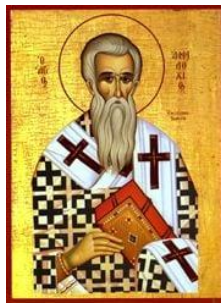




Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
8306 NC HWY 751
Durham NC 27713 919-484-1600
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com
www.stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com
News & Announcements
November 23, 2025

9th Sunday of Luke
Κυριακή 9η Λουκά



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.

Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium 11/23/2025

Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum 11/23/2025

Dionysios, Patriarch of Constantinople 11/23/2025

Ischyron, Bishop of Egypt 11/23/2025

Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple 11/23/2025

Sisinios the Confessor 11/23/2025

General Assembly Today after Church

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

The Sunday Epistle Reading

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίουσ 2:14-22 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

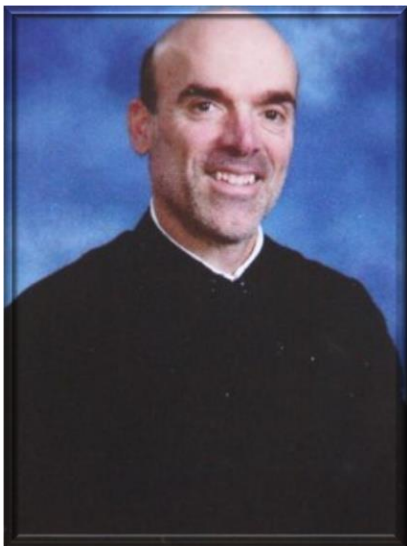
Ἀδελφοί, Χριστός ἐστιν ἡ εἰρήνη ἡμῶν, ὁ ποιήσας τὰ ἀμφότερα ἓν, καὶ τὸ μεσότοιχον τοῦ φραγμοῦ λύσας, τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν τῇ σαρκὶ αὐτοῦ, τὸν νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασιν, καταργήσας· ἵνα τοὺς δύο κτίσῃ ἐν ἑαυτῷ εἰς ἓνα καινὸν ἄνθρωπον, ποιῶν εἰρήνην, καὶ ἀποκαταλλάξῃ τοὺς ἀμφοτέρους ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀποκτείνας τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν αὐτῷ· καὶ ἐλθὼν εὐηγγελίσατο εἰρήνην ὑμῖν τοῖς μακρὰν καὶ τοῖς ἐγγύς· ὅτι δι' αὐτοῦ ἔχομεν τὴν προσαγωγὴν οἱ ἀμφότεροι ἐν ἐνὶ πνεύματι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. Ἄρα οὖν οὐκέτι ἐστὲ ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι, ἀλλὰ συμπολίται τῶν ἁγίων καὶ οἰκεῖοι τοῦ θεοῦ, ἐποικοδομηθέντες ἐπὶ τῷ θεμελίῳ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ προφητῶν, ὄντος ἀκρογωνιαίου αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ᾧ πᾶσα οἰκοδομὴ συναρμολογουμένη αὖξει εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν κυρίῳ, ἐν ᾧ καὶ ὑμεῖς συνοικοδομεῖσθε εἰς κατοικητήριον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν πνεύματι.

The Gospel According to Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 12:16-21 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπου τινὸς πλουσίου εὐφόρησεν ἡ χώρα· καὶ διελογίζετο ἐν ἑαυτῷ λέγων· τί ποιήσω, ὅτι οὐκ ἔχω ποῦ συνάξω τοὺς καρπούς μου; καὶ εἶπε· τοῦτο ποιήσω· καθελῶ μου τὰς ἀποθήκας καὶ μείζονας οἰκοδομήσω, καὶ συνάξω ἐκεῖ πάντα τὰ γενήματά μου καὶ τὰ ἀγαθὰ μου, καὶ ἐρῶ τῇ ψυχῇ μου· ψυχὴ, ἔχεις πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ κείμενα εἰς ἔτη πολλά· ἀναπαύου, φάγε, πίε, εὐφραίνου. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Θεός· ἄφρον, ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ τὴν ψυχὴν σου ἀπαιτοῦσιν ἀπὸ σοῦ· ἃ δὲ ἠτοίμασας τί νί ἔσται; οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ, καὶ μὴ εἰς Θεὸν πλουτῶν.



