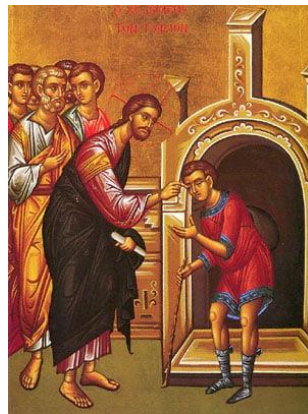




Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
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News & Announcements  
May 17, 2026

*Sunday of the Blind Man*  
*Κυριακή του Τυφλού*



## WELCOME TO OUR GREEK FESTIVAL

The Holy Apostles Andronicus and Junia 5/17/2026

Theophanes and Nectarios, Builders of the Holy Monastery of Varlaam of  
 Meteora 5/17/2026

Nicholas the Younger who was martyred in Metsovo, Epirus 5/17/2026

Theodotos the Martyr of Ancyra & the 7 Virgin-martyrs 5/17/2026

Athanasios, Archbishop of Christianopolis 5/17/2026

The New Martyrs of Batak, Bulgaria 5/17/2026

# 9:00 Start Time

## Great Doxology & Divine Liturgy

### 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.*

### The Sunday Epistle Reading

**You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.**

**Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.**

**The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34**

**IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice."**

The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

**Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.  
Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκτέλειπεν ὄσιος.**

### **Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 16:16-34 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, ἐγένετο δὲ πορευομένων ἡμῶν εἰς προσευχὴν παιδίσκην τινὰ ἔχουσαν πνεῦμα πύθωνος ἀπαντῆσαι ἡμῖν, ἣτις ἐργασίαν πολλὴν παρεῖχε τοῖς κυρίοις αὐτῆς μαντευομένη. αὕτη κατακολουθήσασα τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλῃ ἔκραζε λέγουσα· οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι δοῦλοι τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου εἰσίν, οἵτινες καταγγέλλουσιν ἡμῖν ὁδὸν σωτηρίας. τοῦτο δὲ ἐποίει ἐπὶ πολλὰς ἡμέρας. διαπονηθεὶς δὲ ὁ Παῦλος καὶ ἐπιστρέψας τῷ πνεύματι εἶπε· παραγγέλλω σοι ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐξελθεῖν ἀπ' αὐτῆς. καὶ ἐξῆλθεν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ. Ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ κύριοι αὐτῆς ὅτι ἐξῆλθεν ἡ ἐλπίς τῆς ἐργασίας αὐτῶν, ἐπιλαβόμενοι τὸν Παῦλον καὶ τὸν Σίλαν εἴλκυσαν εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἄρχοντας, καὶ προσαγαγόντες αὐτοὺς τοῖς στρατηγοῖς εἶπον·

οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἐκταράσσουσιν ἡμῶν τὴν πόλιν Ἰουδαῖοι ὑπάρχοντες, καὶ καταγγέλλουσιν ἔθνη ἃ οὐκ ἔξεστιν ἡμῖν παραδέχεσθαι οὐδὲ ποιεῖν Ῥωμαίοις οὖσι. καὶ συνεπέστη ὁ ὄχλος κατ' αὐτῶν. καὶ οἱ στρατηγοὶ περιρρήξαντες αὐτῶν τὰ ἱμάτια ἐκέλευον ῥαβδίζειν, πολλὰς τε ἐπιθέντες αὐτοῖς πληγὰς ἔβαλον εἰς φυλακὴν, παραγγείλαντες τῷ δεσμοφύλακι ἀσφαλῶς τηρεῖν αὐτούς· ὃς παραγγελίαν τοιαύτην εἰληφὼς ἔβαλεν αὐτούς εἰς τὴν ἐσωτέραν φυλακὴν καὶ τοὺς πόδας αὐτῶν ἠσφαλίσατο εἰς τὸ ξύλον. Κατὰ δὲ τὸ μεσονύκτιον Παῦλος καὶ Σίλας προσευχόμενοι ὕμνον τὸν Θεόν· ἐπηκροῶντο δὲ αὐτῶν οἱ δέσμιοι. ἄφνω δὲ σεισμός ἐγένετο μέγας, ὥστε σαλευθῆναι τὰ θεμέλια τοῦ δεσμοτηρίου, ἀνεώχθησάν τε παραχρῆμα αἱ θύραι πᾶσαι καὶ πάντων τὰ δεσμὰ ἀνέθη. ἔξυπνος δὲ γενόμενος ὁ δεσμοφύλαξ καὶ ἰδὼν ἀνεωγμένας τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, σπασάμενος μάχαιραν ἔμελλεν ἑαυτὸν ἀναιρεῖν, νομίζων ἐκπεφευγέναι τοὺς δεσμίους. ἐφώνησε δὲ φωνῇ μεγάλη ὁ Παῦλος λέγων· μηδὲν πράξης σεαυτῷ κακόν· ἅπαντες γὰρ ἐσμεν ἐνθάδε. αἰτήσας δὲ φῶτα εἰσεπήδησε, καὶ ἔντρομος γενόμενος προσέπεσε τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλα, καὶ προαγαγὼν αὐτούς ἔξω ἔφη· κύριοι, τί με δεῖ ποιεῖν ἵνα σωθῶ; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· πιστεύσον ἐπὶ τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ σωθήσῃ σὺ καὶ ὁ οἶκός σου. καὶ ἐλάλησαν αὐτῷ τὸν λόγον τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ αὐτοῦ. καὶ παραλαβὼν αὐτοὺς ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ τῆς νυκτὸς ἔλουσεν ἀπὸ τῶν πληγῶν, καὶ ἐβαπτίσθη αὐτὸς καὶ οἱ αὐτοῦ πάντες παραχρῆμα, ἀναγαγὼν τε αὐτούς εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ παρέθηκε τράπεζαν, καὶ ἠγαλλιάσατο πανοικί πεπιστευκῶς τῷ Θεῷ.

### **The Gospel According to John 9:1-38**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this

**the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."**

**They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."**

**The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."**

**So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my**

eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

### Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 9:1-38 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παράγων εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον τυφλὸν ἐκ γενετῆς. Καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ῥαββί, τίς ἡμαρτεν, οὗτος ἢ οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἵνα τυφλὸς γεννηθῆ; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς· οὔτε οὗτος ἡμαρτεν οὔτε οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῆ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ. ἐμὲ δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πέμψαντός με ἕως ἡμέρας ἐστίν· ἔρχεται νύξ ὅτε οὐδεὶς δύναται ἐργάζεσθαι. ὅταν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ᾧ, φῶς εἰμι τοῦ κόσμου. ταῦτα εἰπὼν ἔπτυσσε χαμαὶ καὶ ἐποίησε πηλὸν ἐκ τοῦ πτύσματος, καὶ ἐπέχρισε τὸν πηλὸν ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τοῦ τυφλοῦ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὕπαγε νίψαι εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ, ὃ ἐρμηνεύεται ἀπεσταλμένος. ἀπῆλθεν οὖν καὶ ἐνίψατο, καὶ ἤλθε βλέπων. Οἱ οὖν γείτονες καὶ οἱ θεωροῦντες αὐτὸν τὸ πρότερον ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν, ἔλεγον· οὐχ οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ καθήμενος καὶ προσαιτῶν; ἄλλοι ἔλεγον ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν· ἄλλοι δὲ ὅτι ὁμοῖος αὐτῷ ἐστιν. ἐκεῖνος ἔλεγεν ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ· πῶς ἀνεώχθησάν σου οἱ ὀφθαλμοί; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· ἄνθρωπος λεγόμενος Ἰησοῦς πηλὸν ἐποίησε καὶ ἐπέχρισέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς καὶ εἶπέ μοι· ὕπαγε εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ καὶ νίψαι· ἀπελθὼν δὲ καὶ νιψάμενος ἀνέβλεψα. εἶπον οὖν αὐτῷ· ποῦ ἐστιν ἐκεῖνος; λέγει· οὐκ οἶδα. Ἄγουσιν αὐτὸν πρὸς τοὺς Φαρισαίους, τὸν ποτε τυφλόν. ἦν δὲ σάββατον ὅτε τὸν πηλὸν ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἀνέωξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. πάλιν οὖν ἠρώτων αὐτὸν καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι πῶς ἀνέβλεψεν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πηλὸν ἐπέθηκέ μου ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς, καὶ ἐνιψάμην, καὶ βλέπω. ἔλεγον οὖν ἐκ

