Christ's victory and his Kingdom, so that we also have the Spirit of God in our hearts.[2]

The Spirit comes to us today as wind, fire, and water, seeking to shape **the earth that we are into true human beings.** But our earthen hearts are dry, resistant to God's forming us, and need a little **spiritual erosion through the water of the Spirit.** Too often, we are consumed by a life that is *not* of the Spirit. We are fleshly creatures possessing a fleshly mind, meditating on the **things of this world** while attempting to **justify our disordered love for them.**

Is it possible that we disguise our **love for the things of this world** as “**having expensive taste?**” Is it possible that our “**emergency fund**” is a **security blanket against faith and relying on God's providence?** Is it possible that our **dedication to “diet and exercise”** is **simply fear of death** masquerading as healthy living?

On Pentecost, the Lord asks us to contemplate divine things, focusing on the coming of His Kingdom as we receive the Holy Spirit. Illumined by the **fire of the Spirit**, I can see that my insistence that I eat a Paleo diet is not *just* about being healthy, but is rooted **in my deep fear of death.** But God sends His Spirit to erode my fear of death in order that I may know in my bones that Christ is victorious, causing a river of living water to flow from my heart.

But it's gonna hurt. Erosion. Is. Painful.

We will be forced to confront our hearts and to see **where our treasure truly lies.** We will have to ask ourselves if our hearts are attached to the things of this world – our jobs, our possessions, our passions – or if they are tethered to the things of God – compassion, service, and love.[3]

“Rather than hardening ourselves, trying to become what we want to be, we must remain pliable, open, and responsive to the creative activity of God: we must learn to ‘relax in the hands of God, to let God be the creator.’”[4] For as we yield to God and allow the Spirit to wash over us as wind, fire, and water, we will be shocked to find that the deeper He works to erode us, the stronger the rivers of living water will flow through us.

What do you think? What ties you to this world? What might the Holy Spirit be seeking to erode in you in order to orient your heart toward the things of God?

[1] John Behr, *The Cross Stands While the World Turns: Homilies for the Cycles of the Year* (Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2014), p. 99.

[2] *Ibid.*, p.99.

[3] Compare this idea with what we pray every Liturgy in Church during the Cherubic Hymn: “Now lay aside all earthly cares, that we may receive the King of all!”

[4] John Behr, *The Mystery of Christ: Life in Death* (Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary, 2006), p. 168.

President's Report

SAINT BARBARA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

CELEBRATING OUR PAST... BELIEVING IN OUR FUTURE

Since 1947, the St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church has been a spiritual home where the moments of joy and sorrow of our Orthodox Christian lives have been celebrated. Generations have been Baptized, Chrismated, and Married and extended their final farewells to their loved ones. Today the St. Barbara Parish continues to embrace new families looking for a spiritual home, and for families with children, provided a Gospel based education to children for generations. Faith, Family and Tradition have been the cornerstone of our Parish Community.

Our "new" campus buildings were completed in 1986 and have received praise for their simplistic beauty where the Divine Liturgy is celebrated, the Gospel is preached, our sins forgiven, our spirits uplifted by a devoted and gifted choir of voices and a place where we gather weekly to spend a few quiet moments in prayer away from the chaos and confusion of a world outside the doors.

Age has taken its toll on our beautiful facilities and grounds. Our long range planning estimates 2.8 million dollars needed over the next decade – the vast majority hopefully to be funded by our soon to be created Endowment Fund.

Our immediate one year goal is \$250,000 for Phase I to cover our most urgent challenges:

1. Kitchen patio foundation repair.
2. Parking lot resurfacing with expanded handicap access and lighting.
3. Exterior and interior painting of Sanctuary and Orthodox Center.
4. Kitchen remodel and appliance upgrades.
5. Education Center roof repairs and heating/air conditioning duct repairs.

I am prayerfully hopeful that we can celebrate our 30 year anniversary in 2016 with completion of the above noted five most urgent priorities. This can only become a reality with your generous donations as soon as possible. To date, \$38,000 has been received or pledged from 10 parishioners which is a wonderful start to our campaign fund raising which was launched in mid-March.

Can we raise \$250,000 in the near future? Yes! As a reminder, in 1997 we raised \$305,000 for the Redding Education Center within three months! The vast majority of individual gifts were \$1,000 and some, considerably more.

When you receive your soon to be mailed Capital Campaign packet and return envelope, please respond with a sacrificial gift within your means. This will allow us to look to a more secure financial future and leave a legacy to those who follow us. Today, we use buildings built by past generations that need repair and restoring and we leave to the future generations of the St. Barbara Orthodox Christian parish our commitment to them and their Faith. The generosity of the past has brought us to today and this past generosity should give us the courage to shape the future.

SAINT BARBARA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

CELEBRATING OUR PAST & BELIEVING IN OUR FUTURE!

