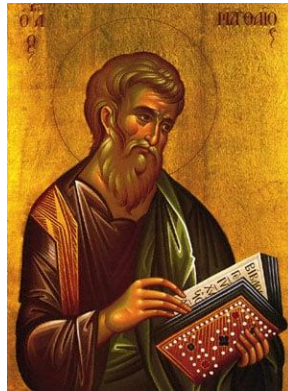




Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
8306 NC HWY 751
Durham NC 27713 919-484-1600
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com
www.stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com
News & Announcements
November 16, 2025

Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist
Αποστολος και Ευαγγελιστης Μαθαιος



To Our Visitors and Guests

*We welcome you to worship with us today, whether you are an Orthodox Christian or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although **Holy Communion and other Sacraments are offered only to baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians in good standing with the Church**, all are invited to receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) from the priest at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The Antidoron is not a sacrament, but it is reminiscent of the agape feast that followed worship in the ancient Christian Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. Please complete a Visitor's Card before you leave today and drop it in the offering tray, or give it to one of the parishioners after the service, or mail it to the Church Office.*

Agape Meeting Today after Church in the Sunday School Classroom
Philoptochos Meeting after Church in the Conference Room

Morning Matins 9:00 am
Morning Great Doxology starts at 9:45 am
Morning Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

The Sunday Epistle Reading

**Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:11-21; 11:1-2

Brethren, the scripture says, "No one who believes in God will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. For, "every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry." Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people." I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

**Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.
Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.**

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 10:11-21, 11:1-2 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, λέγει γὰρ ἡ γραφή, Πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων ἐπ' αὐτῷ οὐ καταισχυνηθήσεται. Οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν διαστολή Ἰουδαίου τε καὶ Ἑλλήνος· ὁ γὰρ αὐτὸς κύριος πάντων, πλουτῶν εἰς πάντας τοὺς ἐπικαλουμένους αὐτόν. Πᾶς γὰρ ὃς ἂν ἐπικαλέσῃται τὸ ὄνομα κυρίου σωθήσεται. Πῶς οὖν ἐπικαλέσονται εἰς ὃν οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν; Πῶς δὲ πιστεύσουσιν οὐ οὐκ ἤκουσαν; Πῶς δὲ ἀκούσουσιν χωρὶς κηρύσσοντος; Πῶς δὲ κηρύξουσιν ἐὰν μὴ ἀποσταλῶσιν; Καθὼς γέγραπται, Ὡς ὠραῖοι οἱ πόδες τῶν

εὐαγγελιζομένων εἰρήνην, τῶν εὐαγγελιζομένων τὰ ἀγαθὰ. Ἄλλ' οὐ πάντες ὑπήκουσαν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ. Ἡσαΐας γὰρ λέγει, Κύριε, τίς ἐπίστευσεν τῇ ἀκοῇ ἡμῶν; Ἄρα ἡ πίστις ἐξ ἀκοῆς, ἡ δὲ ἀκοῇ διὰ ῥήματος θεοῦ. Ἀλλὰ λέγω, μὴ οὐκ ἤκουσαν; Μενοῦνγε· εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν, καὶ εἰς τὰ πέρατα τῆς οἰκουμένης τὰ ῥήματα αὐτῶν. Ἀλλὰ λέγω, μὴ οὐκ ἔγνω Ἰσραὴλ; Πρῶτος Μωϋσῆς λέγει, Ἐγὼ παραζηλώσω ὑμᾶς ἐπ' οὐκ ἔθνει, ἐπὶ ἔθνει ἀσυνέτῳ παροργιῶ ὑμᾶς. Ἡσαΐας δὲ ἀποτολμᾷ καὶ λέγει, Εὐρέθην τοῖς ἐμὲ μὴ ζητοῦσιν, ἐμφανῆς ἐγενόμην τοῖς ἐμὲ μὴ ἐπερωτῶσιν. Πρὸς δὲ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ λέγει, Ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν ἐξεπέτασα τὰς χεῖράς μου πρὸς λαὸν ἀπειθοῦντα καὶ ἀντιλέγοντα. Λέγω οὖν, μὴ ἀπόσατο ὁ θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ; Μὴ γένοιτο. Καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ Ἰσραηλίτης εἰμί, ἐκ σπέρματος Ἀβραάμ, φυλῆς Βενιαμίν. Οὐκ ἀπόσατο ὁ θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ὃν προέγνω.