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 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.

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 11/23

Youth Parents

Today's Scheduled Narthex Greeters for 11/23

Carolyn Hack

Kerri Zaferatos

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.

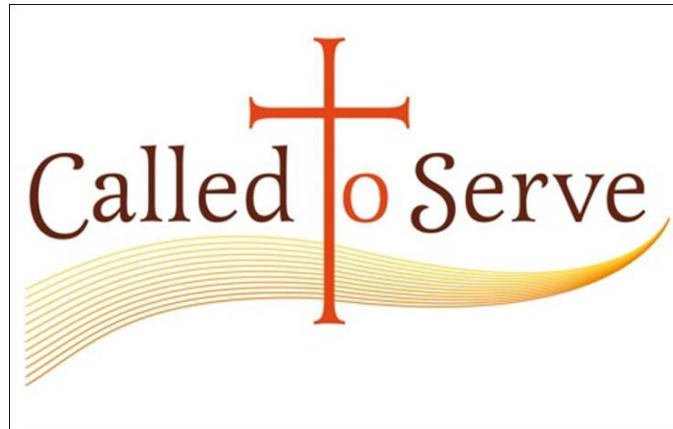
The Purpose of Fasting

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

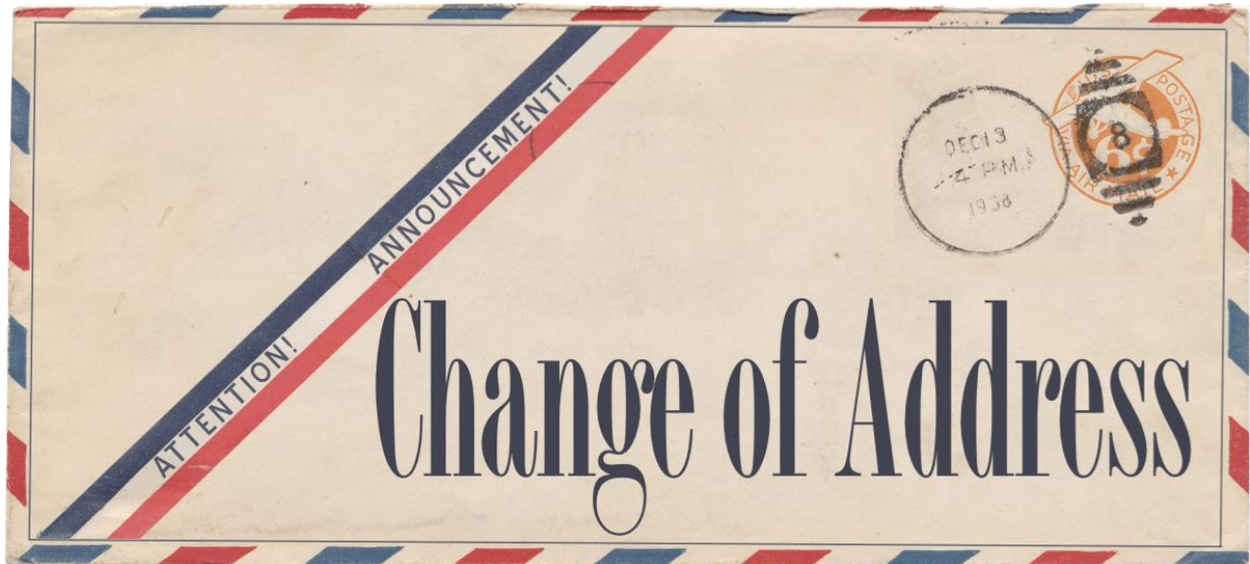
- between December 25 and January 5 (even on Wednesdays and Fridays);
- if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
- during serious illness;
- without prayer;
- without alms-giving;
- according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY NOVEMBER 23, 2025