In His Service,
Ernest Kolendrianos
President, 2015 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
Angelique Chuchas (health)
Bill & Helen Gekis (health)
Sorel (Sophia) Kolendrianos (Rett Syndrome)
Michael (health)

Happy Name Day!

5th Saint Dorothea- Dorothy Anthimiades, Dorothea Lasswell
7th All Saints- Everyone Celebrates!!!
19th Saint Jude- Jude Khoury
29th Saints Peter & Paul- Paula Edmonds, Paul Hanges, Petar Nedic, Paul Zettas
30th 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.

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday, June 7th

Sunday of All Saints

Orthros – 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Thursday, June 11th

Feast of Saint Bartholomew

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Sunday, June 14th

2nd Sunday of Saint Matthew

Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

Sunday, June 21st

3rd Sunday of Saint Matthew

Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

Wednesday, June 24th

Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Sunday, June 28th

4th Sunday of Saint Matthew

Orthros – 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

Monday, June 29th

Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Tuesday, June 30th

Feast of the Synaxis of the Apostles

Orthros – 8:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Summer Hours at Saint Barbara's

The Sunday Divine Services will be celebrated from Sunday, June 14th – Sunday, September 6th as follows:

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Please make note of these changes!



The Nativity of the Holy Prophet and Forerunner, John the Baptist

June 24th

In Luke 1:5, the Gospel relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within her.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John," which means, "God is gracious." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and Saint Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1:68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

It should be noted that the Conception of Saint John the Baptist is celebrated on September 23rd, which makes his gestation period nine months plus one day. Further, we celebrate the Nativity of the holy Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary on September 8th, and her Conception on December 9th, making her gestation period nine months less one day. Contrasting this with the celebration of the Annunciation (conception of Christ) on March 25th, and Christ's Nativity on December 25th, we see that it is Christ alone who is perfect in all things!

Philoptochos Chapter #4019

What is Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor)?: It is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that has offered eighty years of philanthropy through a multitude of programs that make a difference in the lives of people in the United States and throughout the world. The Society was established in November 1931. Philoptochos fulfills its mission to “help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, those with disabilities and the victims of disasters” through its National and Metropolis Boards, its 26,000 members, and more than 400 active chapters nationwide.

Domestic Violence Solutions: Philoptochos will be hosting the Coffee Fellowship on June 14th to raise funds for Domestic Violence Solutions. We hear about domestic violence and how to protect ourselves, but many are afraid to ask for assistance. Please share the information below with your children, grandchildren, family and friends.

- Domestic Violence Solutions operates 24-hour hotlines in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Santa Ynez.
- Trained staff provides counseling, information, referrals, and access to immediate shelter. Staff also meets in person with potential residents to help formulate safety and shelter plans.
- Domestic violence is preventable.
- With effective intervention, violent and abusive behavior and attitudes can be replaced by healthy behavior and attitudes that are based on equality.
- Both men and women must work to end domestic violence.

Please support Domestic Violence Solutions. There are many women and children that need our support.

Mochas for Missions is a joint program of the Philoptochos and the Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism to support Mission Parishes in our Metropolis. All canisters are located in the Narthex and the bulletin table at the Orthodox Center. If you haven't picked one up as yet, please take one and place any loose change or bills and give to Pam Alexander or just drop off at the Church Office at the beginning of June 2015.

Please mark your calendar for our yearly Membership Tea/Martini Mixer to be held Saturday, September 12th. Time and place will be determined.

Saint Nicholas Shrine at Ground Zero: Philoptochos will host a fundraising luncheon Sunday, September 13th. If you are not able to join us, your donation will be much appreciated. For those that have given a donation, we thank you for your support of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

“The Greek Feast Santa Barbara Style” is our chapter's cookbook that many worked hard in perfecting. The third addition will be available for sale at Amazon.com. You can purchase a hard copy or download a soft copy. Thanks to John McKinney for setting this up for us.

Speaker: We are happy to announce Julie Angelos will be our speaker at our October 11th meeting. Other events are in the planning stage and will be announced soon.

To become a Philoptochos member, join us at our meetings or contact the Church Office. We want to hear your ideas, suggestions, and recommendations for the future of Philoptochos.

The next meeting will be held July 12th after the Divine Liturgy.

Respectfully,
Georgia Gastouniotis / Philoptochos President

PHILOPTOCHOS WILL BE HOSTING THE COFFEE HOUR
SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
SANTA BARBARA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SOLUTION

Domestic Violence Solutions (DVS)

1. Who are they?

- DVS is the only agency in Santa Barbara County focused on ending domestic violence since 1977. They are a 501(3) (c) non-profit with a proven track record of success.

2. What do they do?

- They work to save lives every day. Last year alone, they sheltered 311 women and children; provided counseling to 910 individuals; served 2,081 callers to their 24 hour hotline; and handled 582 emergency 9-1-1 calls.