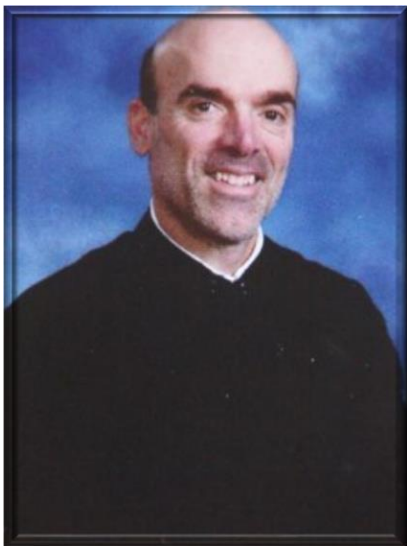
The Gospel According to Matthew 9:9-13

At that time, as Jesus passed on, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 9:9-13 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παράγων ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκεῖθεν εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον καθήμενον ἐπὶ τὸ τελώνιον, Ματθαῖον λεγόμενον, καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ἀκολούθει μοι. καὶ ἀναστὰς ἠκολούθησεν αὐτῷ. Καὶ ἐγένετο αὐτοῦ ἀνακειμένου ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ, καὶ ἰδοὺ πολλοὶ τελῶναι καὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἐλθόντες συνανέκειντο τῷ Ἰησοῦ καὶ τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἰδόντες οἱ Φαρισαῖοι εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· διατί μετὰ τῶν τελωνῶν καὶ ἁμαρτωλῶν ἐσθίει ὁ διδάσκαλος ὑμῶν; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀκούσας εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐ χρεῖαν ἔχουσιν οἱ ἰσχύοντες ἰατροῦ, ἀλλ' οἱ κακῶς ἔχοντες. πορευθέντες δὲ μάθετε τί ἐστὶν ἔλεον θέλω καὶ οὐ θυσίαν. οὐ γὰρ ἤλθον καλέσαι δικαίους, ἀλλὰ ἁμαρτωλοὺς εἰς μετάνοιαν.



Welcome Fr. Gregory

Director of Pre-Marital Programming

Father Gregory Georgiou is a priest in the Metropolis of Atlanta. He holds a Ph.D in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He holds a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and a Master of Arts in Community Mental Health Counseling from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is a Licensed Professional

Counselor (LPC) in the State of North Carolina and a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC).

As Director of Pre-marital programming, Father Georgiou plans and implements the training of clergy and lay facilitators for the Archdiocesan Journey of Marriage program. He also travels throughout the Metropolis conducting the Journey of Marriage seminar in parishes. gregorygeorgiou@yahoo.com

Fr. Edward Rommen



The V. Rev. Fr. Edward Rommen holds an MDiv and a DMiss from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, as well as a Dr. Theol. (PhD in theology) from the University of Munich. After fifteen years of church planting and teaching in Europe, he returned to the United States to teach missions and theology, then returned to pastoral ministry after becoming Orthodox. He served as the rector of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Raleigh, NC until 2017 and is currently adjunct professor at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC and the resident priest at St. Mary and Martha Orthodox Monastery in Wagener, SC.

Philoptochos News

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that everyone is doing well. October was a busy month, and November is shaping up to be just as hectic! Our next Membership Meeting will be today Nov 16 in the conference room. We will discuss our year-end events, as well as start preparing for 2026.

