The Lord said, “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them” (Luke 6:31). This saying is called “the Golden Rule.” It is a teaching that is found in some form in almost every faith and philosophy around the world.

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” It is a simple instruction. Simple, but not easy. This command requires us to think about those around us, and to do so at all times and in every place. It requires us to care about friends and enemies alike. It requires us to be thoughtful about the needs and concerns of others—and not only to be thoughtful, but to count their interests as equal to our own.

This is very difficult. It goes against human nature. The human instinct for self-preservation is strong. It can give people extraordinary strength, so that they can do things they normally could not do. The Lord commands us, however, to use that strength on behalf of our neighbor, to love him as ourselves.

We all know the special love we have for our family and our closest friends. For our mother or father, for our brother or sister, we would do anything. We would give them our last dollar and our last piece of bread. We would give even our lives for our family. This is true of everyone on earth, good people and bad. As Christ says, “Even sinners love those who love them.”

Christ shows us how to go even
Parish Council
Maria Diamantis

Philoctochos Society
Anne Faracas

Religious Education
Dr. Maria Diamantis, Clio Nicolakis

Oratorical Festival
Steven Yates

Bible Study
Rev. Peter Orfanakos

PTO
Clio Nicolakis, Anna Albanis

PATCHES
Rozina Jaser, Nadine Koliopoulos

JOY
Stacey Kattis, Christina Zikos

GOYA
Elli Maniatis

Athletics
Pete Maniatis

Youth Protection Officer
Nicole Chomiak

OCF
Rev. Peter Orfanakos

Young Adults
Jeannie Daniel, Dorothy Daniel

IXÔYΣ Reading Group
Mario Kontomerkos, Tony Delos

Mustard Seed
Rev. Peter Orfanakos

Golden Years Ministry
Helen S. Wacht, Jane Hajedemos

Greek Language School
Anita Maniatis, Jenny Mays

Adult Greek Language
Nick Loussides

Choir
Stacey Grimaldi, Stephanie Halepas

Psalti
Peter Proestakis, Alexis Nale

A.H.E.P.A.
Dr. Evangelos Hadjinicholas

Archons
Greg Stamos, Theo Nicolakis

Odyssey Festival
Michael Wachter, Paul Redding, Evans Mountzouris

Taste of Greece
Val Lott, Helen S. Wacht

Covenant Care
Presbytera Vangie, Marey Winkel

Sojourners Society
Mary Constantinidi

Book and Icon Store
Bobby Chaltas, Flo Sarigianis

Missions/IOCC
Tony Delos

Outreach
Virginia Eliopoulos, Maria Koutroumanis

Mentor Initiative
Michele Papadimitriou

Vasilios Diakogeorgiou

Safety
Steven Yates, Chrisanne Burr

Endowment Fund
Bill Kambas

Scholarship
Dr. Elias Lolis

Luminaria
Paris Stamos Heath

Parish Wellness
Rev. Peter Orfanakos, Flo Sarigianis

Maintenance
Michael Wachter

Welcome
Eleni Yates

Agape Angel Tree
Presbytera Vangie, Eleni Hojnowski

Fotizou
Rev. Peter Orfanakos

CT Hellenic Lawyers
Gregory Stamos

Paideia
Augustis Fifis, Peter Iosifidis

Gardening
Eleni Yates, Mark Hojnowski

Welcome
Patric Marchitto

Parish Photographer
Jeannie Daniel

Web Site
Presbytera Vangie, Eleni Hojnowski

The Ministry
further along the path of love. He teaches us to treat every human being like a member of the family. He makes the whole world our brothers and our sisters: and not only those who love us, but also those who hate us. We must treat them as we hope to be treated ourselves. We wish for ourselves: mercy, kindness, forgiveness. And so we are called to grant freely to others—even to the thankless and undeserving—mercy, kindness, and forgiveness. Christ says, “Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.”

The Lord’s teaching is simple, but it is by no means easy. It is, in essence, the message of Calvary. It is a call to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ. We said before that nearly every faith and philosophy has its own version of the Golden Rule: but only in Christianity do we find the fullest realization and incarnation of that rule, in the person of Jesus Christ our true God.

