The reset button - every electronic piece of equipment has one. If it ever stops functioning properly, the first instruction from customer support is usually: “press the reset button; unplug or turn your device off and allow it to reboot.” When you reboot your computer, all the processes that are residing in your RAM (random access memory) are wiped clean and the computer begins a fresh start.

As humans – there are many times when we feel the need to press our own reset button and refresh. We do this often as we seek to free ourselves from destructive and unhealthy patterns of behavior that reside in our mind’s ‘random access memory’ and make a fresh start and focus on that which is good.

These reboots happen repeatedly and take various forms: “This year I resolve to…” “This is the week that I…” “From now on I’m going to…” Starting tomorrow I’ll….”

Yet many times – nothing changes. Our ‘results’ remain the same as we do not alter our actions. We allow ourselves to become frenzied by the distractions of life and overlook the joys and blessings of the moment. This is not a modern dilemma or challenge but one that has plagued humans for centuries.

When Jesus enters the house of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42), whose brother Lazarus was raised from the dead, Martha was frenzied with the duties of hosting. She saw her sister Mary sitting at the Lord’s feet and listening to His teaching and grew angry and distressed at her perceived injustice. Reaching her wit’s end, she approached Christ and said: “Do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me.”

Our Lord responded: “You are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.” Jesus did not rebuke Martha for serving, but for complaining and being distracted, worried and troubled.

How do we hear these same words, spoken to us by Christ? How do we leave behind the things that distract, worry and trouble us? That create within us feelings of anger. How do we fix our minds on the word of God and live each moment in peace and thanksgiving?

Illumination by the Spirit is the endless end of every virtue.
Saint Symeon the New Theologian
We can begin our ‘reboot’ by focusing on God’s Goodness; on the blessings that He has bestowed upon us and the world. We can also lift up the words of a hymn found in the Matins service of the first day of the new Ecclesiastical Year on September 1st. See the words below:

“O Lord, who made all things in ineffable wisdom, and who preserves all things by Your omnific might, we offer our heartfelt praise with reverence, and with trembling we implore You to grant fruitfulness to the earth and to deliver us from every hardship and from enemies, seen and unseen, as we cry out in these good times: “For all Your servants, make fruitful the coming year.”

“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36).

Faithfully,

Father Peter

GOYA Clothing Drive Items Collected

The Annual GOYA Fundraising Lenten Clothing Drive began before the onset of the pandemic. The turning in of our collection of items was interrupted by statewide coronavirus closings. The local area collection centers were closed, and then finally able to reopen this summer and we were able to eventually coordinate the delivery of our parish’s donated items.

A few parishioners of our Church, properly socially distanced themselves from one another, and packed up the donated goods and delivered them to Savers. The GOYA receives a check for the donated items which in turn helps them support their philanthropic work at the Community Dining Room.

Local area donation centers offer lightly used clothing to benefit others, and they provide a way for our Youth Ministry to collect some funds in their treasury to further support their youth activities. Much appreciation to Frank and Laurie Tomaszek for arranging the availability of a large vehicle to transport our nearly 1,600 lbs. of donated goods!

On-going appreciation to Chairpersons of the event who assist our GOYAns: Dino Maniates, Frank Tomaszek and Presbytera Vangie Orfanakos.

Above: Frank and Laurie Tomaszek are pictured together with Presbytera Vangie loading donated items into the truck.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and... run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and protector of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2
Κάπως παράξενα φαίνονται τα λόγια αυτά του Απόστολου Παύλου. Κρύβουν μέσα τους κάτι το μυστηριώδες. Για πολλούς από εμάς είναι ακατανόητα, όχι τόσον ως ερμηνεία, όσον είναι και ως βίωμα, ως ζωή.

Δεν πρόκειται για μια θεωρητική διδασκαλία, η περί μυστηρίου. Είναι ζωή, ζωή του Χριστού, την οποίαν καλούμεθα όλοι μας να την ξεσώμεν αν θέλουμε να είμεθα πραγματικά καλοί χριστιανοί.

