As many of us are aware, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, announced on March 16, 2020, that in response to the coronavirus pandemic (and out of a deep concern for the welfare of the faithful in his care) that only one priest and one chanter would be permitted to celebrate the appointed services in the Church. On April 7, 2020, the Eparchial Synod issued a statement regarding the celebration of Holy Week Services, including updated coronavirus regulations. His Eminence further encouraged that the Faithful of each parish should pray from their homes and participate in the services through Internet broadcasts.

Our community is blessed to have been broadcasting our liturgical services online since 2001 thanks to the Department of Internet Ministries of the Archdiocese and the talents of Saint Barbara parishioner Theo Nicolakis. This unique missionary ‘vehicle’ has helped us connect the world to the Good News of our Lord through the Internet.

Over the years it has united our community of faith to others from all corners of the earth. Among many e-mails that I have received, I recall one from a parish in the Outback (the remote interior of Australia) whose parishioners told me that because of their remote location, they were only able to have a priest present for Palm Sunday. They had found our liturgical broadcast online and set up a projector and speaker system in their Church. Their family of faith praying the services of Holy Week together with our community. They struggled to find the words to describe the joy that they were able to experience as they celebrated Pascha united with our parishioners from afar.

Now we too, as a community of faith, are separated by distance, but certainly not by prayer. We remain united in our supplication to God to keep all humanity safe and healthy. While it may seem that I am standing in a church with empty pews – know that I can feel your presence through our collective prayers as we lift up our hearts together glorifying God; united – even from a distance.

As your priest, I continue to feel a great sense of responsibility to pray for our beloved Saint Barbara family in this time of unprecedented peril. As I celebrate the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services, please know that I remember each one of you and your extended families in my prayers.

I continue to pray that our Lord grant:

To the Saint Barbara family, safety and good health;
To those afflicted with COVID-19, swift healing;
To the frightened, courage;
To the dying, comfort;
To those who have passed, may they have the
promise of eternal life in Christ;
To health-care providers, strength and stamina;
To scientists, enlightenment and knowledge;
To our leaders, wisdom and compassion;
To our nation, unity of purpose;
To the Church, the grace to serve the suffering
selflessly;
To all believers, strong faith in God;
To the whole human family, unity of heart; and
To us, God’s servants, the reward of knowing that
we are doing His will when we devote ourselves in
loving service of others.

Know that you all are in my thoughts every waking
hour - not just when I am at the altar. Continue
to treat yourself and those around you with
compassion and forbearance as we navigate this
crisis. Take comfort in your ties to those around
you, and know that you are an indispensable,
irreplaceable member of the Saint Barbara family.

May the God of all consolation walk with us through
these difficult times. And may He find us worthy of
the call to be His healing and reconciling presence
in a wounded world.

Faithfully,
Father Peter

What is prayer? Prayer is doxology, praise,
thanksgiving, confession, supplication and
intercession to God. “When I prayed I was new,”
wrote a great theologian of Christian antiquity,
“but when I stopped praying I became old.”
Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life.
Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength,
refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God
and our disciplined efforts prayer lifts us up from
our isolation to a conscious, loving communion
with God in which everything is experienced in a
new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue
with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a
foretaste of the bliss of God’s kingdom.

My Orthodox Prayer Book
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Department of Religious Education

Prayer of Protection from the Coronavirus

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and
invisible, in Your ineffable goodness, look down upon Your people gathered in
Your name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. You know our
weakness. You hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart.

O Lord who loves humanity, deliver us from the impending threat of the corona
virus. Send Your Angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and
recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians, and
preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve You in peace and
glorify Your most honorable and majestic Name, of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.
May the following quote awaken God’s Peace in your heart. “...If we shall not have Easter in the Church, let us remember that every contact with Christ is Easter. We receive grace in the Divine Liturgy because the Lord Jesus is present in it, He performs the sacrament and He is the One imparted to the faithful. However, when we invoke His Name, we enter the same Presence of Christ and receive the same grace. Therefore, if we are deprived of the Liturgy, we always have His Name, we are not deprived of the Lord. Moreover, we also have His word, especially His Gospel. If His word dwells continually in our heart, if we study it and pray it, if it becomes our language with which we speak to God as He spoke to us, then we shall have again the grace of the Lord. For His words are words of eternal life (John 6:68), and the same mystery is performed, we receive His grace and are sanctified.