On this weekend we celebrate one hundred years of God’s grace to this community. Over that span of time, your parish has received many blessings, spiritual and material. However, an abundance of blessings alone does not ensure long life for a parish. A community like this grows and thrives only when the members see each other as family, and not merely as fellow parishioners. A parish truly prospers only when the people take to heart this Golden Rule. The Lord said, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). Agape, love, preaches the Gospel more eloquently than any sermon could do.

As you look ahead to the next century of service to our God, commit yourselves anew to the law of love. Work together gladly. Give generously. Forgive freely. Love one another sincerely. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. And so you will truly be children of the Most High God, and great will be your reward in the coming Kingdom that has no end. May the Lord bless and keep this beautiful community forever!

Homily of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America during the celebration of the Archieratical Divine Liturgy at Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, Connecticut on September 29, 2019.
It is a landmark event for a parish to reach its centennial year. On September 28, 2019, the Saint Barbara parish celebrated this achievement with a gala event which commemorated its past, acknowledged its thriving present, and looked forward to the next one hundred years.

In one hundred years only seven men have been elevated to Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. It is an event of major significance to all Greek Orthodox Christians. On September 28, 2019, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, having only recently been elevated to that office, visited the Saint Barbara parish to offer his blessing and to join in the celebration of the parish centennial.

The festivities began with the arrival of His Eminence at the Saint Barbara campus, where he was welcomed by Father Peter and a group of parishioners. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America is welcomed upon his arrival by Saint Barbara parishioners.

Eminence toured the church campus prior to a luncheon reception in the Lightle Community Center. The Archbishop was most complimentary in his remarks about what he called “the church’s esthetics” including the gardens, landscaping, the church edifice, and iconography.
All present were drawn in by the Archbishop’s friendly manner and easy smile. He spoke about his time at the Halki monastery and the challenge of creating a brotherhood there. He said that even though these men may be celibate monks they do not wish to be lonely. It was refreshing to hear His Eminence speak with brotherly affection about his deacons and with eagerness about the impending arrival of his beloved dog Hermes.

Each of the parishioners present had a chance to tell His Eminence about the ministries of the Saint Barbara parish that they serve or participate in as all enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared and served by Stacey Ference (Savour Food). By the time dessert was served, all present were more well acquainted with Archbishop Elpidophoros.

His Eminence moved from the luncheon to a meeting with the parish’s young adults. The Church recognizes the challenge of keeping its young adults from drifting away as college and the demands of new careers pull at them. Saint Barbara’s young adults reported on their work with the Telos project and the newly formed Young Adult Ministry.
The highlight to Saint Barbara’s centennial celebration was a gala dinner-dance held that same night at the lovely Cascade reception hall. Nearly four hundred guests attended the evening that began with a cocktail reception. His Eminence greeted the guests as they enjoyed fellowship and delicious hors d’oeuvres.

When it was time for the guests to move into the dining room each found gifts and surprises at their place settings. Each guest received a commemorative booklet with the parish history as well as a beautiful and unique handmade ceramic tile icon of Saint Barbara. The guests included many visiting clergy, officials from the Town of Orange, State Representatives, Senator Blumenthal, and Miss Paulette Poulos, the Executive Director of Leadership 100.

Theo Nicolakis served as Master of Ceremonies and kept the program moving as the honored guests at the dais shared their memories of the Saint Barbara parish’s first one hundred years and offered their best wishes for the future. Parish Council President Val Lott offered a warm welcome to all and offered her reflections. Senator Blumenthal spoke about his relationship with our parish and its members. State
Representative and Saint Barbara parishioner Themis Klarides, brought greetings from the State House.