Τά λόγια αυτά του Απόστολου Παύλου εν μεταφράσε, «δεν ζώ πλέον εγώ, αλλά ζή μέσα μου ο Χριστός», είναι σαφή και απλά για εκείνον που πιστεύει και ζη σύμφωνα με την χριστιανική διδασκαλία. Για κανέναν από εμάς άλλοτε, για κανέναν από εμάς αγωνιστάς της πίστεως μας και για κανέναν ευσυνείδητο χριστιανό, δεν είναι η φράση αυτή δύσκολη και ακατανόητη.

Η ζωή του χριστιανού έχει πολλές ομοιότητες με την ζωή του Χριστού. Εκείνος είναι το πρότυπο και εμείς εκείνοι που θέλουμε να τόν υπάγομε. Αυτός είναι το υπόδειγμα και εμείς οι μιμητά του. Αυτό είχε υ’ όμιλον του και ο Απόστολος Πέτρος, όταν έλεγε ότι η επίγεια ζωή του Χριστού είναι γιά μας ένα υπόδειγμα με τον σκοπό, να βαδίσουμε πάνω στα αχνάρια αυτού του υπόδειγματος.

Ο Χριστιανός δηλαδή σταυρώνεται για τόν κόσμο, όπως σταυρώθηκε ο Χριστός. Νεκρώνεται ο παλαιός άνθρωπος που ζούει μέσα του, ο άνθρωπος δηλαδή της αμαρτίας, για να αναστηθεί ο νέος άνθρωπος, ο πνευματικός, ο άνθρωπος της αρετής, πού θα ζή για τον Θεόν, και θα ζή μέσα του Χριστός.

Μέσα στον άνθρωπο υπάρχουν δύο αντίθετοι κόσμοι. Ο κόσμος της αμαρτίας που θέλει μόνο την ύλη, τα υλικά και τά αισθητά. Ελκεται, ευχαριστείται και ευφραίνεται από αυτά. Τον κόσμο δηλαδή πού ο Χριστός θέλει νεκρόν, όταν ομιλεί περί θανάτου και γιά μια νέα εν Χριστώ ζωή. Και ο κόσμος πού ζή σε μια διαρκή επαφή με την θείαν χάρι και αγωνίζεται ώστε να μήν ζή διά τον εαυτό του και τον κόσμο, αλλά διά να ζή μέσα του ο Χριστός. Αυτή είναι η ζωή του χριστιανού πού ομοιάζει με την ζωή τού Χριστού. Γι' αυτό και ο Απόστολος Πάυλος λέγει, ότι «δεν ζέει πλέον αυτός, αλλά ζή μέσα του ο Χριστός» πράγμα πού εύχομε προς όλους μας!

Ο Χριστός σε μια παραβολή, ομιλώντας για την ανώτερη πνευματική ζωή, ανέφερε ότι αυτός είναι το αμπέλι και εμείς τα κλήματα. Οπως το κλήμα που πρέπει να είναι αναπόσπαστο από την κληματαριά, για να φέρει καρπόν, έτσι και ο χριστιανός πού μένει ενωμένος με τον Χριστό, ταυτίζει την ζωήν του, με την ζωή τού Χριστού, και έτσι και ο χριστιανός που ζήει μέσα του Χριστού.

Υπό Πρεσβ. Ι. Ορφανάκου
Philoptochos On-The-Go

Hot summer weather, tropical storms, and even the Covid-19 pandemic did not stop Philoptochos from carrying out their mission to serve people in need. Regarding the recent Philanthropic events that our local Philoptochos Chapter has been carrying out, Chapter President, Anne Faraclas, had words of encouragement to spark the ongoing participation of our local members saying: “No matter what, Philoptochos women, make things happen!” Energetic volunteers, Eleni Vautrin and Renee Efthymiou, have been working diligently on the collecting and delivering the Summer Baskets Project. They had over 85 requests for these “baskets of goodness” to be donated.

Many members of our Philoptochos graciously gave from their hearts to help with this worthy project. The Summer Baskets included many varied items. Some were filled with: summer toys, chalk, kites, craft supplies, school supplies, snacks, toothbrush and toothpaste, toiletries, socks, sunglasses, books, games, etc…. The Summer Baskets were collected on Sunday, Aug 2-3, 2020. The beautiful baskets were then delivered promptly to the agency, which then helped with getting the baskets to the children in New Haven CT, all the while, receiving the baskets “with miles of smiles!”