τῶν Φαρισαίων τινές· οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐκ ἔστι παρὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅτι τὸ σάββατον οὐ τηρεῖ. ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· πῶς δύναται ἄνθρωπος ἀμαρτωλὸς τοιαῦτα σημεῖα ποιεῖν; καὶ σχίσμα ἦν ἐν αὐτοῖς. λέγουσι τῷ τυφλῷ πάλιν· σὺ τί λέγεις περὶ αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἤνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν ὅτι προφήτης ἐστίν. οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι περὶ αὐτοῦ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέβλεψεν, ἕως ὅτου ἐφώνησαν τοὺς γονεῖς αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀναβλέψαντος καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτοὺς λέγοντες· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ὑμῶν, ὃν ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη; πῶς οὖν ἄρτι βλέπει; ἀπεκρίθησαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ εἶπον· οἶδαμεν ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ἡμῶν καὶ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη· πῶς δὲ νῦν βλέπει οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἢ τίς ἤνοιξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς ἡμεῖς οὐκ οἶδαμεν· αὐτὸς ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε, αὐτὸς περὶ ἑαυτοῦ λαλήσει. ταῦτα εἶπον οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἐφοβοῦντο τοὺς Ἰουδαίους· ἤδη γὰρ συνετέθειντο οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἵνα, ἐάν τις αὐτὸν ὁμολογήσῃ Χριστόν, ἀποσυνάγωγος γένηται. διὰ τοῦτο οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπον ὅτι ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε. ἐφώνησαν οὖν ἐκ δευτέρου τὸν ἄνθρωπον ὃς ἦν τυφλός, καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ· ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος ἀμαρτωλὸς ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· εἰ ἀμαρτωλός ἐστιν οὐκ οἶδα· ἐν οἶδα, ὅτι τυφλὸς ὢν ἄρτι βλέπω. εἶπον δὲ αὐτῷ πάλιν· τί ἐποίησέ σοι; πῶς ἤνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς· εἶπον ὑμῖν ἤδη, καὶ οὐκ ἠκούσατε· τί πάλιν θέλετε ἀκούειν; μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς θέλετε αὐτοῦ μαθηταὶ γενέσθαι; ἐλοιδόρησαν αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπον· σὺ εἶ μαθητῆς ἐκείνου· ἡμεῖς δὲ τοῦ Μωϋσέως ἐσμέν μαθηταί. ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι Μωϋσεὶ λελάληκεν ὁ Θεός· τοῦτον δὲ οὐκ οἶδαμεν πόθεν ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐν γὰρ τούτῳ θαυμαστόν ἐστιν, ὅτι ὑμεῖς οὐκ οἶδατε πόθεν ἐστί, καὶ ἀνέωξέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι ἀμαρτωλῶν ὁ Θεὸς οὐκ ἀκούει, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις θεοσεβῆς ἦ καὶ τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ ποιῇ, τούτου ἀκούει. ἐκ τοῦ αἵωνος οὐκ ἠκούσθη ὅτι ἤνοιξέ τις ὀφθαλμούς τυφλοῦ γεγεννημένου. εἰ μὴ ἦν οὗτος παρὰ Θεοῦ, οὐκ ἠδύνατο ποιεῖν οὐδέν, ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· ἐν ἀμαρτίαις σὺ ἐγεννήθης ὅλος, καὶ σὺ διδάσκεις ἡμᾶς; καὶ ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω.

Ἦκουσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω, καὶ εὐρῶν αὐτὸν εἶπεν αὐτῷ· σὺ πιστεύεις εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπε· καὶ τίς ἐστι, Κύριε, ἵνα πιστεύσω εἰς αὐτόν; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καὶ ἑώρακας αὐτόν καὶ ὁ λαλῶν μετὰ σοῦ ἐκεῖνός ἐστιν. ὁ δὲ ἔφη· πιστεύω, Κύριε· καὶ προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ.



*SUNDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026*

**START TIME FOR THE MORNING  
SERVICE – 8:45 AM  
GREAT DOXOLOGY & DIVINE  
LITURGY**

*Casual Comfortable Festival Work Attire  
Permitted.*

## WELCOME HOME!

*“Therefore welcome one another  
as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.*

### *A Message from Father Stavroforos:*

Welcome to Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church! Although we trace our formal beginnings to July 11, 1945, when local immigrants met to organize themselves into a Greek Orthodox parish, we are part of the worldwide Orthodox Christian Church that began on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem as described in the Acts of the Apostles, and today spans the globe from Palestine to Japan, Greece to Tanzania, Russia to Argentina, England to Korea, and Romania to Kenya. Initially established by men and women of Greek descent, St. Barbara Church today reflects the American experience.

Although we are part of one of the largest Christian communions in the world, many visiting St. Barbara for the first time ask: What is the Greek Orthodox Church?

The best way to answer is with more questions: Did you know that every book of the New Testament was originally written in Greek? Did you know that the Apostle Paul preached in Athens not far from the Parthenon and wrote five letters to the Churches he established in Corinth, Philippi and Thessalonika that are today books of the Bible?

Who are we? The answer is actually very simple: We are that Church written about on the pages of the New Testament some 2,000 years later!

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome at St.

Barbara. While I hope I can help you learn more about our parish and the faith we Orthodox Christians confess, I hope – above all else – that you will personally come visit St. Barbara and pray with us on any given Sunday. You will discover an ancient yet dynamic faith, a welcoming Church family, and perhaps even a spiritual home where you can plant roots to deepen your relationship with Christ in the Holy Spirit.

+ *Fr. Stavroforos Mamaies*

## CHURCH MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS

**For more information Visit the Contact page of our website to further your inquiry:**

**[Stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com](http://Stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com)**

### Sunday School Classes

Sunday School classes for ages pre-school through high school meet on Sunday mornings from September through May. Classes begin following Holy Communion and last approximately 40 minutes.

### HOPE & JOY

The combined youth groups of HOPE (kindergarten thru second grade) and JOY (third through sixth grades) meet for fun activities that reflect the Orthodox Christian faith, tradition, and life.

## **GOYA – Greek Orthodox Youth of America**

GOYA ministers to our teens in junior high and high school, offering opportunities for fun, fellowship, education and service. GOYA seeks to lead our young people into experiencing the Orthodox faith and equip them with the knowledge necessary to assist them on their journey to becoming active sacramental members of the living Church of Jesus Christ.

## **YAL – Young Adult League**

YAL's mission is to serve our young adults (ages 18 and up), leading them to the fullness of the Faith and likeness of God. By utilizing the four circles of Christian living, Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship, young adults are integrated into the life of the Church, enabling them to become active members of the body of Christ.

## **Acolytes (Altar Servers)**

This ministry is open to boys and young men who desire to assist the Priest in the celebration of the Sunday Divine Liturgy and special services throughout the year. Altar boys serve on a rotating basis, enhancing the worship experience for themselves and the assembled community.

## **Greek Dance Troupe**

The Saint Barbara Greek Dance Troupe welcomes anyone interested from kindergarten age and up. The group meets for practices and develops the basics of a variety of traditional Greek dances. The troupe performs in traditional costume throughout the Saint Barbara Greek Festival and at other local events.