3. Why should we consider supporting them?

- The U.S. still has the highest rate of domestic violence homicide of any industrialized country.
- Each day on average, three women are murdered by intimate partners — husbands and ex-husbands, boyfriends and estranged lovers. In 2010, 39 percent of U.S. female homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner.
- These statistics don't take into account the traumatic impact on children, who live in fear and often continue the cycle of violence as adults.
- Supporting women and children by removing them from abusive situations; providing them with counseling and legal advice; and giving them dignity and hope is in complete alignment with the Philoptochos Mission.

4. What kind of support can we provide DVS:

- We have a wide range of support options, including but not limited to:
- The Backpack Project we have supported for several years
- Participation in existing fund raising events such as a 5K Run/Walk For Love on Saturday, November 1, 2014, or the October 5th tea or Baccara Soiree (\$80 per ticket)
- Providing \$150 for a Fresh Start for those entering long- term shelter (18 months). Items purchased include bedding, diapers, shampoo, small rug
- Providing vouchers to local thrift shops for clothing
- Collecting items of clothing plus household items such as lamps, small shelves
- Offering to host a fund raising event at our church.

Parish & Youth Ministries

Sunday School

June 7th is Sunday School Graduation, the last day of lessons and Sunday School will close its doors for the Summer season. During the summer months, Father Simon will be working with the Sunday school team on curriculum, calendar of events, and a teachers' workshop.

Over the course of the school year I have seen solid attendance from dedicated families. I have also seen many avenues of growth in our Sunday school as a whole and in our youth programs. It has been inspiring to see relationships evolve and get stronger amongst the youth, their teachers, and their families.

Many thanks to these wonderful teachers:

Margo Kwiatkowski who taught High School

Olya Benbow who taught Middle School

Angelique Chuchas who taught Elementary

Angela Canfield who taught Pre-K & Kindergarten

Many thanks also to all the following individuals who contributed throughout the year:

Krista Blake, Elsa Fryer, Sophia Kenrick, Vivi Tziouvaras, Presvytera Stephanie Thomas, Stefanie Kourakis, Frank Landry, Taylor Canfield, Megan Burge, and Alexandra and Brian Iorio.

Many thanks and blessings to all Sunday school families who attended and participated in programs throughout the school year. Your presence and support created a loving, enriching environment for all our students. It has been a blessing and an honor to serve as Sunday School Director.

With Love in Christ,

Angela Canfield

Sunday School Director

Missions Update

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Wine for Water fundraiser. We had a very enjoyable and successful evening. The event brought in over \$12,500 that will enable us to continue drilling wells in Tanzania.

Special thank you to the following: Bill Poulis for donating and preparing the delicious hors d'oeuvres; George Fakinos for providing and pouring the great wines from Lafond Winery and Santa Barbara Winery; the Missions Committee – Marina Vogel, Mary Papador Mendoza, Alexandra

Iorio, and Pam Alexander for all their hard work and contributions; Lana Marme Phillips for all her donations and help with the silent auction; Marcos Schneider for playing the piano; Alex Gorbenko for creating the flyers and tickets; and all the people who supported and helped with setup, cleanup, and in the kitchen – Sophie Alexander, Alex and Angelique Chuchas, Iuliana Earl, Barbara Fakinos, Brian Iorio, Bill Pertsulakes, Angeline Sfaelos Vollmer, and Henry & Mary Webber (thank you also to the Webbers for their very generous donation).

A special mention goes out to Sara Flora Fakinos, who collected toys and school supplies for fellow Orthodox Christian students in Tanzania. And thank you to Father Simon, the Parish Council, and Valerie Katsikis for their support.

VIP Seniors

The VIP Seniors got together on May 14, 2015 at the Beachside Café for a luncheon, planning and fellowship. The meeting was successful and with good food, friendships, laughter and high spirits the time went by quickly. On the business side the agenda was short & all decisions were made quickly.

The first item on the agenda was regarding our June picnic in the park. Our original plan to have the annual picnic at Rocky Nook Park had to be changed due to the Rocky Nook Park space being unavailable. Instead the V.I.P Seniors will have a luncheon at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club on Thursday June 11, 2015. Additional information regarding this lunch will be forthcoming.

The next item on the working agenda was regarding the November Thanksgiving Dinner. The information we received from the caterer is that we need at least 25 attendees at the dinner. We will need to know if we have that number by August 14, 2015. If we do not have enough attendees, than we will need to cancel the reservation. To cancel a reservation without penalty the caterer needs to be notified 3 months prior to the party date.

To ensure we have a successful Thanksgiving Dinner and avoid any penalties, Seniors, please sign up and keep your pledge to attend. Just a reminder friends and families are welcome to attend. In case the Thanksgiving Dinner is canceled, the Seniors will get together on Thursday, November 14, 2015 for a luncheon at the café of their choice.