Our local Philoptochos chapter is also currently collecting toiletries that a team of Philoptochos members will be putting together as a ‘TLC Bags of Hope’ for people in local shelters. Philoptochos President, Anne Faraclas states: “We have a new project in the works and can use your help!” Philoptochos members will be putting together what we call a ‘TLC Bags of Hope’ that will contain travel sizes of necessary items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, hand cream, granola bars, etc. We are hoping to assemble 100 bags to start this project. Once they are filled and ready, we’d like to give them to various homeless shelters to hand out to the needy.

Above: Eleni Vautrin, Renee Efthymiou and Donna Antonellis are pictured with some of the “Baskets of Goodness.”

“TLC Bags of Hope”
One Philoptochos member stated the following: “Times are tough, for so many right now, especially with the pandemic we have been facing. We really feel that a little TLC and a bag of toiletries, and other needs, will be a kind way of showing that we care about people who are truly struggling, especially now. We will provide lists for ladies’ and men’s needs and are hoping that you donate whatever you can.” Kindly contact Anne Faracles or Lea, by calling the Church Office for the list of needed items if you are interested in donating to this project. Renee Efthymiou has graciously volunteered to spearhead this project.

It is our prayer that God continually bless the Philoptochos. We can all bear witness that Philoptochos helps forward the goodness of us all. Their efforts help us be able to give, and keep giving, by their organizational skills being offered continuously (even throughout the pandemic) all for the glory of God, as we, as a whole reach out with arms that share the Hands of The Lord to all, in any type of need.

In looking towards the upcoming Fall season, Philoptochos’ Fall Fundraiser is called “Mum’s The Word.” It is a 2-day plant sale of Mums, and Boxed Koulourakia Sale. It will be held outdoors, at the Saint Barbara Church parking lot, with proper social-distancing, on Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4. This event is chaired by Penny Palavra. Philoptochos is looking for volunteers to participate. Please contact Penny if you are available to assist with this endeavor.

Notably, Anna Albanis has graciously accepted to chair the Koulourakia Baking Project on Sunday, September 13, beginning at 11:30 am. Please remember to support Philoptochos by volunteering or donating to their projects that support the greater good in so many ways.

On August 21-22, 2020, Mary Constantinidi, Penny Mitchell and Anne Faracles attended the National Philoptochos Convention that was held via Zoom. There were over 500 attendees from throughout the United States! We thank these women for representing our local Philoptochos chapter and for keeping us abreast of National happenings.
Changing Landscape:
A Tree Casting Serenity In Life and In Death
by Presbytera Vangie Orfanakos

The State of Connecticut recently experienced the onset and effects of Tropical Storm Isaias. An EF1 Tornado with over 100 mph winds was confirmed to have touched down in our State. As a result, many of us were without power or water for days on end. Landscapes were changed by the many fallen trees and downed power lines. Hopefully much of the affected areas have been cleaned up and all the storm related issues are getting taken care of with best regard.

On our own Saint Barbara Campus, we experienced the shortage of power, in regard to electrical energy, but the Power of The Lord was with us.

During the days of no electricity (which for some meant no running water - no ability to shower, take care of basic household needs like washing dishes, laundry or even flushing the commode) we experienced difficult moments. Yet, by the grace and mercy of our Lord, we all kept going.

Local towns set up power-charging locations and water stations where people could obtain water at “bring your own bucket” sites so that residents could refill toilet tanks and be able to wash hands. Arrangements were also made for families to get bottled drinking water as well.
As the sun would set on those days, my heart was saying “time to trim the lamps” (meaning the battery-powered candles to be set aglow in our home) all the while knowing that our prayers also were being ignited in our hearts as we reached the “setting of the sun” experiencing the Φῶς Ἰλαρὸν (Gladsome Light) in our hearts and souls as well.

While praying the words of Φῶς Ἰλαρὸν, Fr. Peter and I, viewed the Saint Barbara Church grounds near the time of the setting sun to witness the awesome miracle of the ‘setting down’ of the tall tree - the one that shaded our own son, and our Church family children, year after year during Summer Camp, Odyssey, or at times of prayer. It stood tall near the Holy Trinity Chapel, until the time of its own setting.

