In a typical year the onset of warmer weather has us thinking about summer gatherings and vacations. In the Saint Barbara parish, the season characteristically brings with it many opportunities for fellowship and fun as we begin our preparations for the Odyssey Festival. 2020 however, has proven to be anything but an ordinary year – as we are still dealing with the Coronavirus Pandemic and are only recently beginning Phase Two of the re-opening of our parish. Businesses throughout the State of Connecticut have also begun the slow re-opening process and are mandated to adhere to new strict guidelines that seek to keep the public safe in the midst of the health crisis. While we are slowly starting to see an easing of the ‘stay-at-home’ orders - we are still subject to abide by the new set of rules that seek to keep us healthy.

As you can imagine, the Church Office has received many inquiries regarding the Odyssey Festival. Will we be allowed to hold the Festival? Will it be the same? What about the music? Odyssey dancers? Choir? Treasures n’ Junque? Book and Icon Store? Jewelry? T-shirts? Marketplace? How do we…?

All of these good questions and many more have been researched, addressed and debated by the Odyssey Committee, Parish Council and local town health officials.

Let’s answer the biggest question first: “Will we have a Greek Festival on Labor Day Weekend this year?”

YES! We are still planning on holding a festival this year.

Now the important follow-up question: “Will this year’s festival be the same Odyssey as in year’s past? No, it won’t. It will be very different indeed. There will be no outdoor seating or tents. No lamb-on-the-spit. No snack bar. No gourmet grill. No Treasures n’ Junque. No Odyssey dancers. No church tours or choir presentations. No Book and Icon store. No jewelry, t-shirts or marketplace. State and local regulations will simply not allow us to gather in the same manner as we have in the past.

But as the saying goes: “Necessity is the mother of invention” so we adapt… we improvise… we overcome – and prepare to create a new experience.

In order to do this, we are planning to hold a ‘drive-thru festival’ – “Odyssey Express” on the Saturday & Sunday of Labor Day Weekend (September 5th & 6th).
It will feature a sampling of the wonderful Greek food that has been associated with the Saint Barbara Odyssey for nearly forty years! There will just be a few choices of meals – not the wide array of culinary treats – but they will be prepared with the same love, care and expertise as always.

We will need assistance and the help of those who are able to assist safely in the preparation of the food AND in the coordinating and staffing of the dinner set-up and drive-thru experience. There will be no gathering of people on the Church premises. All food is being prepared for take-out meals only, to be picked up by a drive-thru that will be set up at the Church parking lot.

We will continue the planning process and keep everyone informed.

Faithfully,

Father Peter

“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.” Romans 15.2

“Εκαστος ημών τω πλησίω αρεσκέτω εις το αγαθόν προς οικοδομήν.” Ρωμ. 15. 2

Ο καθένας μας πρέπει νά γίνεται αρεστός εις τόν πλησίον του, εις τρόπον ώστε νά συντελεί εις τό καλόν, εις αρετήν και εις οικοδομή τού πλησίον.

Είναι αλήθεια ότι οι σχέσεις των ανθρώπων μέσα εις την κοινωνίαν δεν είναι πάντοτε οικοδομητικά. Οι περισσότεροι των ανθρώπων δεν είναι καθαρώς ευλυκρινείς. Πολλά είναι τα κρούσματα της πονηρίας και της κακίας, ώστε κατάφερε σήμερα νά φοβάται κανείς ακόμη και την σκιά του. Γι' αυτό ο Απόστολος Παύλος γράφει είς την προς Ρωμαίους Επιστολή του, και συμβουλεύει ότι ο καθένας μας πρέπει νά γίνεται αρεστός εις τον πλησίον του, εις τρόπον ώστε νά συντελεί εις το καλόν, εις την αρετήν και εις οικοδομή τού πλησίον.