There will be a General Assembly Today 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

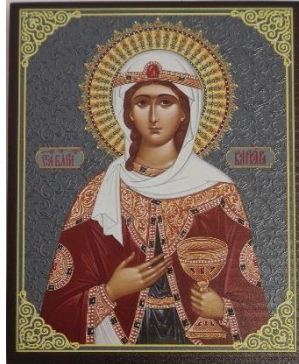
Stewardship Chair Theky Pappas

tedthekey@aol.com

or the Parish Council Treasurer John Valakas

jvalakas@earthlink.net

November 2025



*"Let us honor the Holy Martyr Barbara,
for as a bird she escaped the snares of the enemy
and destroyed them through the help and defense of the Cross."*

Dear Reverend Fathers and Parishioners of Neighboring Orthodox Parishes,

Let us gather to allow Saint Barbara's intercession to bring back the Spirit of Christmas as we gather at the beginning of December to honor her for her faith and conviction to Christ our Savior. Please join us at our Church in Durham, North Carolina which bears her name. I would like to invite you, on behalf of the Parish Council, the Philoptochos and our Parishioners, to attend the following Feast Day related services:

**Great Vespers for the Feast of Saint Barbara, the Holy Martyr
Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm**

The Philoptochos will be Hosting Refreshments after Vespers in the Church Hall.

**Feast Day Matins and Divine Liturgy for Saint Barbara
Thursday, December 4th at 9:00 am.**

It is hoped that you will be with us for the celebration.

May God Bless All of You and Your Household during this Nativity Season,

+ Fr. Stavroforos

Proistamenos

- Saint Barbara Feastday Celebration
- Ο Εορτασμος της Αγιας Βαρβαρας



- Wednesday Evening, December 3rd, 2025

- Great Vespers & Artoclasia 6:30 pm
- *Refreshments will be provided by our Philoptochos after Services*

- Τεταρτη Βραδυ, 3η Δεκεμβριου, 2025

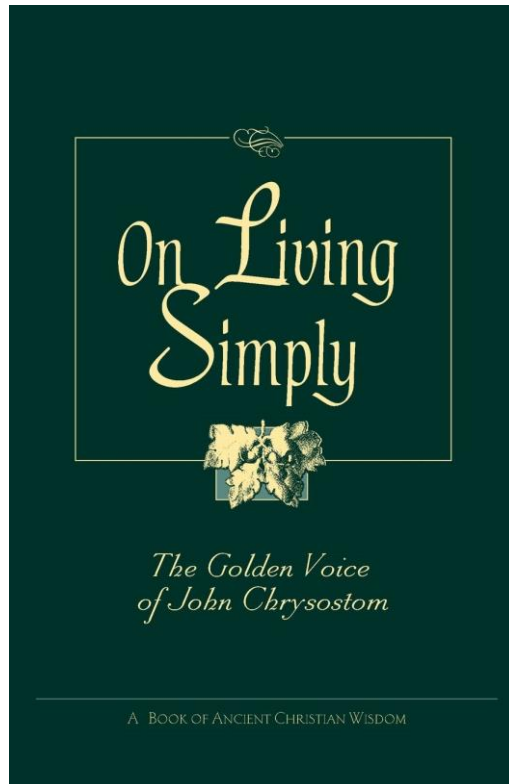
- Μεγας Εσπερινος για την Εορτη της Αγιας Βαρβαρας...6:30 μ..
- *Μετα το Εσπερινο η Φιλοπτωχος Αδελφοτητα θα προσφερει*
 - *καφε, γλυκα, και αναψυκτικα*

- Thursday, December 4th, 2025

- Matins for Saint Barbara 9 am
- Divine Liturgy for Saint Barbara10 am

- Πεμπτη, 4η Δεκεμβριου, 2025

- Ορθρος για την Αγια Βαρβαρα9:00 π.μ.
- Θεια Λειτουργια για την Αγια Βαρβαρα10:00 π.μ.



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?