



Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
8306 NC HWY 751
Durham NC 27713 919-484-1600
fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com
www.stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com
News & Announcements
December 7, 2025

10th Sunday of Luke
Κυριακή 10η Λουκά



[Ambrose, Bishop of Milan 12/7/2025](#)

Athenodoros the Martyr of Mesopotamia 12/7/2025

Righteous Father Gerasimus, Ascetic of Euboia 12/7/2025

Saint Barbara Luncheon Today

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.*

Morning Matins 9:00 am

Morning Great Doxology starts at 9:45 am

Morning Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

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 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

**Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ**

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 5:8-19 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε - ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ - δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστὶν εὐάρεστον τῷ κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε· τὰ γὰρ κρυφῆ γινόμενα ὑπ' αὐτῶν αἰσχρὸν ἐστὶν καὶ λέγειν. Τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦνται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς ἐστὶν. Διὸ λέγει, "Ἐγειρε ὁ καθεύδων καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφαύσει σοι ὁ Χριστὸς. Βλέπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι, ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσιν. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες

The Gospel According to Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 13:10-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἦν δὲ διδάσκων ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραὰμ οὔσαν, ἣν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.



Saint Barbara Sunday Luncheon Organizers 12/7

Theky Pappas, Preston Wilson, Kerri Zaferatos

Today's Scheduled Narthex Greeters for 12/7

Wes Platt

George Glekas

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.

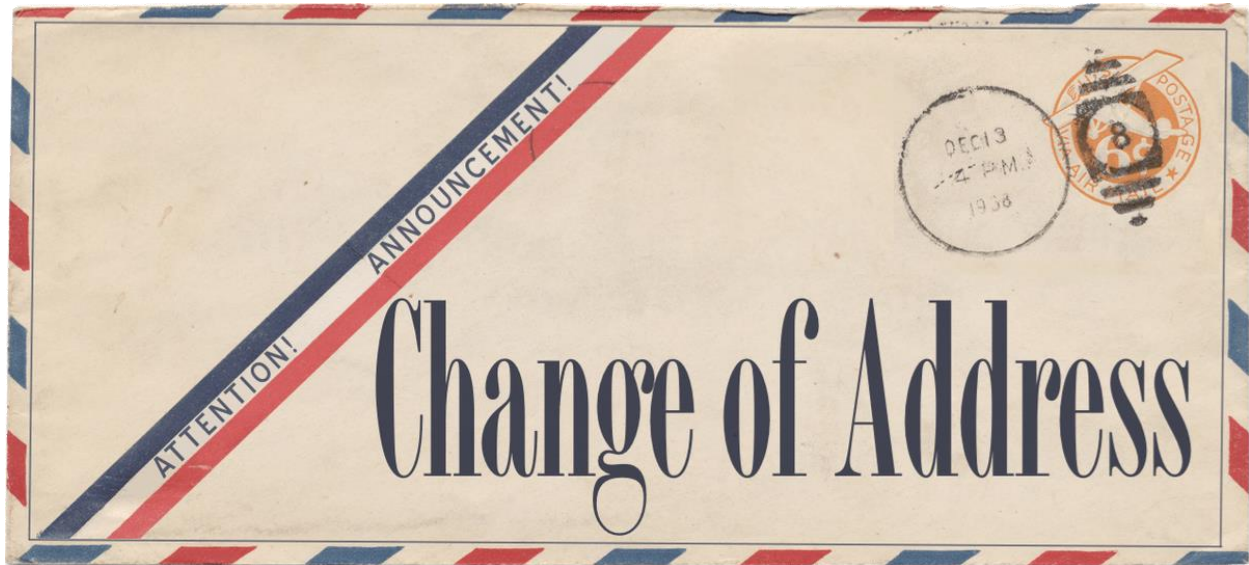
The Purpose of Fasting

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.



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

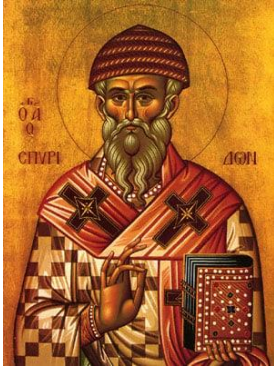
If you have moved within the Past
Year notify the
Stewardship Chair Theky Pappas

tedthekey@aol.com

or the Parish Council Treasurer John Valakas

jvalakas@earthlink.net

Service of the week:

