

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
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News & Announcements
December 28, 2025

Sunday after Nativity

Κυριακη μετα την Χριστου Γεννησιν



2026

20,000 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia **12/28/2025**
Holy Martyr Glycerus **12/28/2025**
Simon the Myrrhbearer, Founder of Simonopetra, Monastery of Mount Athos **12/28/2025**
Afterfeast of the Nativity **12/28/2025**

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

The Sunday Epistle Reading

God is wonderful among his saints.
Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Θαυμαστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς Ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ.
Στίχ. Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεὸν.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 1:11-19 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ’ ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι’ ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἠκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ’ ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτὴς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἔπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἱστορῆσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἕτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

The Sunday Gospel Reading
The Gospel According to Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 2:13-23
Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

᾽Αναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ᾽ ὄναρ τῷ ᾽Ιωσὴφ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἴπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ ᾽Ηρῴδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. ᾽Ο δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς ᾽Ηρῴδου, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου. Τότε ᾽Ηρῴδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνεῖλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὁρίοις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ ᾽Ιερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· φωνὴ ἐν ᾽Ραμᾷ ἠκούσθη, θρῆνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὀδυρμὸς

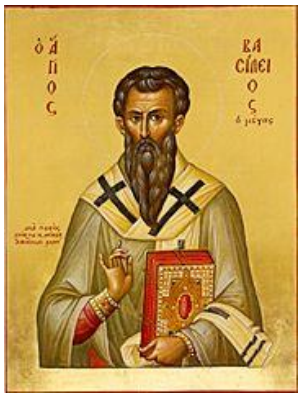
πολύς· ᾿Ραχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσίν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ ᾿Ηρῴδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ᾽ ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ ᾿Ιωσὴφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳλέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν ᾿Ισραήλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς γῆν ᾿Ισραήλ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι ᾿Αρχέλαος βασιλεύει ἐπὶ τῆς ᾿Ιουδαίας ἀντὶ ᾿Ηρῴδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ᾽ ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἐλθὼν κατῴκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.



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.





LIFE OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

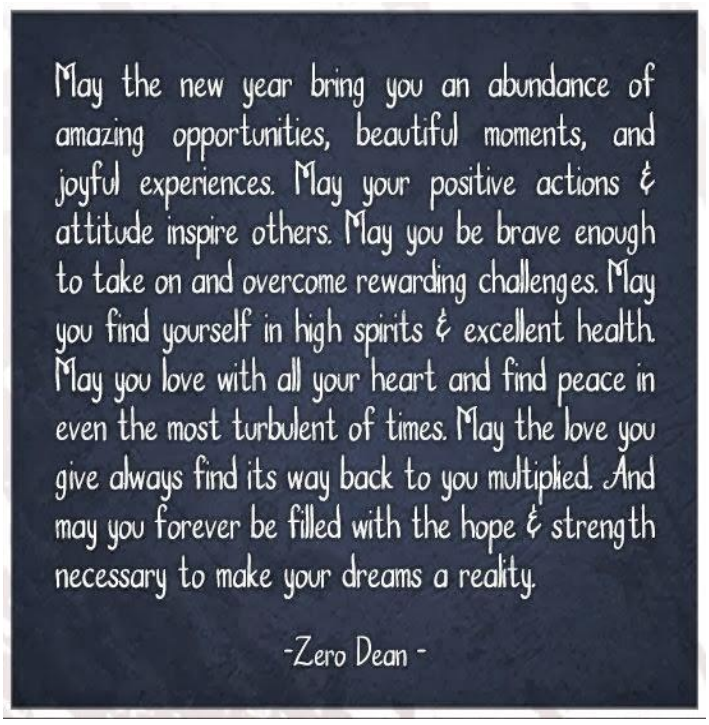
Saint Basil the Great was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily (commemorated July 19) and his grandmother Macrina (Jan. 14) are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (Jan. 10), Peter of Sebastia (Jan. 9), and Naucratius. Basil studied in Constantnople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina (see July 19), he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice at nought, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restated if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his

counsellors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labours, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexaemeron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honoured as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

Thursday – January 1 – Feast of St. Basil the Great
Matins and Divine Liturgy starting at 9:00 am
Πεμπτη — 1 Ιανουαριου – Εορτη του Αγιου Βασιλειου
Ορθρος και Θεια Λειτουργια αρχιζοντας στις 9:00 π.μ.



With God All Things Are Possible!