Sunday School



Graduation and Promotion

Sunday, June 7th, 2015

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

Volunteers for June

Acolytes:

Connor Blake, Cainan Iorio, Dean Richardson, Dimitri Richardson, Demetri Thomas

Epistle Readers:

7	Greek: Voula Aldrich	English: Theophilos Lasswell
14	Greek: Nick Pappas	English: Ruth Angelos
21	Greek: Alex Trigonis	English: Randy Langel
28	Greek: Angeliqe Chuchas	English: Jackson Kwiatkowski

Ushers

7 Bill Poulis, Alex Haimanis
14 Paul Tziouvaras, George Papazacharioudakis
21 William Poulis, Brian Iorio
28 Bessie Condos, Art Markos

Prosporo Bakers:

7 Sophia Kenrick
14 Bessie Condos
21 Valerie Katsikis
28 Anna Petronakis

Altar Flowers:

7 Vivi Tziouvaras
14 Available
21 Available
28 Available

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

7 Sunday School BBQ
14 Philoptochos
21 Available
28 Available

Hosting Coffee Fellowship After Liturgy

The Parish Council invites members to volunteer to host a Coffee Fellowship Hour in the Orthodox Center during this Ecclesiastical Year. The intent is to offer refreshments of your choice that will encourage social interaction among the membership, and opportunities to meet and greet visitors and new members. The coffee, sugar/sweetener, napkins, plates, cups and utensils are provided by the Church. Please bring creamer and juice. This is a great opportunity to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or to honor a loved one. Photos/memorabilia are encouraged for a table display. Families or groups of individuals can co-host as well. Please sign up on the Coffee Hour Host list on the Orthodox Center Bulletin Board in the Center entryway. If you have questions, please call Valerie in the Church Office, 683-4492. Coffee will always be available when there is no host. Thank you for your consideration and hopeful participation.

NEWS & NOTES

Baptism...

Nicole Botaitis, on May 9th, with Alexandra Iorio as sponsor

Caitlin Jasper, on May 16th, fiancée to Tommy Pertsulakes, with Bill Pertsulakes as sponsor

Chrismation...

Gabriel Dominocielo, on May 2nd, husband to Christina Markos, with James Burge as sponsor

Weddings...

Gabriel Dominocielo & Christina Markos, on May 23rd, with Tricia Rogers as the sponsor

Deaths...

Michal Domagala, on May 16th, husband of Anastasis (Terilee) Stavros Domagala

Memorials...

Jim Peters (40 days), husband of Linda Peters, May 3rd

Theony Condos (3 years), sister of Bessie Condos, on May 17th

In Memory of...

Jim Peters by Bessie Condos, Mike & Vivian Pahos to the Capital Campaign

Dorothy Hull by Mary Bekakos

Steve Compogiannis by The Chachakos family

Community Organizations

Order of AHEPA, Santa Barbara Chapter 243

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

The mission of the AHEPA family, 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 effort and the lifelong learning, of mind and body, the classic Hellenic definition of PAIDEA.

The following narrative is a brief summary of events from the recollections of Ahepan Jim Chachakos that helped to build our first Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church. Please note that a detailed history of our local church is also available at our own history museum center. There were 3 Ahepans that used their homes as collateral in order to secure a loan for the building of our first church at 1124 Castillo Street. These 3 Ahepans were Speros Poullos, George Mikos, and Gust Chachakos. In 1948 the Ventura County Chapter of Ahepa also donated \$2400 to our church building fund. During this same time the Daughters of Penelope also performed outstanding service with their fund raising efforts including pastry baking. In 1958 it was the Ahepan Ventura Chapter that donated \$3,500 to finally retire our first mortgage.

We have our meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month, usually at Harry's Plaza Cafe' in the Ranchero Room starting at 6:30pm. If you are interested in joining AHEPA, or attending a meeting to learn more about AHEPA contact President Jim Arger at 310-903-2688.

Daughters of Penelope, Santa Barbara Chapter Delos 103

www.daughtersofpenelope.org and www.dopdistrict20.org

The objective of the Daughters of Penelope is to promote the social, ethical and intellectual interests of its members; to encourage Hellenic study; to cultivate citizenship and patriotism for the USA, Canada, Greece, Cyprus and all countries in which Chapters exist; and to promote and preserve the dissemination of Hellenic culture and ideals as a contribution to global civilization. Meetings are the third Monday of each month and our **next meeting is scheduled for June 15th at 6:15 in the Orthodox Center.**

At our May meeting, we had the privilege of initiating two new members, Nicole Botaitis and Marina Vogel. We welcome them to the Sisterhood!

The **District Convention is in Chandler, AZ from June 11-14** and the **AHEPA Supreme Convention is in San Francisco from June 29- July 4.** See the Ahepa or Daughter's websites for information and registration forms.

If you are interested in becoming a Daughter, please call Helen McGillivray at 965-6727. 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.dopdistrict20.org.