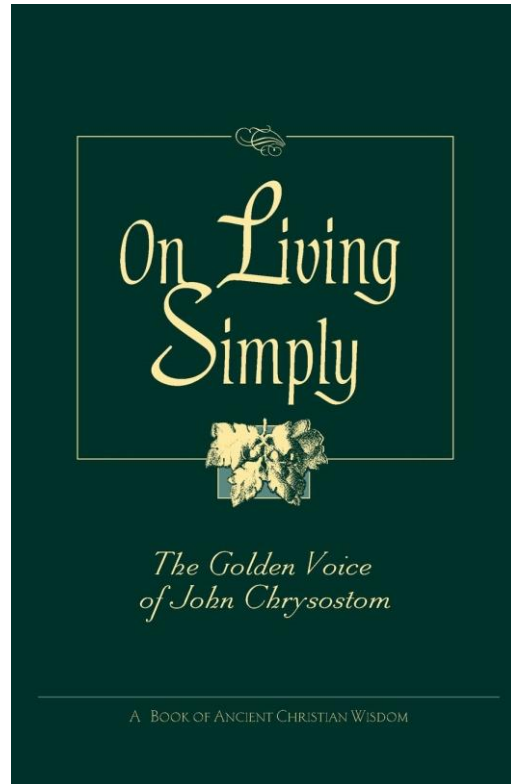


Friday, December 12
Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous
9 am Matins & Divine Liturgy

Παρασκευή, 12 Δεκεμβρίου
Σπυρίδωνος, Ἐπισκόπου Τριμυθοῦντος τοῦ Θαυματουργοῦ
Ὁρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία 9πμ

Spyridon, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythus, and thus he became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicaea, he also was present, and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of the Arians who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such great wonders that he received the surname 'Wonderworker.'" So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord about the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing for the faithful.

About the middle of the seventh century, because of the incursions made by the barbarians at that time, his sacred relics were taken to Constantinople, where they remained, being honoured by the emperors themselves. But before the fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, a certain priest named George Kalokhairetes, the parish priest of the church where the Saint's sacred relics, as well as those of Saint Theodora the Empress, were kept, took them away on account of the impending peril. Travelling by way of Serbia, he came as far as Arta in Epirus, a region in Western Greece opposite to the isle of Corfu. From there, while the misfortunes of the Christian people were increasing with every day, he passed over to Corfu about the year 1460. The relics of Saint Theodora were given to the people of Corfu; but those of Saint Spyridon remain to this day, according to the rights of inheritance, the most precious treasure of the priest's own descendants, and they continue to be a staff for the faithful in Orthodoxy, and a supernatural wonder for those that behold him; for even after the passage of 1,500 years, they have remained incorrupt, and even the flexibility of his flesh has been preserved. Truly wondrous is God in His Saints! (Ps. 67:3 5)



TUESDAY DECEMBER 9TH

AT 6:00 PM

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

'ON LIVING SIMPLY'

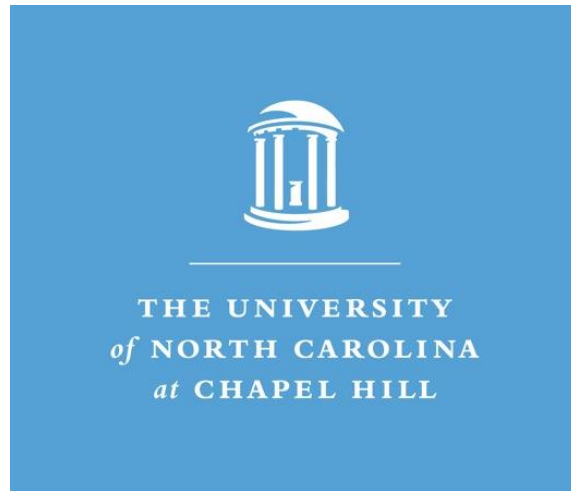
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Durham, NC 27713

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

Coming Next Sunday December 14th at Saint Barbara



Candidates in the Running: Thamie Backis, George Glekas, Thecky Pappas, Wes Platt, John Valakas, John Varelas, Kerrie Zaferatos
(Candidates with 2025-2026 terme: John Biggs, James Branson, Costa Constantinou, Carolyn Hack, John Sempeles)
Pending Background Checks, Seminar attendance, Signing of Metropolis Pledge Form





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.

On 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 Stavroforos

Parish Priest

Roof Drive Monies Collected to Date as of December, 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
Other – less than \$250	12
Plus, Insurance Claim	
Total Funds Collectes as of December 2025	\$285,000
Percent of \$300,000 goal	95%

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 Catechumens 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?