## **Choir**

The choir is open to all who wish to sing the music of the Divine Liturgy. If you enjoy singing in a group and wish to join others in learning, rehearsing, and enhancing the worship service, please consider joining the choir. The choir sings *a capella* in four parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) in both Greek and English. The Greek sections are also provided in English phonetics; knowledge of Greek is not necessary.

## **Ladies Philoptochos Society**

The mission of the Philoptochos is to promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family, and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions. Our local chapter also sponsors a Medical Ministry program that provides support to the families of Orthodox patients undergoing life-saving treatments at area hospitals.

## **AHEPA Chapter #277**

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association promotes Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence. The men of the Saint Barbara AHEPA are integral to the support of the Parish.

## **Greek Language Classes**

Greek language instruction begins the first week of October and continues through the school year. Volunteer instructors teach various levels of modern Greek to adults and children. Classes are held Saturday mornings. All tuition money is donated to the Saint Barbara Building Fund.

## **OCF - Orthodox Christian Fellowship**

Fr. Stavroforos is the Spiritual Advisor for OCF, the official Orthodox campus ministry at Duke University in Durham and UNC-Chapel Hill. OCF meets on campus for religious edification, philanthropic and social activities, and to promote fellowship among Orthodox students.

## OUR PARISH HISTORY

The Parish of Saint Barbara traces its formal beginnings back to 1945 when a group of Greek immigrants in the Durham-Chapel Hill area met to organize themselves into a Greek Orthodox parish, which was formally incorporated in 1946. The prayerful words used by the initial steering committee capture perfectly the spirit of the founding members: "Almighty God, enlighten us so that as individuals and as a committee we might bring to completion with full success the task which we have undertaken, always faithful to the divine traditions and teachings of our Church."

From 1950 to 2007, the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Barbara was located on Watts St. in Durham. Although that church served our needs for many years and is associated with many fond memories for our Saint Barbara family, in 2000 we purchased the land parcel on Highway 751, and launched our dream of a new church to serve our growing community.

On November 1, 2009, we held the first Divine Liturgy in our beautiful new Byzantine-style church, which serves as a beacon of Orthodoxy in the Greater Triangle area. The stained-glass windows in the administrative wing and narthex, and the icons in the icon screen and elsewhere in the new sanctuary, are an enduring legacy from our first Saint Barbara home on Watts St.

## HOURS OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

Orthros (Morning Prayers): 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

Please consult the Parish Newsletter, website or Sunday Bulletin for times of special feast day celebrations

## OUR LOCATION

8306 NC Highway 751 Durham, NC 27713

1/2 mile south of I-40 Exit 274

*For more information about the Saint Barbara community or the Greek Orthodox faith please visit our websites: [Stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com](http://Stbarbarachurchdurhamnc.com)*

## WE NEED YOUR STEWARDSHIP

In the Old Testament we read about Nehemiah. After seeing the crumbling walls of Jerusalem, he called the people to "Rise up and build." Nehemiah doesn't do it alone. He inspires the people, sharing his vision. And the response of the people? "Let us rise up and build."

This story and the words of Nehemiah (2:19) call us today, not just to building and rebuilding with bricks and mortar, but also to a deeper, spiritual building – the rebuilding and renewal of our faith. As

Orthodox Christians, we are called to respond to God's gifts with faithful stewardship. Like Nehemiah, we are called to "rise up and build," carrying on God's work in our parish our community and in the world.

This call of Nehemiah to "rise up and build" invites us to become active members of the Church, the Body of Christ, to join in ministry and contribute according to our abilities. As Orthodox Christians, we understand that stewardship is a joint effort of all the members of the community. Every member has a role to play.

Stewardship is not a matter of "how much is it?" or "how much is needed?" Stewardship and generosity are aspects of spiritual discipline and an indication of our spiritual maturity. In stewardship we acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and we are to use His gifts in ways that honor Him. This transforms our understanding of the blessings in our life. It prompts us to use our blessings for the good of others and for the glory of God.