Yet in its setting, or as it has been described: “its reverent laying down,” it blessed us all, with the miracle of not crushing our Chapel, of not crushing our hopes – but bringing us more Hope.

So, as we mourn our tree and our changing property, let us value our God and Creator. Let us give thanks to the Creator of Heaven and Earth, in our everyday ways: in our action in the face of destruction (whether man-made or by natural causes) and go forth proclaiming that the setting of the sun proclaims a rising of our faith.

Let us arise in Christ together and continue to believe that the example of our own life can help someone else, when we least expect it, because God allows miracles to happen in and around everyday people, who, one day, just might become saints.

Our Saint Barbara Campus Tree, the huge towering, yet gentle one by the Chapel, reverently accepted its call to fall to the ground by way of the winds of “Tropical Storm Isaias.” Only through the allowance of the Hand of God did this tree spare destruction of our beloved Holy Trinity Chapel. The on-going prayers of the eternal soul of John-Peter Iakovos Orfanakos, whose Prayer Blessing Plaque stood at the base of this tall tree, and the prayers of all the faithful hoping to be spared during the storm, are all part of God’s plan.

Saint Barbara’s fervant prayers saved us from “sudden death” as no one was hurt under her protection. Perhaps miracles were also wrought (only God knows for sure) in the aftermath of this great fallen tree. Certainly in our hearts, we sensed something special - something protective - something miraculous!

Bearing witness to the uprooted tree a parishioner described the scene in the following manner:

“This reverent tree, that offered shade and comfort could stand no more. John-Peter and all the saints kept it from falling onto the chapel, or the other way, to block the road. Lord Have Mercy.”

Other comments were: “Unbelievable! Grateful the chapel was spared, and no one was hurt.”

After some parishioners saw the photos of the tree laid down to rest in a thud of thunderous wonder, they said: “That is so amazingly beautiful!”

This comment above was in response to seeing a photo of the ‘peaceful ordered laying down of the tree,’ with the background of the Church dome in the midst, all the while the stones and rubble around the uprooted tree, intact, ‘protected’ by the Prayer Plaque in the midst that reminds us: ‘Jesus Bless. Panagia Protect. Guardian Angel Be With You. (John-Peter’s Prayer)

In the midst, always – Jesus, Panagia and Guardian Angel. This one simple, yet profound, prayer guided
John-Peter’s life for every one of his earthly days and heavenward his prayer continues to fill us all with hope.

More comments kept coming in after parishioners saw photos of the tree on the ground near the chapel, trying with words to describe what their hearts were sensing: “The church dome in the back, the foreground-mystically powerful.”

Another comment: “Goodness! This is another example of Mystical Consolation. Our heavenly realm is present, perhaps not with our eyes at every moment, but in acts that reveal and show us His all mighty power and love to those who believe.”

More believers stated:

“There are no words. Took my breath away.”

“John-Peter stands so strong.”

“Truly touched my heart.”

“We were marveling at the miracle of the tree not hitting the chapel. Sure that John-Peter was watching over the St. Barbara Parish.”

As I conclude the words of this brief but important article, as witness to marking another chapter in the life of this historic Church, I know that the stroke of a pen, or a tap on a the keyboard is not as indelible as the mark of the Cross on my heart, that guides my life and helps me reach the “Φῶς ἱλαρόν.”

May God bless all who read this article or see the photos of this beautiful tree. May your reading of this article help you bear witness to the awesome miracle of our Holy Trinity Chapel being spared on the days surrounding our Lord’s Holy Transfiguration, where at once were present John, Peter and James (Iakovos) with our Lord in the icon depiction, according to Holy Tradition and the biblical narratives, (see: Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 17:1-9) and in our times as well, on the grounds of Holy Trinity Chapel at Saint Barbara Church Campus, Orange CT.

Apolytikion Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (August 6)

You were transfigured on the Mount, Christ God revealing Your glory to Your disciples, in so far as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Giver of light, glory to You.
The Prayer Blessing Plaque of John-Peter, stood tall in the midst of our ever-loving Lord, the Protector of all, on a hot summer day in August 2020, and our Lord, Jesus Christ, changed the climate of our life forever.

How has the landscape of our own soul been changed by our recent global pandemic experience. What effect has the continued journey of salvation along these “treacherous” roads been for you? For your loved ones?