Santa Barbara-Patras Sister Cities Group Monthly News

The Santa Barbara-Patras Sister Cities group began in 2010 and is a nonprofit organization. We are working to make the Sister Cities relationship between the 2 cities a firm, long-term relationship, built on direct contact and people-to-people programs that range from cultural, student, professional, industrial and commercial exchanges of all types. With Universities, a Technological Institution and their connected research institutes, Patras is an important scientific center. Our representative in Patras, Panayiotis Mitroulias, has contacted certain politicians who are interested in forming a Sister City, as well the Chamber of Commerce and Professors of the University of Patras that have taught at UCSB. We are happy to announce A Sister City of Patras-Santa Barbara is being formed at this time. A trip to Greece will be planned for next year and exchange programs with the Universities in the near future.

Our group meets every other month hosted at a member's home. If you want to become a member, please email Georgia Gastouniotis ginagaston1@gmail.com or call 805-455-6725. You can also check the website www.sbpstras.org.

Santa Barbara Greek Festival 2015

August 1st & 2nd

Festival Meeting: Individual Booth Manager Meetings.

Booth Sponsors: Booth Sponsorships are available for most Festival Booths. In return for a **\$500 Sponsorship**, a sign with the Sponsor's name will be prominently displayed in the designated Booth during the 2015 Greek Festival. We guarantee you will be noticed and gratefully acknowledged both days at the Park.

Booth Managers List

<u>Booth (Dance Floor Side)</u>	<u>Manager(s)</u>	<u>Booth (Food Line Side)</u>	<u>Manager(s)</u>
Agora	Vivi Tziouvaras	Administrative Office	Jeff Rishwain
Bar/Beer (Dance Floor)	Maria Tziouvaras	Barbeque	Taylor Canfield
Coffee	Connie Hillman/ Tina Winford	Bar/Beer (Food Line)	Caitlin Jasper/ Tommy Pertsulakes
Gyros	George Papador	Chicken Gyros	Soteri Nicolaou
Mezze	Tom Kapernekas	Food Line	Christina Papalexis
Pastries	Mariella Stockmal/ Sophia Kenrick	Raffle	Ernest Kolendrianos
Soda (Dance Floor)	Francesca Richardson	Religious Booth	Alex Chuchas
		Soda (Food Line)	Iulia Earl

Festival Task Force

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Officer(s)</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Officer(s)</u>
Advertising	George Mamalakis	Parks & Recreation	Randy Langel
Brochure	Angelique Chuchas	Signs	Kosta Davlantes/ George Papazach.
Electrical	Chris McGillivray	Vendors	Valerie Katsikis
Entertainment	Patti Stathis Langel	Worker Coordinator	Kosta Davlantes
Health Department	Randy Langel		

Festival Pastry Workshops

Having trouble coming up with the perfect Mothers' Day gift? What could be better than regaling your mother (or yiayia or aunt or nouna) with tales from the kitchen as you expertly crafted *kourabiedes* for Saint Barbara's 42nd Annual Greek Festival! Come be part of the buttery goodness and fluffy sweet rain of powdered sugar that makes these cookies a favorite for all time.

Saturday, June 13th at 8 AM: *Melomakarona*

Friday, July 24th at 1 PM: *Yogurt cake (Yaourttopita)*

Saturday, July 25th at 1 PM: *Walnut cake (Karithopita)*

Please contact Sophia Kenrick at 805-967-1470 or louloudaki@gmail.com to volunteer for a joyous day of fun, fellowship and baking. Many helping hands make the shaping and baking go quickly. So volunteer today!

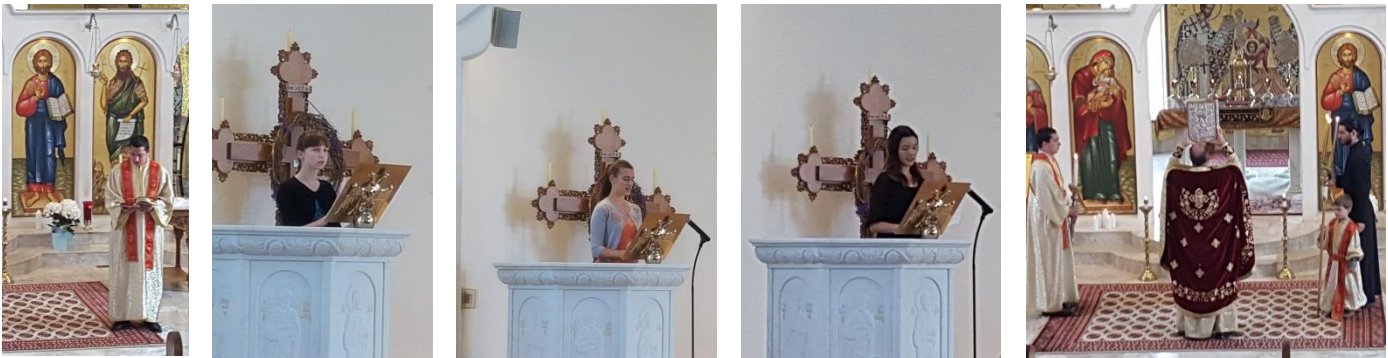
Oranges Needed!!