Πόσα δράματα και πόσες αυτοκτονίες θα είχαν αποφευχθή, αν οι χριστιανοί είχαν ως αρχήν τους αυτήν την υπόδειξιν του Αποστόλου Παύλου. Δεν θα περίμεναν νά ελθή εις τα πόδια τους ο πονεμένος. Θα τον αναζητούσαν αυτό, θα τον εστήριζαν και θα τον επρόσφεραν βοήθεια, και αν η ψυχή του ήτο άρρωστη και σκλαβωμένη τι θα μπορούσε νά τον προσφέρει ένας λόγος θεού, μία αδιάκοπη υπόδειξις, μία εκδήλωσις πραγματικού ενυδαφέροντος, και μια πράξεις θυσίας και αγάπης. Θα αποφεύγατο το συνηθισμένο εκείνο παράπονο πολλών, ώστε δεν ευρέθηκεν ούτε ένας άνθρωπος στο δρόμο μου, να μην πη δύο λέξεις και να μη συμβουλεύεσαι στοργικά και αδιαφέρως την πορεία της ζωής μου.

Αδελφοί μου, τίποτε εις την ζωής δεν γίνεται χωρίς κόπο και θυσίαν. Ολα είναι κερδισμένα με πολύ αίμα, μας διδάσκει ο Σταυρός του Χριστού.

Λέγεται, ότι οι σχέσεις των ανθρώπων μέσα εις την κοινωνίαν δεν είναι πάντοτε οικοδομητικά. Η ψυχή της συγκομιδής είναι τόσο δυνατή η ευωδία, ώστε και για λίγα λέπτα αν κανείς μείνει σ’ αυτήν, έκδηστε και αν πάη κατόπιν στο διάστημα της ημέρας, η ευωδία πού θα σκορπίσει γύρω του θα μας στήσει, ώστε νά πέρασε από την κοιλάδα αυτήν των ρόδων.

Αδελφοί μου, και εμείς σαν χριστιανοί πού είμεθα, θα πρέπει όσοι μας πλησιάζουν και έρχονται κοντά μας, να οικοδομούνται, να ωφελούνται και να γίνονται καλύτεροι. Η ψυχή μας, τα λόγια μας, η στάση μας, οι ενέργειες μας, όλα τα πρέπει να αφήνουν επάνω τους μια ευωδία πνευματική, πού μη μας χάνετε ποτέ.

Ναι, μια ευωδία όπως τα τριαντάφυλλα!
PHASE TWO

Information regarding the Re-opening of the Saint Barbara Parish - Effective June 22, 2020
Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church - 480 Racebrook Road - Orange, Connecticut

WHAT TO EXPECT
How your church experience will be temporarily modified in this phase:

1. GREATER ATTENDANCE LEVEL
   State and local regulations have expanded and now allow up to 25% of the occupancy rate (including the priest) to be present. As such we are able to invite up to 96 people to join us in person for the celebration the Divine Liturgy.

2. ADVANCE REQUESTS ARE STILL REQUIRED TO ATTEND
   We will continue the established procedures of Phase One to ensure all parishioners have opportunities to attend services if they wish. Parishioners will need to make advance reservations before attending any services in the church.

   Please call the Church Office at 203-795-1347 (Monday - Friday) to make your reservation. Reservations will not be taken via e-mail or text. Reservations must be made by Friday 5:00 p.m. for the Church service taking place on the upcoming Sunday.

3. WHO IS NOT RECOMMENDED TO ATTEND
   Those with any signs or symptoms of any acute illness (whether it is COVID or not) MUST stay home, as should those who have come into contact with COVID-positive persons within the last 2 weeks.

   In accordance with State Guidelines, those who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (65 years or older, live in a long-term care facility, underlying medical conditions such as asthma, heart conditions, immunocompromised, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, or liver disease) should not enter the church building at this time and should continue to participate in services online. Questions should be directed to your healthcare provider.
ARRIVAL TIME
Because your parish council will need to provide for your arrival and guide you to a seating area, it will be most helpful and appreciated for you to arrive between 8:25 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

We will have the front doors to the Church open. We ask that only one family unit at a time enter the Narthex – and that all others patiently wait outside (maintaining social distance) until they are able to enter the Church. Consider leaving personal belongings safely locked in your automobile. The parish council will monitor the front door area until all attendees are inside. After 10:20 a.m. the doors will be shut.