RELIGIOUS CALENDAR:

January 2026

1 – Thursday -New Year's Day/St. Basil – 9:00 am
4 – Sunday Before Epiphany – 9:00 am
6 – Tuesday- Holy Theophany – 9:00 am
7 – Wednesday - Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist – 9:00 am
11 – Sunday after Epiphany – 9:00 am
17 – Saturday - Saint Anthony the Great – 9:00 am
18 – 12th Sunday of Luke – 9:00 am
25– 15th Sunday of Luke – 9:00 am
30 – Friday – Feast of the Three Hierarchs – 9:00 am

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Ιερος Ναος Αγιας Βαρβαρας

8306 NC HWY 751, Durham, North Carolina 27713

(919)491-2565-priest's cell fatherstavroforos2012@gmail.com

2026 Theophany House & Business Blessing Request Form

Αγιασμός Θεοφανίων Σπιτιού ή και Επιχείρησης 2026

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: _____

ONOMA:

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.

_____

_____



Today's Scheduled Coffee Hour Hosts 12/28

Youth Parents

Today's Scheduled Narthex Greeters for 12/28

John Valakas

Our Volunteer Chantors

Nicholas Georgiou

Pete Marinos

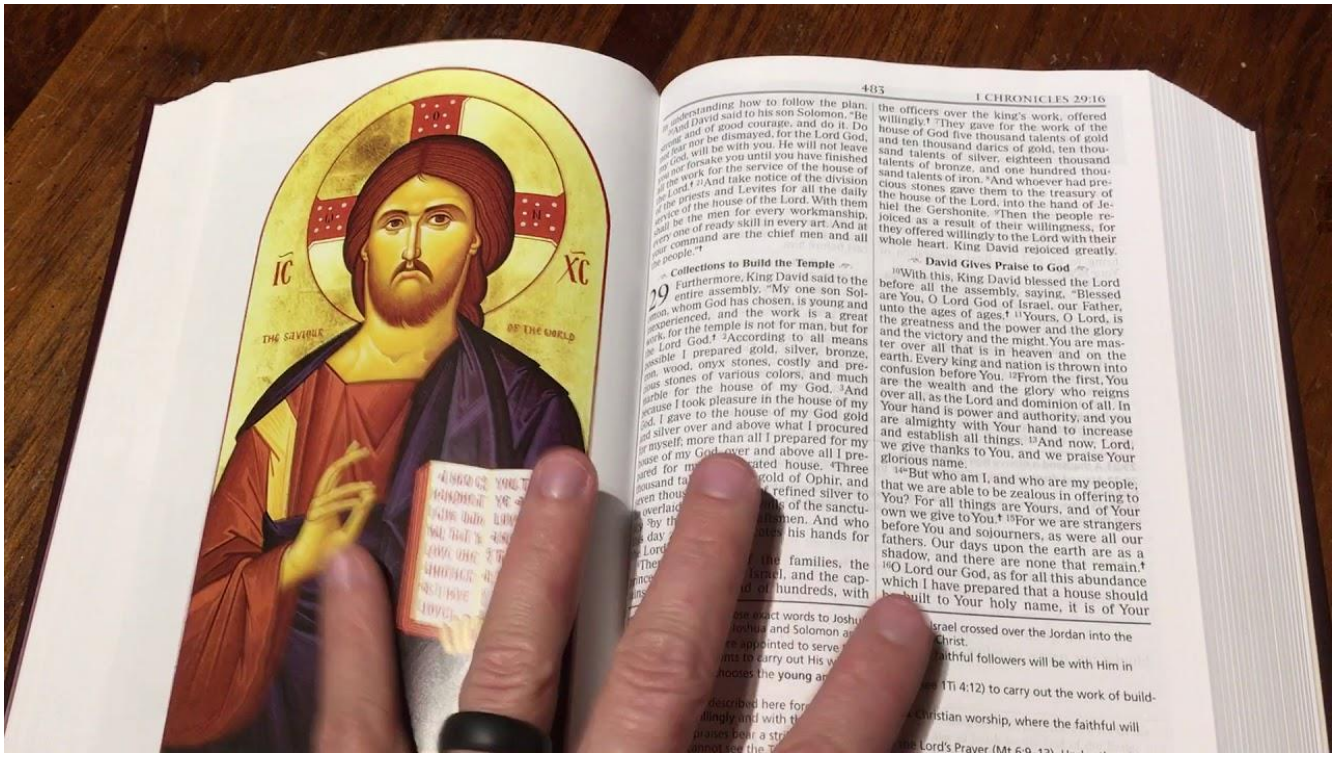
Our Volunteer Choir Directors

Panos Messis

Costa Constantinou

Our Volunteer Organist

Eleni Christakos



ADULT BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY JANUARY 13TH 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

PRAYER FOR DIRECTION IN THE NEW YEAR

Lord, I seek direction in the new year,
I pray that you will direct me in the name of Jesus.
Lord, I refuse to work in darkness in the coming year,
So please light my path and teach me the right thing to do.
I pray that your Holy Spirit will be my guide throughout the year
I pray that your Holy Spirit and power will protect my family, friends, and me in the new year in the name of Jesus

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

Saint Barbara General Meeting Schedule

Philoptochos General Meetings
4th 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 MeetingsThird Sunday of the Month after Church
in the Conference Room

Greek School & Greek Dance
Saturdays – Classrooms at Church