Did you know it takes about 50 oranges to make the zest and juice for the festival melomakarona? And another 150 oranges for each of our delicious, luscious, melt-in-your mouth cakes? If you have an orange tree and are able to help provide for our workshops, please contact Sophia Kenrick at 967-1470 or louloudaki@gmail.com.

Spiritual Development Action Plan & Status Summary

By the Grace of God and the intercessions of Saint Barbara, we have already addressed, or are in the process of addressing 8 of the 9 Actions from the 2014 Spiritual Development Action Plan. A special thanks to Father Simon for immediately adopting these Action Items, and putting his heart, focus, and a considerable amount of work and energy into addressing them, as well as to Parishioners who have supported Father along the way, and finally to the entire Parish for your support and participation, because without it, the goals of these action items could not be realized, both individually, and as a Parish!

We had our **Youth Sunday event on May 3rd** last month, which really was a blessing! Our Saint Barbara's Youth essentially participated in all aspects associated with supporting the Divine Liturgy that Sunday. The Youth supported in such ways as being Ushers to welcome Parishioners as they arrived, reading the Epistle, Acolytes serving in the Altar, singing in the choir, and also reading their St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Speeches within the church to all who attended church that Sunday. It was a joyful event and educational as well because I believe we all learned and benefitted by hearing the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Speeches created and given by the Youth in our Parish. A special thanks to all of our Youth who participated and also to Father Simon, Presvytera Stephanie, Jackson & Margo Kwiatkowski, Sophia Kenrick, Brian Iorio, Bessie Condos, Bill Poulis, Alex Haimanis, Paul Tziouvaras and all who I have unintentionally missed who helped prepare and support this blessed event! I tried to take a few photos during the event that are shown below, but please forgive me for not capturing all of the Youth who participated that day! I pray this was an enjoyable event for all involved and that all of our Youth feel even more motivated than before to want to participate in all aspects of the church!



We also served food to the Homeless at the Casa Esperanza shelter in Santa Barbara on Saturday May 23rd. This is a part of how we are addressing the Local Outreach Action within our Spiritual Development Action Plan. We hope to continue this type of outreach to the homeless and also pursue other local outreach opportunities in the following months within our Santa Barbara community. **This month, we are scheduled for Saturday, June 27th from 10 am – 1 pm.** Thank you to all who participated and to those who have expressed interest about wanting to volunteer in the future! **If you missed this event this past May, but would like to be involved in serving food to the homeless or other local outreach within our community, please contact me at the email below or by phone at 916-206-3709.**

Mark your calendars! Don't miss the last Studies in the Faith class series started last year, which will conclude on Tuesday June 2nd. Please come and join us for this educational opportunity this month!

A summary of the Spiritual Development Action Plan and the Status of each Action can be seen below. We look forward to accomplishing the remaining Actions with your support and involvement as we work together to draw nearer to God and to each other!