PLEASE DO NOT JUST ‘SHOW UP’
The reason that we are taking reservations is to assure that we stay within the legally allotted number of attendees. By ‘just showing up’ you place undue stress on our parish council who may be placed in the uncomfortable position of having to deny entrance to a fellow parishioner. No one wants to have to do that.

MASKS REQUIRED
All attendees over the age of 5 are required to wear protective face masks.

FOLLOW THE SIGNS
Please follow posted entry points, aisles and designated seating areas. These have been prepared in advance to provide safe social distancing and need to be respected for everyone’s well-being.

YOUR SEATING AREA
Designated seating areas will provide for spacing between individuals and family sections. Members of the same household may be seated in the same section without social distance between them.

NO ALTAR BOYS OR CHOIR
There will continue to be no altar boys or choir at this time. All altar boys and choir members are asked to please sit with their families in the pews. Our choir director, Stacey Grimaldi, will continue to lead us in the chanting of the hymns from the psalterion (chanter stand), and Presbytera Vangie will continue to serve as our reader. We ask that no one else approach the chanter stand or enter the altar area, so that proper social distancing can continue to be maintained.

WORSHIP ADJUSTMENTS
Your experience during services will continue to feel different than before the start of the pandemic. You are asked to reverence sacred objects, and/or greet one another by bowing instead of kissing. These temporary measures help ensure the safety and comfort of all.

HOLY COMMUNION
Our Orthodox Christian faith and worship remain unchanged at their core. However, with pastoral sensitivity toward all parishioners during this unique time, you will receive specific instructions from Fr. Peter and the Parish Council members in attendance, regarding Holy Communion.
PREPARE FOR OFFERINGS IN ADVANCE
To minimize the handling and exchanging of currency in the church, please consider either making your offerings to the church through electronic giving or by preparing your offering in an envelope to be brought to the church and deposited in the Narthex. Trays will not be passed during the service.

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE ON EXITING
Please follow the directions provided by the priest and the guidance of any ushers regarding exiting with social distance.

PLEASE DEPART IMMEDIATELY
Much as this goes against our common practice following services, please do not congregate in the Narthex or other areas of the church building. All attendees are asked to directly depart following the service.

COFFEE HOURS—NOT YET!
Coffee hours will not be held during this phase. Please understand they will return as soon as possible when restrictions are loosened.

REMEMBER
Your positive support of the outlined measures are meant to help us all be uplifted as we continue in prayer, hope, and strength in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

PRAY WITH US ONLINE
We thank all who have participated online throughout our internet broadcasts. We will continue to broadcast Live Internet Services every Sunday via our parish website: www.saintbarbara.org Please continue to pray with us online on those days when you are not able to be present in person. No weekday services will be attended in-person at this time until further notice.

CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE - CONTINUE TO PRAY!
Please do your best to keep your stewardship contributions current and up to date as best as possible considering the current circumstances. Donations can be made online on our parish’s website or by mail to the Church Office.

THANK YOU!
Fr. Peter, the Saint Barbara staff, and parish council members thank you for your understanding, support and cooperation during these temporary measures. We will continue to do our best to keep you informed as things move forward.