Furthermore, each time we show kindness to our brethren the Lord is well-pleased, He considers that we did it in His Name and He rewards us. We show kindness to our brethren and the Lord rewards us with His grace. This is another way in which we can live in the Presence of the Lord. We can have the grace of the Lord through fasting, alms giving and every good deed. So, if we are forced to avoid gathering in Church, we can also be united in spirit in these holy virtues which are known within the Body of Christ, the holy Church, and which preserve the unity of the faithful with Christ and with the other members of His Body. All the things we do for God is a Liturgy, for they minister unto our salvation. The Liturgy is the great event of the life of the Church, wherein the faithful have the possibility to exchange their little life with the boundless life of God. However, the power of this event depends on the preparation we perform before, through all the things we have mentioned, through prayer, good deeds, fasting, love for neighbour, repentance.”

Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou
Operation Food Exchange

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Barbara Church may be staying home, but that does not mean that they are idle. Our Chapter has established a new Local Outreach program to help sustain our surrounding community. Operation Food Exchange is giving back to some of our supporters while helping to feed those in need.

The restaurant owners of our parish have always volunteered to support our events. Now, it is our turn to say “thank you”. In this difficult time, when dining rooms are closed and their only income is through food deliveries and curbside pick-ups, we decided to help these Philoptochos supporters by purchasing food from them to feed people at local soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and residents at the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut.

We are also supplying home deliveries to shut-ins or dropping of trays of food to show our support to first responders and hospital workers. It is a win-win situation – we support the restaurants; they send food to those in need or to thank the people who are caring for us.

Many of our parishioner owned businesses are doing this on their own – and with the additional assistance of Philoptochos we seek to be able to add our voice of appreciation by providing healthy and well appreciated nutrition to many of the most affected.

A heartfelt thank you to our entire Saint Barbara community and to all the medical personnel and first responders who are caring for us and our loved ones!

Anne Faraclas
Saint Barbara Philoptochos President

Stay Connected With The Church

If you haven’t already, please sign-up to receive our parish e-mails. It is the easiest and quickest way for us to communicate with all of our parishioners so that we all can stay informed with the latest news.

Sign-up at the following link:
http://www.saintbarbara.org/news-and-events/email

Saint Barbara Scholarship Program 2020

Through the generosity of our parishioners the Saint Barbara Scholarship Program is one of the most diverse and generous parish scholarship programs in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Since 1990 the community of Saint Barbara has awarded over $750,000 in Scholarships to students of our parish assisting them in their scholastic pursuits.

The Saint Barbara Scholarship Online Application is now available on the parish website:
www.saintbarbara.org/our_parish/scholarships

Scholarship Deadline is May 30, 2020

Please note that the deadline has been extended

A complete listing of the available scholarships can be found on the parish’s website
**Holy Week and Pascha Service Schedule**

*Please do not come to the Church at this time. Please do pray fervently at home. **All Services: online participation only.***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Saturday of Lazarus</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 11</strong></th>
<th><strong>Σαββάτο του Λαζάρου</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthros</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ορθρός</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Θεία Λειτουργία</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Palm Sunday</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 12</strong></th>
<th><strong>Κυριακή των Βαΐων</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthros</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Ορθρός</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Θεία Λειτουργία</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service of the Bridegroom</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Holy Monday</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 13</strong></th>
<th><strong>Μεγάλη Δευτέρα</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service of the Bridegroom</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Holy Tuesday</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 14</strong></th>
<th><strong>Μεγάλη Τρίτη</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service of the Bridegroom</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Holy Wednesday</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 15</strong></th>
<th><strong>Μεγάλη Τετάρτη</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy Unction</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Το Μυστήριο του Ευχέλαιου</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Holy Thursday</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 16</strong></th>
<th><strong>Μεγάλη Πέμπτη</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Holy Passion Service</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Η Ακολουθία των Παθών</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Holy Friday</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 17</strong></th>
<th><strong>Μεγάλη Παράσκευη</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Royal Hours of the Passion</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ακολουθία των Μεγάλων Ωρών</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service of the Entombment of Our Lord</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Η Αποκαθήλωσις</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamentations at the Tomb of Christ</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ακολουθία του Επιταφίου Θρήνου</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Holy Saturday</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 18</strong></th>
<th><strong>Μέγα Σάββατο</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Paschal Vigil</td>
<td>11:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Η Πρό Αναστάσιμος Ακολουθία</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Glorious Resurrection</td>
<td>12:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Η Ανάστασις</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy of Pascha</td>
<td>12:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Θεία Λειτουργία του Πάσχα</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Great and Holy Pascha</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 19</strong></th>
<th><strong>Κυριακή του Πάσχα</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agape Vespers</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Εσπερινός της Αγάπης</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Stewardship contributions are necessary to help maintain the ministries and programs of our parish. All of us have been mailed the 2020 Stewardship brochure that explains the importance of our participation from the time that we are 18 years old.

We are thankful to the following individuals who have pledged $214,430 towards our 2020 stewardship goal of $390,000.