In closing I’d like to share a quote that states: “Just one seed of faith can grow into a miracle.” Maybe that is in reference to the story of the mustard seed, maybe its more. I think that the seed of faith planted in my soul through the life of our son, John-Peter, can sprout miracles every day, as long as we all have “eyes to see.” It has been five years since his passing, but the truth is that: “The love of the Lord is from all eternity to all eternity.” Psalm 102 (103)

Excerpt from Psalm 102 (103)

“... The Lord performs deeds of kindness, and vindication for all the oppressed. He has made known his ways to Moses, and his will to Israel's children. The Lord is one of compassion and mercy, long-suffering and manifold love. His contention is not forever, nor will his anger always last. He has not dealt with us as our sins demand, nor does he repay our evil deeds.

For as high as the heavens stand over the earth, so far has the Lord extended his love for those who fear him. As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our sins from us. As kind as a father is to his children, so is the Lord to those who fear him.

For he himself knows well how we were formed: remembers: we are only made of dust. A Man! His days resemble grass: As a flower of the field, so shall he bloom. But let a breeze pass over him and he is gone, and never shall he know his place again. But the love of the Lord is from all eternity to all eternity for those who fear Him...”

Youth Ministries Update

Many of you have been inquiring about the reopening of our Greek Language School, Sunday School and GOYA programs. Our volunteer staff for each of these youth initiatives has been trying to determine best practices for Fall 2020. The best way for you to stay informed with the latest news is to sign-up for the individual list serv (located on the church website) of the organization you are interested in being updated on with the most recent news.

GOYA will have zoom meetings led by Fr. Peter. Sunday School, for the time being, will continue to be led by parents in their home. We will provide support and suggested activities from the resources offered by the National Archdiocese Office of Religious Education. The Greek Language School Staff is in the process of determining the format of teaching and will provide more specific details soon.

Thank you for understanding that our Staff is 100% volunteer when it comes to these ministries of our Church. We are striving to make the best decisions in these uncertain times to assure the continued physical and spiritual health of all our parishioners.
The hymn, “Φῶς Ιλαρόν,” is one of the most ancient Christian hymns. It speaks of Jesus Christ, who is the “radiance (or brightness) of the Father’s glory” (Hebrews 1:3) and who is the “true Light.” He is and always has been “in the world,” enlightening “every man coming into the world” (Gospel of John, Prologue, chapter 1).

This proclamation is linked at once with mention of our worship of the Holy Trinity (God) — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — because it is in and through Christ, the Son of God, that we have truly come to know the Father and the Holy Spirit. The hymn concludes by noting that such worship is fitting “at all times,” because Christ is the “Son of God and giver of life” for which reason alone, all the world glorifies Him. This hymn, chanted at the beginning of each liturgical day (sundown), acknowledges that we have seen Christ, the “light of evening, the true light. We pray similar words immediately following the reception of Holy Communion in the Divine Liturgy, when we sing, “We have seen the true light…” (Εἴδομεν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν…). Similar to the words of Φῶς Ιλαρόν, the words of the hymn Εἴδομεν τὸ φῶς are linked to the worship of the Holy Trinity: “…we have found the true faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us.”

In this manner during the celebration of vespers – we see Christ, the light of evening and we worship the Holy Trinity - and at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy – in the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) – we not only repeat these actions – but go further as we taste of Him, partake of Him, and are saved by the Holy Trinity, to Whom we are united through the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ. Many times, in the language of the Church, our entire life is compared to a single day. Thus, at the beginning of our life, we behold Christ the Light, and at the highest point of the day (which is one moment in time, but a moment that unites us to Eternity and to Immortality) we are joined to the Light (Holy Communion) and are saved by Him. In this way the words of both hymns are seen more truly as observations about our entire life (our life as a whole), rather than of one brief moment of that life.1

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1 https://www.oca.org/liturgics/outlines/gladsome-light
The Stilling of the Storm

Often we are in tumult, perhaps less of a tumult than the young ascete, but we surrender to it and are defeated. That is why our prayer is trembling and hesitant, a prayer of tumult, uncertainty and incoherence.

