



Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
8306 NC HWY 751  
Durham NC 27713 919-484-1600  
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com  
[www.stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com](http://www.stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com)  
News & Announcements  
January 12, 2025

*Sunday after Epiphany*  
*Κυριακή μετα των Φωτών*



***AHEPA Chapter # 277 Meeting – Church Board Room***  
***Philoptochos Board Meeting – Sunday School Classrooms***

Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ 1/12/2025

Tatiana the Martyr of Rome 1/12/2025

Basil and John the Hieromartyrs 1/12/2025

Martyr Mertios 1/12/2025

Euthasia the Virgin-Martyr 1/12/2025

Peter of Absalom 1/12/2025

Benedict 1/12/2025

**Morning Matins 9:00 am**  
**Morning Great Doxology starts at 9:45 am**  
**Morning Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

## The Sunday Epistle Reading

**Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.  
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.**

### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.  
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ  
Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:7-13 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ λέγει, Ἀναβὰς εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δὲ, Ἀνάβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτὸς ἐστὶν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ· μέχρι καταντήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

**The Sunday Gospel Reading**  
**The Gospel According to Matthew 4:12-17**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:12-17**  
**Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλῶν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλῶν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθημένος ἐν σκότειϊδε φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

**Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church**

**Ιερος Ναος Αγίας Βαρβαρας**

8306 NC HWY 751, Durham, North Carolina 27713

(919)491-2565-priest's cell [fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com](mailto:fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com)

2025 Theophany House & Business Blessing Request Form

Αγιασμός Θεοφανίων Σπιτιού ή και Επιχείρησης 2025

Please print clearly and return form to the Church Office or Email the form to Fr. Stavroforos.

Παρακαλούμε συμπληρώστε τα στοιχεία σας καθαρά και επιστρέψτε την κατάσταση κατα της 6η Ιανουαρίου στο Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας η στο Email του Πατερα Σταυροφορο.

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ΟΝΟΜΑ:

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ:

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟΥ:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

(Διεύθυνση)

CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



**POSSIBLE DATES AND TIMES FOR BLESSING**

Πιθανές ημερομηνίες και οι ώρες για το Αγιασμό σας.

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## RELIGIOUS CALENDAR:

### January 2025

*12 – Sunday after Epiphany – 9:00 am*

*17 – Friday - Saint Anthony the Great – 9:00 am*

*19 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke – 9:00 am*

*26 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke – 9:00 am*

*30 – Thursday – Feast of the Three Hierarchs – 9:00 am*



*Today's Scheduled Coffee Hour Hosts 1/12*

**AHEPA Chapter #277**

*Today's Scheduled Narthex Greeters for 1/12*

**To be Assigned**

*Our Volunteer Chantors*

**Nicholas Georgiou**

**Pete Marinos**

*Our Volunteer Choir Directors*

**Panos Messis**

**Costa Constantinou**

*Our Volunteer Organist*

**Eleni Christakos**

Eleni Christakos  
Archangel Michael Award  
To Be Honored January 19th



Eleni is a longtime member of St Barbara. She served on the Parish Council for 10-12 years, when the church was on Watts Street and in its current location. She served in many capacities, including secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer and youth director.

As secretary, she took minutes at the parish council meetings. As treasurer, she managed all of the church's accounts, entering weekly donations in spreadsheets and

making the deposits every Monday. She spent many hours counting festival funds and making late night deposits after the festivals. As youth director she recruited Sunday School teachers and held meetings to go over the curriculum prior to the start of the ecclesiastical year.

Eleni has also served, and is currently serving, on the Philoptochos board as corresponding secretary. In this role she sends out "get well" wishes, condolences and "thank you" notes. She donates any stamps and cards/stationery she uses for this. She also serves on the Outreach committee and has spent many hours over the years preparing the various pastries sold at festivals and pastry sales.

Eleni started singing in the choir many years ago, reluctantly at first. Her father told her she made a "joyful noise", but since both parents sang in the choir, she wanted to join them. As time went on, George Cocolas, the choir director for 50 years, encouraged Eleni to consider directing. She became a back-up director when he couldn't be there. Donna Trohanis stepped up to take George's place when he could no longer direct. Eleni became Donna's back-up too. Her real passion is the organ which is her current primary focus at St Barbara.

Eleni also performed for various fundraisers held at the church. She sang solos, duets and with groups. St Barbara held several Broadway musicales and special productions at Easter and Christmas, all of which she was a part. She also sang with the Triangle Orthodox Chorale under the direction of Elia Nicholas. The group put out a CD several years ago.

Eleni has a true passion for Saint Barbara and it shows in her dedication each and every Sunday

Theky Pappas  
Archangel Michael Award  
To Be Honored January 19<sup>th</sup>



Theky is driven by her love for our Lord and by her love of her church of Saint Barbara.