Please mark these important dates on your calendars:

- **Holiday Pastry Sale, Nov 21 & 22** – Our annual Holiday Pastry Sale is off and running! What a better gift to give friends, neighbors, teachers, etc. than an assortment of our delicious sweets and our homemade spanakopita. The Holiday Pastry Sale is our major fundraiser. The proceeds fund our National, Metropolis, and local commitments and charities. I have attached a copy of the order form. We need everyone's help to make this event a HUGE success! I challenge every member to bring in 3 orders each. A follow-up email will be sent with dates for cupping and packaging the pastries.
- **Philoptochos Sunday, Nov 2** - Philoptochos Sunday will now be observed on the first Sunday of November each year, as designated by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. Special collection trays will be passed this Sunday after the Divine Liturgy to benefit the Ecumenical Patriarchate. I have asked the 2 older young ladies in our community, Alexandra Easton and Ana Mangum, to pass the trays. More information about this special day is included below.
- **St. Barbara Vespers Coffee Hour, Dec 3** – Philoptochos will host the coffee hour after Vesper Services for St. Barbara on Wednesday evening, Dec 3. In addition to our parishioners, people from other communities will be joining us.
- **Philoptochos Christmas Party, Dec 6** – Our 3rd annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, Dec 6. There will be more details to follow.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

In Christ.

Betsy Xenakis

Nativity Fast Begins November 15th – December 24th

23 – 9th Sunday of Luke – 9 am

30 – Sunday- Andrew the First Called – 9 am

December Church Services of 2025



3 – Wednesday – Great Vespers for St. Barbara – 6:30 pm

4- Thursday- Feast of St. Barbara – 9 am

6 – Saturday – Nicholas the Wonderworker – 9 am

7 – 10th Sunday of Luke – 9 am



Today's Scheduled Coffee Hour Hosts 11/16

AHEPA

Today's Scheduled Narthex Greeters for 11/16

John Biggs

John Valakas

Our Volunteer Chantors

Pete Marinos

Nicholas Georgiou

Our Volunteer Choir Directors

Panos Messis

Costa Constantinou

Our Volunteer Organist

Eleni Christakos

Guidelines for the Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast (November 15 through December 24)

The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a *joyous* fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. That is the reason it is less strict than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods. The 1st period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays. The 2nd period is December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday during this period. Here are the guidelines:

Meat	Dairy	Fish	Wine	Oil
beef, chicken, pork, turkey, elk, veal, lamb, deer, rabbit, buffalo, and so forth	milk, eggs, cheese, butter, yogurt, cream, and so forth	fish with a backbone (not including shrimp, octopus, shellfish, squid, or other seafood.)	(some include all types of alcohol in this category)	(some include all types of oil in this category)
Abstain.	Abstain.	Permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays before December 20. (some permit fish Tuesdays and Thursdays also)	Permitted only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, & Sundays before December 20.	Permitted only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, & Sundays before December 20.

Abstinence includes refraining from the food and drink mentioned above, as well as from smoking. The Eucharistic Fast means abstaining from at least the previous midnight for communing at a morning Liturgy.

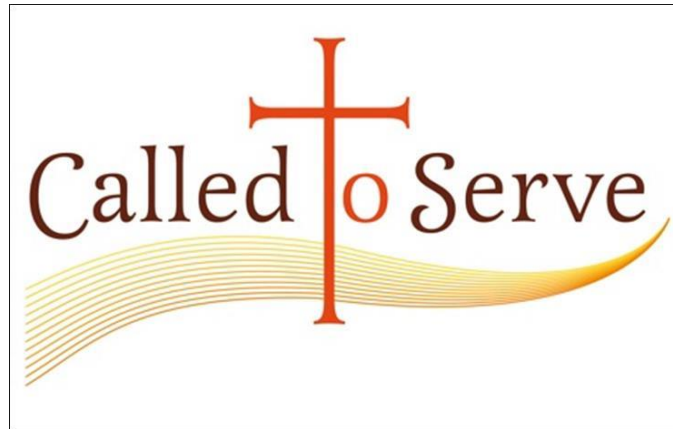
The Purpose of Fasting

The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above, the Kingdom of God. It is a means of putting on virtue in reality, here and now. Through it we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves up as an example.

- Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.
- We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God’s gift of Salvation may bear fruit in us.
- We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together.
- Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.
- Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to “set a watch and keep the door of our lips.”

Do Not Fast

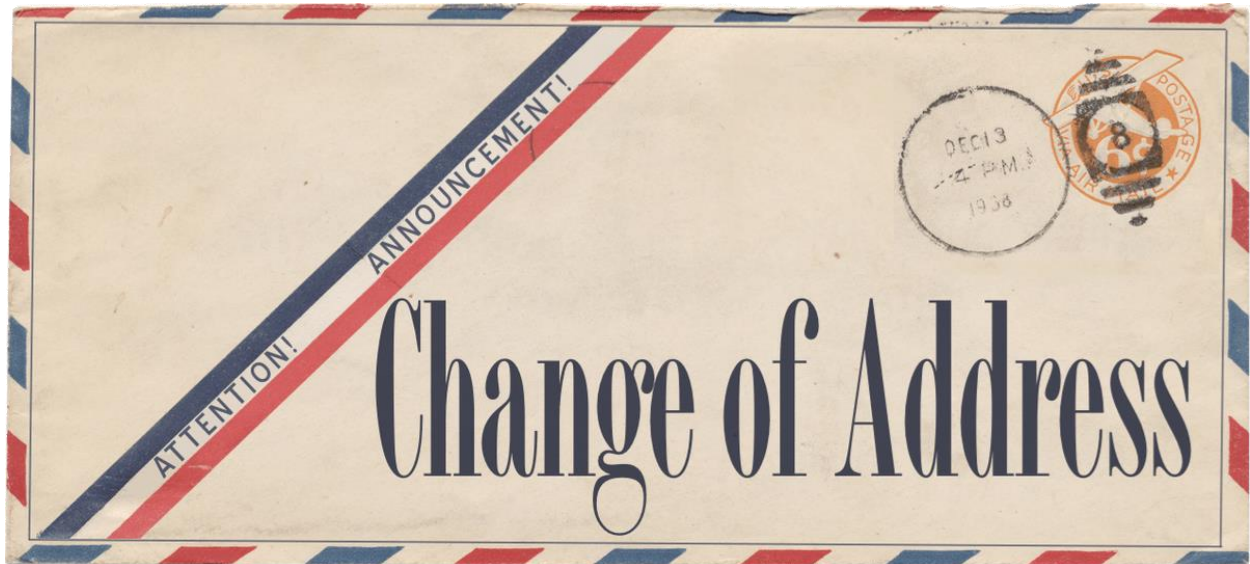
- between December 25 and January 5 (even on Wednesdays and Fridays);
- if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
- during serious illness;
- without prayer;
- without alms-giving;
- according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.



**SAVE THE DATE:
NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2025**

There will be a General Assembly on November 23, 2025. The General Assembly will begin immediately after the Divine Liturgy. The agenda for the meeting will include:

- Preliminary Financial Report for 2025
- Proposed Operations Fund and Mortgage Fund budgets for 2026
- Safety Committee Report and Presentation
- Any other items community members may wish to raise
- Candidates for the 2026-2027 Parish Council will be nominated and declared
- Nominations for the 2026-2027 Parish Council will be officially closed.



To insure the proper forwarding
Of all Mail to Your Home
Please Make Sure that We Have
Your Current Address.