With love in Christ,

Alex Chuchas, Spiritual Development Ministry Leader

If you have questions, feel free to email me: ajchuchas@gmail.com

Development Action Plan & Status Summary

#	Action	Description	Status	
			To-Date	Notes
1.	Holy Communion & Repentance	Education on Holy Communion (<i>importance, preparation, frequency, etc.</i>) and Repentance through various media. Seminar/Retreat, Epistle Articles, Sermons, etc.	Ongoing	Epistle articles in 2014-15 have included: <i>The Mystic Supper, Excerpts on Faith, Holy Communion & Repentance</i> , and <i>Confession</i> . Several Sermons have been preached on these topics. Seminars/Retreats are being planned.
2.	Studies in the Faith	A class offered which will provide multiple opportunities to learn more about the Orthodox Christian Faith	Ongoing	Studies in the Faith Classes began in November of 2014. This class meets the 1 st Tuesday of every month. The focus of the class for 2014-15 is "Worship & Sacrifice"
3.	General Bible Study	A study of the Bible that enhances our understanding of the Scriptures, while strengthening our Faith	Ongoing	Bible Study began in November of 2014. This class meets the 3 rd Tuesday of every month. The focus of the class for 2014-15 is the Book of Revelation
4.	Sunday School Curriculum	Create a curriculum that engages students, and includes opportunities for learning at home.	Ongoing	A meeting with Sunday School Teachers took place in October to begin preparations for the year. Plans and work are ongoing to layout the general curriculum and formulate Lesson Plans.
5.	At Home This Week	An addition to the weekly email blast from Fr. Simon that will provide simple and practical ways to practice our Faith every day.	Ongoing	At Home This Week began in February of 2015. These small practical suggestions on how to incorporate the Faith into the home are emailed weekly.
6.	Church Etiquette	Provide education through various media regarding behavior, dress, and more. (<i>Signs, Epistle Articles, Usher Training, etc.</i>)	Ongoing	Educational excerpt in the March 2015 and more to follow in future Epistles this year. Additionally, some signs are in the planning stages of being created for the Narthex in the church.
7.	Youth Sunday	Schedule a Sunday to highlight our Youth and numerous Youth Programs & Activities in our Parish.	Ongoing	A Youth Ministries Manual was created in October of 2014, which explains all the youth ministries of the parish. Included in this is a Youth Sunday, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2015. Please plan on attending this blessed event!
8.	Local Outreach	Participate in local outreach ministry (<i>DVS Walk, MS Walk, Habitat for Humanity, Soup Kitchen, etc.</i>)	Ongoing	Still researching opportunities, but we are beginning to serve food to the homeless at Casa Esperanza. Aiming to also participate in other events like the DVS Walk this year.
9.	Pick-A-Sermon Sundays	Questions concerning the orthodox Christian Faith will be submitted and addressed over time via Sermons Once a Month during Sunday Divine Liturgies.	Launching Soon	In the process of setting up being able to submit questions through the Church website, and a physical drop box will be placed at Church as well. God willing we will start this in a month. Please forgive the delay!

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Strategic Plan

Metropolis Strategic Plan Update

The Metropolis Strategic Plan is moving right along. Last month the Missions and Evangelism Program was released. Please read more about this Program Release Announcement below. If you are interested in applying any aspects of it to our Parish that you feel we could improve upon or are not already doing at Saint Barbara's, then please get in touch with Father Simon or myself.

Metropolis Strategic Plan Program Release Updates

Information regarding the most recent Metropolis Strategic Plan Program Releases is given below. Furthermore, materials for all of the released programs are available on the Metropolis Strategic Plan website. Go to: <http://sfstrategicplan.net/release-announcements/>

If you have any questions about a given Program Release, please feel free to contact Father Simon or me.

How Can Our Saint Barbara Parish Support the Implementation of this Plan?

1) Download a copy of the full plan or read an Executive Summary of the Strategic Plan online.

Go to: www.sanfran.goarch.org and click on: "Strategic Plan"

2) Volunteer to assist with implementation of Action Items at our Parish

3) Look into the Program Releases, as each one becomes available, and contact Father Simon or me if you are interested in supporting them.

What if I have more Questions?

For more information or questions, please feel free to contact Fr. Simon or me.

With love in Christ,

Alex Chuchas

Metropolis Strategic Plan Advocate to Saint Barbara

ajchuchas@gmail.com



Strategic Plan Program Release Announcement Updates

Parish Strategic Planning

Strategic Area: Missions and Evangelism

Goal: Establish a Missions and Evangelism Ministry in each Parish

Program Description: Missions & Evangelism Ministry is about helping grow the Orthodox Church at the local, parish level by increasing visibility and hospitality to visitors of the parish, as well as by challenging the faithful to understand and accept their evangelistic calling.

C.O.M.E. has defined seven specific areas that the Missions & Evangelism Ministry could consider for this purpose: Welcome Committee; In-Reach and Adult Education; Parish Visibility; Mochas for Missions Campaign; Bookstore; Outreach Events; OCMC and Foreign Missions Ambassador.

Coordinator: Fr. Theodore Dorrance, St. John the Baptist, Beaverton, OR

Captain: Thomaida Hudanish, Metropolis COME Assistant Director, St. John the Baptist, Beaverton, OR

[503.277.3928](tel:503.277.3928) come@sanfran.goarch.org

Current Status: Prior to the launch of the Strategic Plan about 10 parishes in our Metropolis already had a ministry or group of ministries dedicated to developing parish evangelistic efforts. Since this work has begun in earnest, approximately 20 additional parishes have taken steps to launch Missions & Evangelism Ministries. All parishes are invited to utilize the support of C.O.M.E. for their Missions & Evangelism Ministries. The establishment of Missions & Evangelism Ministries in each parish, as well as the overall ministry of C.O.M.E., is unique to the Metropolis of San Francisco.