She will always do what is needed to make sure that all needs are met, when they have to be. I remember on the Sunday of the Feast of the Veneration of the Holy Cross in Particular she went into her multi-task mode: she came in early to arrange the floral tray for the Holy Cross procession, and by the time she brought the tray to the altar she did not hesitate to go and mad the 'pangari' candle stand to greet our parishioners as they arrived to the morning services. Theyky is not only there at the start of the service, but many a times she remains to the very end of the service to make sure that we have enough members to pass the Sunday offering tray,

While greeting our parishioners she would go the extra step and get the names of newcomers and visitors so that I would be able to give them a Saint Barbara Welcome from the pulpit. Her efforts to get our visitors acclimated include making sure that they have the opportunity to be introduced to families in the social hall that would appear share their common concerns and interest. Her efforts have helped us to grow in number as many have become stewards of our Church seeing that they have found their extended family in the life of the Church.

Theky does not mind rolling up her sleeves. You can find her in the kitchen preparing the spanakopita, putting together the pastry orders. At festivals she sets up tables, breaks down tables, and works in the food line, either in prep or in serving.

Theky is also been an elegant and charming ambassador of our Church, be it a clergy-laity congress, or an archdiocese or metropolis gathering she always knows how to bring out the best in people as she allows her personality to uplift those that she meets.

We thank Theyky for exercising her spiritual calling to manifest her love of Christ by her deeds, her kind words, and genuine love and care for others.

She truly possesses the character of an Angel and is therefore so deserving of the Archangel Michael Award for 2024

## JANUARY 19 IS PHILOPTOCHOS VASILOPITA SUNDAY

The annual Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction will be held on Sunday, January 19, after church services. All proceeds will benefit Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, NY. Please plan to attend and show your support for this wonderful organization!



Saint Basil Academy is a national not-for-profit philanthropic center for children and young adults in need. Our mission is to provide a safe and supportive environment where our children and young adults are nurtured to become healthy members of society with vision and hope. Saint Basil Academy, located in the Hudson Valley of New York, also serves the faithful of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and other visitors from around the world. It is also our responsibility to serve and support the congregation of priests, laity and youth in the broader community through our Saint Basil Training Center. If our national and international community thrives, so will our children.

## Vasilopita Auction today for St. Basil Academy January 19<sup>th</sup>



On Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Saint Barbara Philoptochos Society will offer the annual Vasilopita Auction in support of St. Basil Academy.

This vital mission of Saint Basil Academy, carried out by the directors, staff, trustees and benefactors, is in keeping with our Lord's command to "*let the children come to me.*" This is accomplished through this ministry by bringing the love of Christ to those in need. Everything that is offered for the children and youth at Saint Basil's is offered in the name and presence of Christ. In daily care, in counseling and teaching, in recreation, and in worship, the students encounter Christ and His abundant and comforting love.

Saint Basil Academy is also a place where the lives of the children and youth are guided in Christ. On the beautiful campus, in a nurturing environment of prayer and grace, they are led in the path of truth and love. They are shown the blessings of the life in Christ, how to follow His will and to find strength and assurance in His promises. They see the hope, joy, and power in a life of faith and a lifelong relationship with Him.

This sacred work was also the focus of the patron saint of the Academy, Saint Basil. For the sick, orphans, travelers, and many others in need, he offered an encounter with Christ by taking His love to them. For others he guided them in truth and love through teaching and preaching, as a faithful and caring pastor, to their Savior and Redeemer. This is also our calling today. In our support for Saint Basil Academy, we are led by our Ladies Philoptochos Society and our local Philoptochos chapters in collecting an offering and in the celebration of the cutting of the Vasilopeta. We are also led by Christ and by the example of Saint Basil to fulfill the command of our Lord and *let the children come to me.* In your ministry in the parish and in your daily life in Christ, you are called to offer Him and guide others to an encounter with the Lord that will lead to abundant and eternal life.

On this day may we offer our prayers and generous support for Saint Basil Academy. May we strengthen this vital work to children and youth in fulfilling the request of our Lord and in honoring the legacy of all who have established and supported this ministry in the past seventy years. May you also receive the abundant and rich blessings of our Lord at the beginning of this new year as we offer Him glory and honor unto the ages of ages!

Thank You to  
Dena Paliouras for Preparing the 2025  
Vasilopita for in Church Distribution on Sunday January 19th



**2025 Community Representantive Recipients of Vasilopita**

1. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Recipient
2. Virgin Mary the Theotokos Mother of God
3. St. Basil for Saint Basil Academy and its Residents
4. For the Poor and the Needy
5. On behalf of All Parishioners of St. Barbara Church – Fr. Stavroforos
6. On behalf of the Chanters Representative – Dr. Pete Marinos
7. On behalf of the Altar Boys Co-Ordinator – James Dasher
8. On behalf of the Adult Choir Director- Panos Messis
9. On behalf of the Children’s Choir Director - Costa Constantinou
10. On behalf of the Organist our Principal Organist – Eleni Christakos
11. On behalf of the Members of the Parish Council President – George Glekas
12. On behalf of the Members of Philoptochos President – Betsy Xenakis
13. On behalf of our Sunday School and Youth Families Youth Co-ordinator – Catherine Wilson
14. On behalf of the Members of our Greek Dance Troupe Instructor - Hrysavgi Kondilis-Mangum
15. On Behalf of the Greek School Participants & Administration – George Glekas
16. On behalf of Members Durham AHEPA Chapter #277 - President Preston Wilson
- 17 A Special Thank You to Cindy Paliouras – Who Assisted Fr. Stavroforos with this Year’s Ceremony