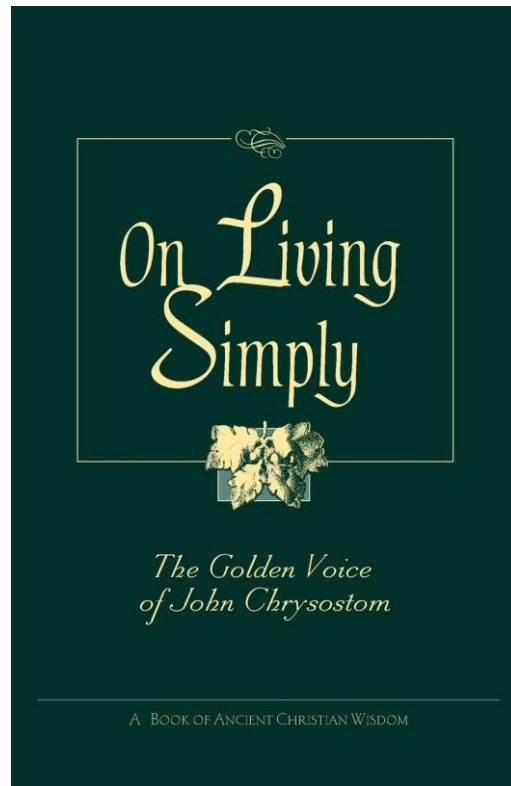
If you have moved within the Past
Year notify the

Stewardship Chair Theky Pappas

tedthekey@aol.com

or the Parish Council Treasurer John Valakas

jvalakas@earthlink.net



TUESDAY DECEMBER 9TH

AT 6:00 PM

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

'ON LIVING SIMPLY'

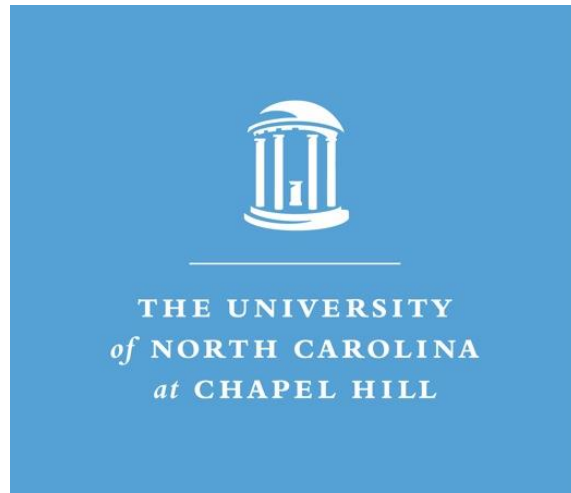
Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

8306 NC HWY 751

Durham, NC 27713

919-484-1600

**For information Contact
Father Stavroforos by Email
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com**



**UNC-OCF FELLOWSHIP & MEETING
THUESDAY DECEMBER 11 AT 6:30 PM**

**Panera Bread
213 Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
1-919-929-9189**

O U R W H Y

OCF offers college students rich community in Christ, inspiring a life-long love of God and neighbor.

O U R M I S S I O N

OCF transforms the lives of college students by guiding them along the path to Jesus Christ through His Church, cultivating a campus community of worship, witness, service, fellowship, and education.

O U R V I S I O N

- to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Christian Church on college campuses
- to be an integral part of students' spiritual formation by challenging them to explore the Faith
- to inspire students to commit to living an Orthodox Christian way of life daily

Connecting College Students to their Faith

Our goal is to *actualize* the Orthodox Christian life in the hearts, minds, and souls of college students by facilitating unified campus ministry efforts—reaching Orthodox college students on campuses throughout North America. OCF's programs and partnerships offer an environment for students interested in deeper spiritual experiences. Most importantly, OCF continues to provide a home for students on college campuses across the continent



For our new parishioners that are thinking of converting to Orthodoxy, please provide an Email address to fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com in order to receive an invitation to an upcoming informative zoom meeting.



COPPER ROOF COLOR SAMPLE

Dear Beloved Parish Family,

Our church has stood as a place of worship, celebration, and fellowship in its current location for over 16 years. It has sheltered our prayers, our festivals, our baptisms, and our weddings. But now, the very roof that has protected us is in urgent need of replacement.

This is not just about fixing shingles - it's about safeguarding our spiritual home so it can continue to welcome future generations.

To make this possible, we are inviting every family to join our **2025 Roof Roster**, a special list of people in our community, and beyond, whose contributions will directly help us put a new roof over our church. We've created giving levels inspired by the structure that shelters us:

\$250 – Tile

A single tile helps protect the whole roof. Every contribution adds strength to our church's shelter.