Isn't this the story of the storm on the lake of Galilee? The Lord and his disciples are on the lake. A tempest comes up when they are out to sea. Death threatens them, the waves are huge, the winds beat against them. They fight for their lives as hard as they can, and all this while the Lord is asleep on a cushion at the prow. He looks comfortable to them. They can’t bear him looking so comfortable, his indifference. In their wretchedness they turn to him, wake him up, try to force him to realize what is happening, ‘Lord, do you not see that we perish?’ But what are they doing by asking this question? Are they appealing to the Lord to control the storm?

Yes and no. First of all they want him to share their suffering. They want him to be as anxious as they are. They think he will not help them unless he shares their anxiety. The Lord gets up, he refuses to share their panic. He keeps his own serenity. First he turns to them, ‘How long must I be with you, men of little faith?’ And then he turns towards the storm, and casts his own serenity onto it. He orders the waves to be still and the wind to be silent, and his own peace to come down on everything about him. The storm is still and the disciples fall at his feet. Who is he? They are still doubtful. We often make the same mistake. Instead of seeking to share God’s serenity, we ask God to share our tumult. Of course he does share it, but with his own serenity.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

From the book: The Essence of Prayer
Pages 360-361
In lieu of our parish’s annual Walk for Missions, the Saint Barbara Missions Committee is encouraging parishioners to sign up for the ‘Trek 4 Missions’ via the OCMC website (ocmc.org) and join the team “Go Forth...Albania!” (team password is Albania2020). The event raises awareness about missions work and raises funds for missionaries such as our own, Steven and Theophani Sarigianis, who are preparing to serve in Albania. Please support this cause.

A Word of Encouragement

Many of our ministries will continue to be operating on a smaller scale than usual due to pandemic requirements for safety, and therefore we ask for your continued interest and prayer for all of our Church Programs and Ministries. Just because you are not physically present in the Church (like you are used to) or because you don’t see one another (like you are used to) does not mean that you allow your excitement about the programs, or your care for others in our church community, to leave your heart.

Perhaps it feels like a “leave of absence” but know that you can continue to grow in new and beautiful ways unto the Lord. His Work continues - simply invite Him into your heart daily and be willing to face each circumstance with faith, perseverance, patience and love above all.

Fearless Odyssey Express Preparation

Many of our energetic parishioners gathered during various dates throughout the past few weeks and months to continue preparation and planning for this year’s Odyssey Express. We thank all those who gave of their time behind the scenes, continued to meet via zoom, by phone, or by e-mail to discuss the needed changes to our usual Odyssey yearly event. All the efforts are appreciated. Our work as a whole is often times reflected in the collaborated strength of many. Be as supportive as you can to this year’s special Odyssey Express. Remember to place your Odyssey Express order soon!

Through emergency response, education, job opportunities, and more, your gifts to IOCC help people facing natural and man-made disasters by offering hope for a better future.

Learn more and get involved
iocc.org/takeaction
Garden Ministry Continues During COVID-19 Pandemic

Our Gardening Ministry continues throughout the Pandemic. Many thanks to Eleni Yates, Steven Pacholyk, Katherine Pacholyk, Steven Hojnowski, Bruce Buzelle and Presbytera Vangie Orfanakos for keeping up with the necessary care of our garden beds and entryway potting containers and urns. These joy-filled containers help in welcoming all who enter the Church Campus with budding flowers or colorful greens, branches galore, and more items to come as we approach fall and winter.

If you would like to donate to the ongoing mission to keep the Church entryways beautified from the outside in- please contribute by donating funds. You may call the Church office for more information or contact Eleni Yates: hgyates@hotmail.com by email.

A special thank you for the on-going care that our Church caretakers, Ivanka and Bob, contribute to the outdoor care of our Church.

Many thanks to our parishioner Steven Wachter and his Dad Gary Wachter for their dedicated help in promptly clearing up the tree from the Chapel area. Much appreciation as well to Greg Wachter, Rob Wagner, Theodore Maniatis, Stavros Mastromanolis and Manolis Mastromanolis who volunteered their time to help clean out the weeds from the flower beds and fence throughout the Church Campus. Every little bit helps! We have a large property and it is all our responsibility to show care and concern for God’s House, inside and outside as well.

Artoclasia beautifully prepared for the celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15th

Thank You!