# The Story of the Vasilopita

**THE TRADITION** - One of the more beautiful and inspirational traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church is the annual family celebration of the Vasilopita. This original event which happened in Cappadocia of Caesarea in the last half of the fourth century, is very much alive in our Orthodox homes each year.

The Greek Word Vasilopita is directly translated as “Sweet Bread of Basil”. When the Vasilopita is prepared, a coin is baked into the ingredients. Sweet flavoring is added to the bread which symbolize the sweetness and joy of life everlasting. It also symbolizes the hope that the New Year will be filled with the sweetness of life, liberty, health, and happiness for all who participate in the Vasilopita Observance.

When the observance begins, usually on New Years Day, the bread is traditionally cut by the senior member of the family, and the individual who receives the portion of the Pita which contains the coin is considered Blessed for the New Year.

Each portion of the Vasilopita are distributed as follows: The first portion is cut in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The second is for the Holy Mother of our Lord, The Virgin Mary. The third is for St. Basil the Great, the other portions are cut for the members of the family beginning with the eldest. Portions may also be cut for the Church, the house, the traveler, the visitor and the poor.

**THE HISTORY** - This age old tradition commenced in the fourth century, when Saint Basil the Great, who was a bishop, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his Diocese. He wanted to preserve their dignity, so as not to look like charity, he commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread, in which he arranged to place gold coins. Thus the families in cutting the bread to nourish themselves, were pleasantly surprised to find the coins.

**THE MAN** - St. Basil was one of the greatest Fathers of the Christian Church and appeared on the spiritual horizon of the Orthodox Faith. He was Bishop of Caesarea, Cappadocia (Asia Minor). He was born four years after the First Ecumenical Council held in the year 325 A.D. Saint Basil was one of the three Cappadocian Fathers of the Church (the others were Gregory of Nazianzus, his best friend, and his brother, Gregory of Nyssa).

Saint Basil was the first person in human history to establish an orphanage for little children. He also founded the first Christian hospital in the world. His fame as a Holy Man spread like wildfire throughout the Byzantine world. He was considered one of the wisest and compassionate clergymen in the entire history of the Church. His Feast Day is observed on January 1st, the beginning of the New Year and the Epiphany season. The Church, therefore, in respect for his many contributions to the Church and to mankind in general, combined the joy and happiness of the New Year with the glory of the birth of Christ, and the Epiphany into what is known in the Orthodox Church as the Vasilopita Observance.

***The annual Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction will be held on Sunday, January 19, after church services. All proceeds will benefit Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, NY. Please plan to attend and show your support for this wonderful organization!***

***- Betsy Xenakis, President***

***AHEPA # 277 HOSTS MOVIE NIGHT***  
***Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00***  
***SAINT BARBARA COMMUNITY HALL***  
***8306 NC HWY 751, Durham, NC 27713***

***FREE ENTRY***



*Popcorn and Other Refreshments*

*Will be made Available.*

*You can also Bring Your Favorite Snacks from Home to Enjoy !*



**ADULT BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON  
THURSDAY JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM**

**TOPICS TAKEN FROM THE SUNDAY LECTIONARY**

**Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church**

**8306 NC HWY 751**

**Durham, NC 27713**

**919-484-1600**

**For information Contact**

**Father Stavroforos by Email**

**[fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com](mailto:fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com)**

# Anthony the Great Feast Day - Friday January 17<sup>th</sup> - Matins and Divine Liturgy starting at 9:00 am



Saint Anthony, the Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained, as mentioned above, about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God." Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.

Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Saviour. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul." So Passing his life, and becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years.

# **Saint Barbara General Meeting Schedule**

## **Philoptochos General Meetings**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Month after Church in the Conference Room

## **Philoptochos Board Meetings**

Sunday prior to the Last Sunday of the Month after Church  
at a TBA offsite location

## **Parish Council General Meetings**

Second Monday of the Month by Zoom  
or in the Conference Room 6:30 pm

## **UNC-OCF**

Monday Nights

7:00 pm – Panera Bread in Chapel Hill

## **Adult Bible Study**

Thursday Nights in the Conference Room 6:30 pm

## **AHEPA Chapter # 277**

General Meetings Third Sunday of the Month after Church  
in the Conference Room

## **Greek School & Greek Dance**

Saturdays – Classrooms at Church