After a sumptuous dinner, Greg Stamos offered heartfelt reflections. Dorothy Daniel and Eleni Koutroumanis McArdle spoke about growing up in the parish and the ties that bind generations of families to our unique community of faith. Paulette Poulos, Executive Director of Leadership 100, (the Endowment Fund of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese) spoke about her personal connection to the Orfanakos family, which has spanned many years. Her heartfelt words were so extraordinarily stirring that they inspired the attendees into a standing ovation and thundering applause; an outpouring of love and affection from the sheep to the shepherd if you will, for Father Peter and his service to the Saint Barbara parish.

Father Peter then stood to offer a few words and was followed by His Eminence, who spoke about the love and warmth he felt while spending his day and evening with the Saint Barbara parish.

The next morning brought the Saint Barbara parish was honored to be led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. This is not the first time the parish has been blessed to host the leader of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, but coupled with the year-long centennial celebrations and a newly-elevated Archbishop, the atmosphere was somehow even more rarified.

As a twenty year parishioner I can say that I have never
Before ending his visit to the parish His Eminence attended a delicious luncheon prepared and served by Saint Barbara parishioners in the Grand Ballroom. The luncheon featured an impeccably set table for our Guest of Honor, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. A number of parishioners including Koula Diakogeorgiou, Ellie Maniatis, Christen Maccone, Shaun Berner, and Presbytera Vangie, shared their reflections on the Saint Barbara parish and what it means to them in a brief program. They expressed what a truly special, beautiful, loving community has been built by parishioners past and present; they spoke of our joyous responsibility and vital need to build and maintain the Saint Barbara community as each new member joins our family of faith.

Fittingly, the Saint Barbara parish Greek dancers wrapped up the festive weekend demonstrating the skill, beauty and joy that combines Hellenism and Orthodox Christianity. The dances symbolize the way the young people of our parish celebrate their Greek heritage together as brothers and sisters in Christ - arms linked supporting, challenging, exhorting each other to even greater things in the next one hundred years.

Upon leaving the Church grounds His Eminence traveled with Father Peter, Presbytera Vangie and their immediate family, to Orange Cemetery to offer a Trisagion prayer at the garden gravesite of our beloved John-Peter Iakovos. It was a peaceful, beautiful and prayerful moment in time that brought a fitting close to our weekend celebration in prayer.

Archbishop Elpidophoros offered a brief, sincere homily with a few remarks on his visit to the parish. I noted a familiarity in his tone which was so warm and nurturing and his ever-present smile expressed the joy he was feeling.

Leadership 100 Executive Director Paulette Poulos

His Eminence from Halki. Their collective voices and prayers added to the beauty of the service.

The Saint Barbara parish altar servers were present in full force, from the tall to the small. The reverence they showed added so much to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and they could not hide the joy and excitement they felt in assisting His Eminence.

Above: His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros offering prayers at the garden gravesite of John-Peter Iakovos Orfanakos.
The following are the remarks of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America at the Centennial Banquet:

Honorable Senator, Mr. Richard Blumenthal; Honorable Representative, Ms. Themis Klarides; Beloved Proistamenos, Father Peter Orfanakos; Esteemed Executive Director of Leadership 100, Ms. Paulette Poulos; Esteemed Parish Council President, Ms. Val Lott; Philoptochos President, Ms. Anne Faracles; Reverend clergy; Distinguished guests and community leaders;

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, all:

What a joy it is to join you this evening for the Centennial Celebration of your parish!

It is fitting and right on such an occasion, to pause and reflect, to remember and consider, all that has happened over one hundred years and more. We give thanks, first of all, to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for His mercies upon this community and this city. You have seen the hand of the Lord at work on your behalf, in ways beyond number.

We begin every Divine Liturgy with a prayer for peace—the peace from above. The Lord has heard and granted this prayer among you, and He given you many other rich blessings besides. This is truly a cause for thanksgiving and joy.

We give thanks as well for the lives and labors of the blessed and ever-memorable founders of your holy church. They came to America seeking a better life. They built new homes and new businesses; but they never forgot the need to also build a spiritual home, a house for the worship of God. These founders lived through many hardships and heartbreaks, through times of war and economic turmoil. Yet they stayed strong in faith, and they made tremendous sacrifices for the sake of the Church. We are here today, celebrating, because that generation was truly great in their love for the Lord. May their memory be eternal!