We especially thank the dedicated volunteer participation of our Parish Council during these pandemic times. They are a strong team of talented parishioners who are doing their best to accommodate us all each week at Church services. Please continue to follow the directives they give at Church services so we properly maintain social-distancing requirements keeping everyone safe.

We also thank the loving prayerful hands of those who continue to bake weekly Prosforon and special Feastday Artoclasia. We appreciate the devoted parishioners who faithfully provide the Koliva for Memorial services, and those who chant and read during the liturgical services. It is important not to take these ministries for granted, knowing that everything you see at the Church, or in the Church, was done by someone who gave time, talent, donation, and care to provide the need, the item, or the service for the Glory of God.

Keep attending Church, either online or in person, and glorify God through prayers and actions.
The Φωτιζου Liturgical Reading and Byzantine Chant Group was established as a way to assist the growing number of parishioners who have expressed an interest in taking a more active role during the celebration of liturgical services. Participants will learn Byzantine Chant and how to project their voice in a clear tone as they read the scriptures in a dignified and prayerful manner that is conducive to Orthodox corporate worship.

Dr. John Damianos, the young chanter who has been assisting recently at various liturgical services has graciously agreed to teach the Byzantine Music. He has a methodology to his teaching and will begin by explaining the history of Byzantine Chant and its various tones (scales) and will present a lesson and give an assignment; offering assistance when needed throughout the process.

Presbytera Vangie (vangie@optonline.net) has been collecting names and email addresses of people who would like to be part of the group which for the time being will meet via Zoom. Classes will begin in the month of September. Contact Presbytera Vangie if you feel called to participate in this ministry of our Church.

Saint Barbara Choir Update

Our Saint Barbara Church Choir continues to practice under the direction of our talented professional Choir Director Stacey Schinas Grimaldi. Stacey has graciously taken the Zoom reigns at this time to courageously keep our choir uplifted in spirit as she has offered to arrange periodic practice via virtual gatherings keeping choir members abreast of the on-going notes of harmony still expressed through our traditional Church hymns.

A huge thank you to Stacey for her continued efforts week after week to prayerfully sing the responses and hymns of the Divine Liturgy. May her dedication continue to inspire each and every choir member to continue to practice in your homes all throughout the pandemic. For one day we will once again gather together to hear your voices in unison, in person, singing uplifting praise glorifying God. Until then, be strong, keep the faith, and most notably, keep singing!
September 2020

Tuesday, September 1
Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year
9 am Orthros

Friday, September 4
10 am Pastry Packaging
Odyssey Express Prep.

Saturday, September 5
12 noon - 8 pm Odyssey Express

For more information and to place an order visit:
https://odysseyexpress.org

Sunday, September 6
13th Sunday of Matthew
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
Call the Church Office by Friday 9/4, 5 pm to RSVP

12 noon - 8 pm Odyssey Express
https://odysseyexpress.org

Tuesday, September 8
Nativity of the Theotokos
9 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
Call the Church Office to RSVP by Monday 9/7, 5 pm
7:30 pm Endowment Fund (via Skype)

Wednesday, September 9
National Clergy Laity Congress
7:00 pm AHEPA (Zoom)

Thursday, September 10
National Clergy Laity Congress
6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal (Zoom)

Friday, September 11
9 am Service of Remembrance
AHEPA Golf Scramble Orange Hills Country Club
8 am Registration
9 am Start

Sunday, September 13
Sunday Before Feast of the Holy Cross
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
Call the Church Office by Friday 9/11, 5 pm to RSVP
11:30 am - 4:00 pm Koulourakia (Philoptochos)

Monday, September 14
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
Call the Church Office to RSVP by Friday 9/11, 5 pm
7:00 pm Parish Council (via Zoom)

Wednesday, September 16
7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, September 20
Sunday After Feast of the Holy Cross
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
Call the Church Office by Friday 9/25, 5 pm to RSVP

Wednesday, September 23
7:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting (via Zoom)

Thursday, September 24
6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal (Zoom)

Sunday, September 27
1st Sunday of Luke
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
Call the Church Office by Friday 9/25, 5 pm to RSVP
3rd ANNUAL
GOLF SCRAMBLE
Enjoy a Fantastic Day of Golf at Orange Hills Country Club in Orange, CT!
All skill levels invited, from scratch golfers to recreational players!
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

ORANGE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
Orange, CT

Registration – 8 AM
Shotgun Start – 9 AM

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAMS

INCLUDES
BREAKFAST & LUNCH!