Πλακάκι — Ένα πλακάκι συμβάλλει στην προστασία όλης της στέγης.

\$500 – Beam

Beams support the weight of the roof - and your gift helps support the weight of this project.

Δοκάρι — Τα δοκάρια στηρίζουν το βάρος της στέγης, όπως η δωρεά σας στηρίζει αυτό το έργο.

\$1000 – Truss

Trusses hold everything together. Your generosity keeps our congregation united under one roof.

Ζευκτό — Τα ζευκτά συγκρατούν τα πάντα μαζί, όπως η γενναιοδωρία σας κρατά ενωμένη την ενορία μας.

\$2,500 – Pillar

Like the great columns of Greek history, your family's support is a strong foundation for our church's future.

Κίονας — Όπως οι μεγάλοι κίονες της ελληνικής ιστορίας, η στήριξή σας είναι θεμέλιο για το μέλλον της εκκλησίας μας.

\$5,000 – Golden Dome

A crowning contribution that shines, ensuring our parish stays safe and beautiful for generations.

Χρυσός Τρούλος — Μια κορυφαία προσφορά που λάμπει, διασφαλίζοντας ότι η ενορία μας θα παραμείνει ασφαλής και όμορφη για τις επόμενες γενιές.

Every gift - no matter the amount - brings us closer to our goal. Together, tile by tile, beam by beam, we can restore the roof and preserve the beauty, safety, and tradition of our parish for years to come.

Our goal is to raise **\$300,000** toward the cost of replacing the roof. We want the work to start this fall.

This past Sunday, Aug. 24, Father Stavroforos and members of the Parish Council made their initial contributions to the fund.

Please prayerfully consider making your gift today. Contributions can be made [online](#) through our parish website, sent by mail, delivered by check to the church office, or in person after services. Questions? Reach out to Wes Platt (wes.platt@southpointaccess.news) or Amy Glekas (asglekas@gmail.com).

Thank you for your generosity, your love for our church, and your commitment to ensuring that we remain united under one strong roof!

With gratitude and blessings,

George Glekas

Parish Council President

Father Stravroforos

Parish Priest

Roof Drive Monies Collected to Date as of November 2, 2025

<u>Level</u>	<u>Number of Donors</u>
Under \$250	12
Tile - \$250	12
Beam - \$500	12
Truss - \$1,000	12
Pillar - \$2,500	3
Golden Dome - \$5,000	7
Plus, Insurance Claim	
Total Funds Collectes as of	
November 2, 2025	\$265,00
Number of Individual Contributors	58

GODPARENTS/GODCHILDREN INTEREST FORM

Are you looking to be baptized/chrisdated into the Orthodox faith and are seeking a Godparent? Are you a proud member of the Church and would like to serve as a guide and support for others to enrich them in the faith? We are seeking to match potential Godchildren with Godparents, so these Catehumans can enjoy the richness of Orthodoxy! If you are interested, please Email fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com.

If you Email me, it is because of one of two reasons:

- 1. You are looking to be baptized/chrisdated into Holy Orthodoxy and you need to find a Godparent to help you on your journey through your spiritual life.**
- 2. You are looking to step up as a Godparent and help direct your Godchild in the richness of Orthodoxy.**

If either of these are true you have come to the right place! It is my hope to be able to match Godparents with perspective Godchildren.

Are you a perspective Godparent or Godchild?

- I am looking to be baptized/chrisdated and I'm seeking a Godparent.**
- I am a baptized Orthodox Christian and I would like to be a Godparent.**

What is your name?

How old are you?

What is the best way to contact you?

- Email**
- Phone**
- Either/Both**

What is your contact info?

Godchild: How long have you been interested in Holy Orthodoxy?

Godparent: How long have you been an Orthodox Christian?

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

What attracts you to Orthodoxy?

What are you looking for in a Godparent/Godchild?

Is there anything else that we should know about you?