



Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
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News & Announcements
January 11, 2026

Sunday after Epiphany
Κυριακή μετὰ τῶν Φῶτων



Sunday School Resumes
Philoptochoos Vasilopita for Saint Basil
Greek School Begins – Registration/Orientation Has Begun

Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ 1/11/2026
Our Righteous Father Theodosius the Cenobiarch 1/11/2026
Nikephoros the New Martyr of Crete 1/11/2026
Vitalis of Gaza 1/11/2026

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

The Sunday Epistle Reading

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Verse: What shall I render to the Lord for all that he has given me?

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Τίμιος ἐναντίον Κυρίου ὁ θάνατος τῶν ὁσίων αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Τί ἀνταποδώσωμεν τῷ Κυρίῳ περὶ πάντων, ὧν ἀνταπέδωκεν ἡμῖν;

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 13:7-16 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, μνημονεύετε τῶν ἡγουμένων ὑμῶν, οἵτινες ἐλάλησαν ὑμῖν τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ· ὧν ἀναθεωροῦντες τὴν ἔκβασιν τῆς ἀναστροφῆς, μιμεῖσθε τὴν πίστιν. Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον ὁ αὐτός, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. Διδαχαῖς ποικίλαις καὶ ξέναις μὴ παραφέρεσθε· καλὸν γὰρ χάριτι βεβαιοῦσθαι τὴν καρδίαν, οὐ βρώμασιν, ἐν οἷς οὐκ ὠφελήθησαν οἱ περιπατήσαντες. Ἔχομεν θυσιαστήριον, ἐξ οὗ φαγεῖν οὐκ ἔχουσιν ἐξουσίαν οἱ τῇ σκηνῇ λατρεύοντες. Ὡν γὰρ εἰσφέρεται ζῶων τὸ αἷμα περὶ ἁμαρτίας εἰς τὰ ἅγια διὰ τοῦ ἀρχιερέως, τούτων τὰ σώματα κατακαίεται ἔξω τῆς παρεμβολῆς. Διὸ καὶ Ἰησοῦς, ἵνα ἀγιάσῃ διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος τὸν λαόν, ἔξω τῆς πύλης ἔπαθεν. Τοίνυν ἐξερχώμεθα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἔξω τῆς παρεμβολῆς, τὸν ὄνειδισμόν αὐτοῦ φέροντες. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ὧδε μένουσαν πόλιν, ἀλλὰ τὴν μέλλουσαν ἐπιζητοῦμεν. Δι' αὐτοῦ οὖν ἀναφέρωμεν θυσίαν αἰνέσεως διὰ παντὸς τῷ θεῷ, τοῦτ' ἔστιν, καρπὸν χειλέων ὁμολογούντων τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ. Τῆς δὲ εὐποιΐας καὶ κοινωνίας μὴ ἐπιλανθάνεσθε· τοιαύταις γὰρ θυσίαις εὐαρεστεῖται ὁ θεός.

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 καθήμενος ἐν σκότεινῷ φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρῦσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

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.



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
Ιερός Ναος Αγίας 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 PHILOPTOCHOS VASILOPITA

Today is the day of the annual Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction. will be held on 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.

Today's Vasilopita Auction for St. Basil Academy



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 2026
Vasilopita for in Church Distribution on Sunday January 11th



2026 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 – Dr. Pete Marinos
7. On behalf of the Altar Boys – James Dasher
8. On behalf of the Adult Choir - Panos Messis
9. Our Church Organist – Eleni Christakos
10. On behalf of the Parish Council its President – George Glekas
- 11 On behalf of the Members of Philoptochos its President – Betsy Xenakis
12. On behalf of our Sunday School and Youth Co-ordinator – Maria Easton & Catherine Constantinou
13. On behalf of the Members of our Greek Dance Troupe Instructor - Hrysavgi Kondilis-Mangum
14. On Behalf of the Greek School – George Glekas
15. On behalf of Members Durham AHEPA Chapter #277 - President Preston Wilson
16. Our Great Benefactor Who Paid for Our Iconography– Nick Bourbous
17. Dina Paliouras – Prepared the 2026 Community Vasilopita Used in Church
17. A Special Thank You to Cindy Paliouras – Who Assisted me with this Today’s Vasilopita

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 11, 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



Today's Vasilopita Auction & Coffee Hour Hosts 1/11
Philoptochos

Today's Scheduled Narthex Greeters for 1/4
To Be Assigned

Our Volunteer Chantors

Nicholas Georgiou
Pete Marinos

Our Volunteer Choir Directors

Panos Messis
Costa Constantinou

Our Volunteer Organist

Eleni Christakos



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families are doing well and enjoyed a wonderful holiday season.

Our Sunday School teachers have finished their break . Sunday School will therefore begin again today on **Sunday, January 11th**.

We are so grateful for having a vasilopita for the use of the children. Our upcoming lesson will focus on St. Basil, and it would be a fun and meaningful activity for the children to help cut the vasilopita (with supervision) and see who finds the lucky coin. If you are able to help with this, please reply to this email.

Our Sunday School teachers truly love teaching your children each Sunday and helping them grow in their understanding of our faith. We put a great deal of care into creating lessons that are meaningful, inspiring, and engaging. However, we are unable to manage all youth activities on our own.

At this time, we are seeking a parent volunteer to help shepherd our Hope/Joy program. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved, support our youth ministry, and make a positive impact in the lives of our children. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out—we would love to hear from you!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

In Christ,

Maria Ea



**ADULT BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON
TUESDAY JANUARY 20TH 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



Hi All,

It is finally time for Greek school! We will be kicking off the kid classes on Saturday, January 10 at 4 PM. If you want to enroll your child, please just let us know via email (glekasg@yahoo.com), or simply come by this Saturday. The following information would be very useful:

Student's name:

Age:

Grade in School:

Previous Greek School Experience (years):

Telephone number(s):

E-mail address(es):

The first day will be mostly orientation and getting everyone ready for the year. If you could also remember to bring any books your student might have from last year, that would be great.

Finally, as we get more students every year, we are also in need of more teachers. If you might be willing to help, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday!

Thanks so much,

St. Barbara Greek School Teachers

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

Thursday Nights

7:00 pm – Panera Bread in Chapel Hill

Adult Bible Study

Tuesday 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