2015 Stewardship

<u>As of May 28th</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>2014</u>
Steward Families	111	140	79%	96
Number at 2%	39	70	56%	21
Number at 3%	12	20	60%	N/A
Amount Pledged	\$141,945	\$170,000	83%	\$121,125
Pledged Amount Received	\$55,608	\$170,000	33%	\$50,000
Total Amount Received	\$70,575.82	\$170,000	42%	\$71,740

2015 List of Stewards

Aldrich, Voula	*Gastouniotis, Dean & Georgia	Papalexis, James & Lee
Alexander, Pam	Gekis, William & Helen	Papazacharioudakis, George
Alexander, Sophie	Georghiou, Diana	Pappas, Alex
Anderson, John & Catherine	Haimanis, Alex	Pappas, Carolyn
**Angelos, James & Ruth	Hanges, Andrew & Georgia	*Pappas, Nick
Anthes, George & Stacie	*Hillman, Chris & Connie	*Penoff, Dana
Anthimiades, Dorothy	Hroundas, George & Family	*Penoff, Nadya
Anton, Alice	*Hunt, Barbara	*Pertsulakes, Tommy & Caitlin Jasper
Arger, James & Carol	Iorio, Brian & Alexandra	Pertsulakes, William
Ballas, Gus	Kallas, Agnes & Anthony	*Petronakis, Sam & Anna
Barth, Charles & Pam	*Kapernekas, Tom & Sasha	Phillips, Emanuel
Benbow, Peter & Olya	Katsikis, Valerie	Pollalis, Gikas & Stella
Bingham, Alexis	*Kenrick, Sophia	Poulakos, Jennifer
**Blake, Tom & Krista	Keramaris, Terry & Tom Panages	*Poulis, William
Botaitis, Nicole	*Khoury, Cherif	*Poulos, Steve
*Burge, James & Megan	Kingsbury, John & Katerina	Ramirez, Michael & Alexandra
**Canfield, Taylor & Angela	*Kolendrianos, Ernest & Andriana	Rishwain, Jeff & Connie
Carralejo, Kristin	*Kwiatkowski, Jackson & Margo	*Ritsema, Glenn
Carlton, Gary & Karen	*Lamb, Glory	Roen, Curtis & Georgina
Carroll, John & Lexy	Landry, Frank & Kallroi	**Smith, Catherine McDavid
Chachakos, Bill	**Langel, Randy & Patti Stathis	Solomon, Karen
Chachakos, Jim	Lasswell, Theophilos & Dorothea	Spanos, Andrea & Luigi Ottieri
**Chuchas, Alex & Angelique	Laury, Helen	Stathis, Silas & Helen
Cocores, Ted & Christine	*Mamalakis, George & Mary	Stathopoulos, Peter
Compogiannis, Chris	*Markos, Art & Lisa	*Stockmal, Steve & Mariella
Condodina, Alice & Bob Lickus	Markos, Christina & Gabe	Theofanous, Theo & Danae
**Condos, Bessie	Dominocielo	**Thomas, Fr. Simon & Pres. Stephanie
**Day, Derrick & Darcy	*Martin, Nick	Trigonis, Alex & Alexandra
Demourkas, Christina	Martin, Ted & Cynthia	Tziouvaras, Ahileas & Polyxeni
Demourkas, John P. & Dana	McGillivray, Helen	**Tziouvaras, Paul & Vivi
Demourkas, Katina	Mendoza, Richard & Mary	Velliotes, Louie
Domagala, Michal & Anastasia	Moreno, Paul & Lindsey	Vogel, Marina
*Dovas, George & Patricia	*Nedic, Sofija	Weeks, Michael & Jean Costopoulos
Fakinos, George & Barbara	**Noriega, Christopher	Winford, Gerald & Tina
Fell, Ryan & Stacey	*Pahos, Mike & Vivian	Zettas, Paul & Jennie
Fenger, Ellen	**Pantages, Chrysanthe	Zozos, Presvytera Mona
*Fields, Dino & Afrula	*Papadimitriou, Theokritos	
Fryer, Laurel	Papador, George & Tracy	

* Denotes 2% Pledge

** Denotes 3% Pledge

JUNE 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Studies in the Faith, 6:30 pm	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday of All Saints Orthros, 9:00 am Liturgy, 10:00 am Sunday School Graduation and BBQ Toumba Dance Practice	8 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30 pm	9	10	11 Feast of Saint Bartholomew Orthros, 8:00 am Liturgy, 9:00 am VIP Luncheon at the SB Yacht Club	12	13 Festival Pastry Workshop- Melos, 8:00 am
14 2nd Sunday of Saint Matthew Orthros, 8:30 am Liturgy, 9:30 am <i>Summer Hours Begin!</i> Philoptochos DVS Fundraiser	15 Youth Outing to Knotts Berry Farm AHEPA/DOP Meetings	16	17	18	19	20
21 3rd Sunday of Saint Matthew Orthros, 8:30 am Liturgy, 9:30 am Happy Fathers' Day! Life-giving Spring Monastery Presentation	22	23	24 Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist Orthros, 8:00 a Liturgy, 9:00 am	25	26	27
28 4th Sunday of Saint Matthew Orthros, 8:30 am Liturgy, 9:30 am	29 Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul Orthros, 8:00 am Liturgy, 9:00 am	30 Feast of the Synaxis of the Apostles Orthros, 8:00 am Liturgy, 9:00 am				