Just as the walls of Jerusalem were broken through neglect or indifference, a neglected spiritual life can also become dilapidated and broken. The words of Nehemiah call us to renew and rebuild our commitment to our faith, and our dedication and support for our Church and her ministries.

Nehemiah's response is a great example for us. He was moved by compassion and faith. He saw the need, and his heart was stirred. He didn't ignore the problem; he embraced it as his own. This is the first step in true stewardship: seeing the needs of God's Church and responding with love and sacrifice.

Nehemiah prayed. Before any action, Nehemiah turned to God. He understood that true rebuilding, both physical or spiritual, begins and ends with God. Stewardship is not about our own strength, but about God working through us.

Nehemiah planned and acted. Prayer without action is just empty words. Nehemiah meticulously planned, secured resources, and then courageously led the work. Stewardship is practical; it is intentional, requiring wise planning, and diligent use of our God-given abilities and resources.

Nehemiah inspired others. He didn't just command. He shared his vision. He ignited a spark in the hearts of the people, reminding them of their importance in this process. This is crucial for our parish stewardship ministry. We lead by example, inspiring one another to participate, to offer their unique gifts for the good of our Church.



*Today Festival Hosts for 5/17*  
Dedicated Parishioners & Friends of St. Barbara

*Today's Scheduled Narthex Greeters for 5/17*

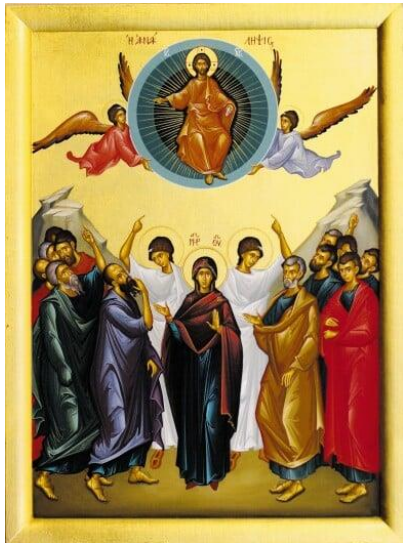
John Biggs  
Kerri Zaferatos

*Our Chantor*  
Will return June 14th

*Our Volunteer Choir Director*  
Panos Messis  
Will return May 24

*Assistant Volunteer Choir Director*  
Costa Constantinou  
Will return May 24

*Volunteer Organist*  
Eleni Christakos  
Will return May 24



## Holy Ascension

Thursday May 21, 2026

Doxology & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Της Αναληψεως

21 Μαιου Πευπη

Δοξολογια και Θεια Λειτουργια 10 πμ

The Lord Jesus passed forty days on earth after His Resurrection from the dead, appearing continually in various places to His disciples, with whom He also spoke, ate, and drank, thereby further demonstrating His Resurrection. On this Thursday, the fortieth day after Pascha, He appeared again in Jerusalem. After He had first spoken to the disciples about many things, He gave them His last commandment, that is, that they go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. But He also commanded them that for the present, they were not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait there together until they receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

Saying these things, He led them to the Mount of Olives, and raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from the sight of the disciples, who remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1:11). These words, in a complete and concise manner, declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, having so fulfilled all His dispensation for us, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father. As for His sacred disciples, they returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit.

It should be noted that the Mount of Olives is a Sabbath's day journey from Jerusalem, that is, the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the day of the Sabbath. Ecumenius writes, "A Sabbath day's journey is one mile in length, as Clement says in his fifth Stromatis; it is two thousand cubits, as the Interpretation of the Acts states." They draw this conclusion from the fact that, while they were in the wilderness, the Israelites of old kept within this distance from the Holy Tabernacle, whither they walked on the Sabbath day to worship God.

# GREEK FESTIVAL

**SAT. MAY 16**

**11 AM-8 PM**

**SUN. MAY 17**

**11 AM-7 PM**



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**Portion of proceeds to benefit Ukraine relief & local charities**