“Let us not give up assembling together...” Hebrews 10:25
Assembling: The assembly in the Old Testament (Hebrew: koheleth) is translated ekklesia in Greek, which we translate as “church.” God instructs the faithful not to forsake assembling as the church. Corporate worship on a daily basis, such as morning prayers or Matins, increases our expectation of the Day, the coming of the Kingdom.
Orthodox Study Bible, p. 1666.
We are thankful to the following individuals who have pledged $264,400 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. As always, we are grateful for your love and support of our parish. Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs. Jane Hajedemos
Mr. Peter Halepas
Ms. Stephanie Halepas
Mr. John Haskos
Mrs. Prapti Haskos
Mr. Nicholas Haskos
Mrs. Elizabeth Haskos
Mrs. Wendy Hathaway
Ms. Stavroula Hatzios
Mr. John Heerdt & Mrs. Lisa Stamos Heerdt
Mrs. Evelyn Heffernan
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Henkel
Ms. Anastacia Herbert
Mrs. Robin M. Hoffman
Mr. Mark Hojniski
Mrs. Eleni Hojniski
Stephen Hojniski
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Hoxsie
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hubbard, Jr
Mr. Mihail Ikonomou
Mrs. Helen Ikonomou
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ikonomou
Mr. Panagiotis Iosifidis
Mrs. Elisabet Iosifidis
Mr. Zaher Jaser
Mrs. Rozina Jaser
Mrs. Andreadene C. Johnson
Mr. Stuart Johnson
Mrs. Elaine Johnson
Mrs. Ellen Kallivrousis
Mr. Spyro Kallivrousis
Mrs. Roula Kallivrousis
Mr. George Kaouris
Mrs. Vasilia Kaouris
Mr. Stelios Kaperanos
Mrs. Kay Kaperanos
Ms. Constantina Karageorge
Mr. Angelo Karakolidis
Mrs. Maria Karakolidis
Ms. Eva Karakolidis
Mr. Dino Karatzas
Mrs. Robin Karatzas
Mr. Christopher Katagis
Mr. Manos Katevatis
Mrs. Chrysoula Trimpalis
Ms. Anastasia Kattis
Mr. Leonidas Kattis
Mrs. Antonia Kattis
Dr. Paula Kavathas
Mr. Nicholas Kefalas
Mrs. Beverly Kefalas
Mr. Daniel Kerames
Mr. Charles Kittelman
Mrs. Despina Kittelman
Miss Themis Klarides
Ms. Laina Kominos
Dr. Ignatiuss Komninakas
Mrs. Christina Komninakas
Mrs. Meni Komninakas
Mr. Vassilios Konstantinidis
Mrs. Kiriaki Konstantinidis
Mr. Michael Kontouris
Mrs. Melponemi Kontouris
Mr. Nikolaos Korosiotis
Mrs. Stavroula Korosiotis
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kostas
Mrs. Marietta Koukos
Dr. Kay Kourounis
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Koutroumanis
Mr. Anthony Koutroumanis
Mrs. Maria Koutroumanis
Mr. Peter Koutroumanis
Ms. Helen Koutroumanis
Mr. Valantis Koutsapsis
Mrs. Eleini Koutsapsis
Mr. Anastasios Kovlakas
Mr. Paul Kovlakas
Mrs. Lisa Kovlakas
Mrs. Harriet Kral
Ms. Evangelia Krauss
Mr. George Krikris
Mrs. Elizabeth Krikris
Mr. & Mrs. William Kyrtopoulos
Mr. Nicholas Laggis
Mrs. Anna Lambrou
Mr. & Mrs. Panos Lapatas
Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Lawrence
Mr. Michael Liapakis
Dr. Ann Marie Liapakis
Mr. Antonios Lillios
Mr. & Mrs. Alkiviadis Liopiros
Mr. Anthony Liopiros
Mrs. Irene Liopiros
Mr. Elias Lolis
Mrs. Elpida Lolis
Mr. Steven Lou
Mrs. Sephanie Franges-Loo
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Losh
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Loskant
Mr. Bradford Lott
Mrs. Valentine Lott
Dr. John Loucopoulos
Mrs. Fotini Loucopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. James Loukakes
Mr. Terry Loukides
Mr. Evan Louros
Mrs. Bernadette Louros
Miss Angeliki Loussides
Mr. George Loussides
Mr. Nick Loussides
Mrs. Hariklea Loussides
Mrs. Theodora Maccone
Mrs. Christina Macrini
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Maher
Ms. Susan Mallory
Mr. Konstantinos Maniatis
Mrs. Anastasia Maniatis
Mr. Panagiotis Maniatis
Mrs. Zoi Maniatis
Mr. Theodore Maniatis
Mrs. Eleftheria Maniatis
Mr. Patric Marchitto