If you have not yet made your stewardship pledge, we ask that you please call the Church Office or simply send in your Stewardship donation. Remember to give dedicated and sacrificial attention to your Stewardship donation, keeping an eye toward helping your church reach its Stewardship goal.

In preparation for the great opportunities that lie ahead in the life of this community, the Stewardship Committee is asking everyone to continue that trend and pitch in by increasing your pledge from last year at least 10% or $50, whichever is greater. As always, we are grateful for your love and support of our parish.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. John Agapiou  Mrs. Demetra Ballas  Mrs. Renee Cascio  Mrs. Mary Daoutis
Mrs. Bessie Agapiou  Mrs. Lisa Ballas  Mr. Constantine Chagares  Mr. Elias Daskalakis
Mr. Anthony Alessio  Mr. Paul Ballas  Mrs. Helen Chagares  Mrs. Bessie DeBassio
Mrs. Pamela Alessio  Mrs. Mary Ballas  Mr. Basil Chaltas  Mr. & Mrs. William Delcos
Mr. Nicholas Amoratis & Stacey Cascone  Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Baron  Mrs. Efthalia Chaltas  Mr. Tony Delos
Mrs. Cynthia Anasson  Miss Claudia Basel  Ms. Nicole Chomiak  Mrs. Stacey Ferrence
Miss Nina Waskiewicz  Miss Babette Basil  Mr. James Chow  Mr. & Mrs. Fred DelPercio
Miss Eleni Waskiewicz  Dr. Helen Bass  Mrs. Theodora Dogani  Ms. Fotios Diamantes
Mr. Charles Waskiewicz  Mr. Theodore Belales  Mr. Stavros Christakos  Mrs. Antigoni Diamantes
Mr. Gregory Anastasiou  Mrs. Angela Belales  Mrs. Sofia Christakos  Mr. Ilias Diamantis
Mrs. Aikaterini Anastasiou  Mr. James Benas  Mrs. Ellen Coclin  Mrs. Maria Diamantis
Mrs. Maryann Angelopoulos  Mrs. Marina Benas  Miss Anastacia Coclin  & Mrs. Marc DiCicco
Mr. James Antippas  Mrs. Christopher Benas  Miss Alexandra Coclin  Mr. & Mrs. Al DiGrazia
Mrs. Claire Antippas  Mr. & Mrs. John Benham  Mrs. Mary Constantiniidi  Mrs. Melissa Dinar
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Antonakis  Mr. & Mrs. Arkadiusz Bielesz  Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Corradino  Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Dolan
Ms. Diamanto Antonellis  Mr. Thomas Bruno, II & Mrs. Maria Zervos  Miss Marianne Corradino  Dr. Andreas Drakonakis
Mr. George Antonellis  Ms. Paige Bullock  Mr. Joseph Corrando  Mrs. Jane Drakonakis
Mrs. Donna Antonellis  Mr. Kevin Burr  Miss Magdalene Corradino  Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Dwyer
Mrs. Catherine Aportria  Mrs. Chrisanne Burr  Mr. Emanuel Cosmas  Mrs. Haralambos Efthymiou
Mrs. Cleo Apotria  Kristen Burr  Mr. Edwin Cox  Mrs. Ariel Efthymiou
Mr. & Mrs. John Athenson  Mr. Bruce Buzelle  Mrs. Sharon Cox  Mr. Pantelis Efthymiou
Mr. Steven Baklas  Mrs. Avenya Buzelle  Mrs. Cathy Dabakis  Mrs. Renee Efthymiou
Mrs. Debbie Baklas  Mrs. Esther Cambras  Ms. Nicki Dakis  Mr. Paul Efthymiou
Mr. Dennis Bakousis  Mr. & Mrs. William Cambras  Miss Dorothy Daniel  Mrs. Rachel Efthymiou
Mrs. Despoina Bakousis  Mr. Daniel Canevari  Mr. George Daoutis  Mr. Mark Ehrhardt
Mr. James Ballas  Mrs. Petrina Canevari  Mrs. Pinelopi Daoutis  Mrs. Maria Ehrhardt
Dr. John Elefteriades
We are currently following precautions and guidelines that prohibit us from safely entering the church building at this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Many parishioners have been expressing a desire to have candles lit inside the Church for them, or for their family, friends or prayers for the world.

To facilitate this process, please fill out the form located on the home page of our web site and then make a donation though either Venmo @st-Barbara (https://venmo.com/St-Barbara) or on our website (https://bit.ly/STBDonations).

Fr. Peter Orfanakos will then offer prayers and light the candles on your behalf.

If you prefer to mail a check, instead of making an online donation or Venmo, please make check payable to: Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church and mail to 480 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT 06477.

Your donation will continue to support the ministry of the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church of Orange, Connecticut. Thank you.