• Registration only $125 per golfer
choose your Foursome, includes
greens fees, cart and prizes!
• We will pair up single golfers

RAIN DATE
AFTER EASTER 2021

• Prizes for Closest to the Pin,
Long Drive and Top 3 Lowest
Scoring Teams
• GREAT RAFFLE!

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

• GOLF BALL SPONSOR/$1500 Includes 4some, Logo
  on all golf balls, 4 Tee signs, 1 Putting Green sign
• GOLD SPONSOR/$1000 Includes 4some, 3 Gold
  Sponsor Tee signs, 1 Putting Green sign
• SILVER SPONSOR/$500 Includes 2some, 2 Silver
  Sponsor Tee signs, 1 Putting Green sign
• TEE SPONSOR/$100 Your Tee Sign with
  Company Logo/Name at a Tee box

PAY ONLINE OR VIA CREDIT CARD OR CHECK TO CHURCH OFFICE
Checks payable to: Ahepa, Chapter 98 c/o St Barbara Greek
Orthodox Church, 480 Racebrook Road, Orange CT 06477

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE AT www.app.eventcaddy.com/events/ahepa98golf-2020

REGISTER – FOURSOME REGISTRATION

Golfer 1
Name
Email/Phone

Golfer 2
Name
Email/Phone

Golfer 3
Name
Email/Phone

Golfer 4
Name
Email/Phone

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
Jim Bitzonis at 203 247-9871 or james@fourmco.com

GREAT RAFFLE!
Thank you for your continued support.

We are thankful to the following individuals who have pledged $310,663 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.

Mr. John Agapiou
Mrs. Bessie Agapiou
Mr. Michael Albanis
Mrs. Anna Albanis
Mr. Anthony Alessio
Mrs. Pamela Alessio
Mr. Alexander Alexiades
Miss Alexandra Alexiades
Mr. Elias Alexiades
Mr. Antonios Amoratis
Mrs. Vasiliki Amoratis
Mr. Iakovos Amoratis
Mr. Nicholas Amoratis & Stacey Cascone
Mrs. Cynthia Anasson
Miss Nina Waskiewicz
Miss Eleni Waskiewicz
Mr. Charles Waskiewicz
Mrs. Maria Anastasiou
Mr. Gregory Anastasiou
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Mr. Peter Anderson
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Mr. Paul Ballas
Mrs. Mary Ballas
Mrs. Florence Barakis
Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Baron
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Mr. Edward Basel
Mrs. Lilian Basel
Mrs. Penelope Basel
Miss Babette Basil
Dr. Helen Bass
Dr. Mary Bass
Mr. Theodore Belales
Mrs. Angela Belales
Mr. James Benas
Mrs. Marina Benas
Mr. & Mrs. John Benham
Mr. Shaun Berner
Mrs. Constantina Valaouras
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Mrs. Kirsten Bitzonis
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Mr. A. Paul Dalakas
Dr. Estell Pappas
Miss Dorothy Daniel
Miss Jeannie Daniel
Ms. Evdokia Daoutis
Mr. George Daoutis
Mrs. Pinelopi Daoutis
Mr. John Daoutis
Mrs. Mary Daoutis
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Mr. Raymond DeAguida
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Mrs. Antigoni Diamantos
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Mrs. Arel Efthymiou
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Mrs. Renee Efthymiou
Mr. Paul Efthymiou
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Mr. Owen Gavagan
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Mrs. Efstratia Gerakelis
Mr. Haralambos Gerakelis
Mr. George Giambanis
Mrs. Maria Giambanis
Mrs. Efthymia Giannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Giatrelis III
Ms. Alexandra Gineres
Candle Lighting Ministry

As we continue to follow precautions and guidelines that due to COVID-19 you are invited to participate in the Candle Lighting Ministry.

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 website and then make a donation through 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.
To volunteer during Odyssey Express Contact:
Church Office: 203-795-1347 or Tina Valaouras Berner: tvalaouras@gmail.com