Mrs. Georgia Marchitto
Mr. Anthony Marcekakis
Mrs. Maria Marerekas
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Matarese
Mr. Ioannis Mavrianos
Mrs. Arigio Mavrianos
Miss Athena Mayor
Mr. Andrew Mays
Mrs. Evgenia Mays
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mc Ardle
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McCaffrey
Mrs. Evelyn McGrath
Miss Anastasia Meehan
Mr. Konstantinos Melanidis
Mrs. Helen Melanidis
Mr. Juan Mendoza
Mrs. Samantha Mendoza
Mr. Spyros Menegatos
Mrs. Maria Menegatos
Mrs. Joanna Mihalakovs
Mr. & Mrs. Gino Milani
Mr. Evangelos Milas
Mr. Nikolaos Milas
Mrs. Irene Milas
Mr. Konstantinos Milas
Mrs. Marimina Milas
Mr. Corey Milazzo
Mrs. Eleni Milazzo
Mrs. Penelope Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Monaco
Mrs. Stacy Moran
Mrs. Eugenia Moriatis
Mr. George Moriatis
Mrs. Maria Moriatis
Dr. Artemis Morris
Mrs. James Morris
Mrs. Joy Hara Morris
Mrs. Linda Morris
Mrs. Mary Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mosca
Mr. Evans Mountzouris
Mrs. Christina Mountzouris
Mr. Gregory Mountzoudis
Mrs. Elizabeth Mountzouris
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth P. Nannoum, Jr.
Mrs. Georgerna Necklas
Miss Barbara Necklas
Mrs. Joanne Necklas
Mr. Michael Necklas
Mr. Socrates Necklas
Mr. & Mrs. James Newsom
Mr. Mathew Nichols
Mrs. Carole Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. Mario Nicolaides
Mr. Theodore Nicolaides
Mrs. Clio Nicolaides
Dr. Frank Ninivaggi
Rev. Peter J. Orfanakos
Presbytera Vangie Orfanakos
Mr. David Outhouse
Mrs. Cathy Outhouse
Mr. Michael Overybe
Mrs. Jeannie Overybe
Mr. Steven Pacholyk
Mrs. Katherine Pacholyk
Mr. John Palavra
Mrs. Penny Palavra
Dr. Antonios Panagiotakis
Mrs. Annalis Panagiotakis
Mrs. Florence D. Pandajis
Mr. Peter Pantelis, Jr
Mrs. Brenda Panellis
Mr. Konstantinos Papachristou
Mrs. Daphne Papachristou
Miss Andrianna Papadimitriou
Mr. George Papadimitriou
Mr. Nikolaos Papadis
Mr. Anthony Papadopoulos
Mrs. Marina Papadopoulos
Mr. Kosta Papadopoulos
Mrs. Helen Papadopoulos
Ms. Stella Papadopoulos
Dr. Ellen Pappano
Mr. George Pappas
Mrs. Sharon Pappas
Mr. Harry Pappas
Mrs. Pat Pappas
Mr. John Pappas
Mrs. Eleni Pappas
Miss Lella Pappas
Mr. Michael Pappas
Mr. Steve Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Parloto
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Partalas
Mr. Dave Patrick
Mrs. Teresa Patrick
Mr. Richard Pecka, Jr
Mr. Spero Perakos
Mrs. Nikiti Perakos
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Perretta
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Peterson
Mr. Evan Petrokis
Mrs. Regina Petrakis
Miss Elizabeth Petrakis
Mr. Demetrios Petros
Mrs. Daphne Kalomiris-Petros
Ms. Maria Porteses
Mr. John Poulmas
Mr. Matthew Prionas
Mr. Constantine Proestakes
Mrs. Kore Proestakes
Mrs. Helen Proestakes
Mr. John Proestakes
Mr. & Mrs. Peter C. Proestakes
Mr. & Mrs. George Proestakes
Mr. Peter G. Proestakes
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Rapetski
Mr. John Proestakes
Mrs. Barbara Redding
Mrs. Mary Reed
Ms. Robyn Reilly
Ms. Maria Rethis
Mrs. Kathy P. Rice
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Riggione, III
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Russo
Mr. Theodore Saoluidis
Mrs. Yota Saoluids
Mr. James Saragiannis
Mrs. Florence Saragiannis
Rev. Steven Saragiannis
Saint Barbara parishioners Steven and Theophani Sarigianis are interviewed by Staff members of the Orthodox Christian Missions Center regarding their call to missionary work as they prepare to serve the Church in Albania.

Pray along with them and enjoy hearing their story as they prepare to serve God and His Church.

Watch the entire interview at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBMX2ex1qIA&feature=youtu.be