The story of the Saint Barbara parish cannot be told without speaking of the kindness of your neighbors. In the early years, there were many times when the community did not have its own place of worship. Other churches and organizations graciously opened their doors for your use. This was an important blessing that must never be forgotten. Our guests here tonight from the wider civic community represent those good neighbors of the past and present, and we ask you to accept our gratitude.

Today, this parish continues to build on the spiritual foundation that was laid by previous generations of priests and laity. You carry forward their legacy of love and labor. You follow in their manner of life and their spirit of stewardship, as you give generously of your time, talents, and treasures. The list of the ministries and activities here at Saint Barbara is truly impressive! You have an active Philoptochos Society. You have vibrant youth groups and educational programs. Your community also offers ministries of nursing, scouting, summer camp, and a campus fellowship for our college students, to name but a few. And you have built and maintained a beautiful sanctuary and altar, as well as an impressive community center. On this landmark anniversary, it is fitting also to give thanks for the blessing of your fellow parishioners, your lay leaders, and especially your dedicated priests of the past and present.
Your parish bears the name of one of the most beloved saints of the Church, Saint Barbara. She gave her life for her faith in Christ after suffering many torments. Her father tried to keep her away from the teachings of the Christians. But the Word of the Lord cannot be bound (2 Timothy 2:9). Young Barbara came to know and embrace the ways of God. She showed her love for the Holy Trinity by having a window added to a family bathhouse. It was a third window, to honor the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one Godhead and one Power.

My beloved brothers and sisters, you are that third window today. Your parish shines with the light of God in this city and region. As you offer the Holy Eucharist week by week, you become living icons of the Holy Trinity, one in faith and in love. This is a great blessing, and a great responsibility. The Lord has granted you one century and more peaceful service to Himself. May He give you many, many more years of fruitful ministry.

And may the God of Saint Barbara be your light and your salvation, today and forevermore. God bless you all!

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit several of the local cemeteries and pray. As I looked around, I saw many familiar names etched into the stones. Individuals who are now, through God’s Grace, part of the Church Triumphant. As I read the names, I could see clearly in my mind’s eye, each of their smiling faces. My head was flooded with memories of shared conversations, struggles, successes, laughter and tears. I relished the peaceful, powerful moment of contemplation. It served as an incredible reminder that these are the individuals, who together with the current members of the parish, have fortified the foundation of Saint Barbara Church on the Rock, that is Christ. For the Church is built on the faithful confession of Christ. Jesus Christ builds, and we cooperate with him.

In Genesis, chapter 11, we read of the Tower of Babel, how the people at that time, united as one race and one language, tried to build a city that had a tower that would reach up to heaven. They wanted to accomplish this, to make a name for themselves. But God, seeing their arrogance, ‘confused their language’ so that they were unable to understand one another’s speech, and as such, unable to work together, they abandoned their project, and were scattered.

Conversely, in the Book of Acts, we see the Great Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles as divided tongues of fire, and gave them the ability to speak in various languages, so that all who were gathered in the great city of Jerusalem at the time, heard in their native language the Good News of
God’s Love and Christ’s Triumphant Resurrection of the Dead. In the account of Babel, pride was shown to possess the awesome power to divide, but here, the humble reception of the Holy Spirit is shown to have the overwhelming power to unite, even in diversity.

God, the creator of all, descended to earth so that He might raise us all up, to be with Him in Heaven. It is through His Grace, that we are united to each other in faith, and experience and hear the singular language of God’s Love.

It was with this sense of humility, that the early settlers in New Haven gathered and established this parish. As young men began to arrive in 1895 from Greece and Turkey, they sought for a way to gather and give thanks to God, for the opportunities that lay before them in a new land.

They sacrificed - they saved - they prayed for God’s strength, courage and assistance. They gathered in homes; then in a church on Crown Street; then purchased an old barn that they converted to a Church on Beers Street; then a more permanent home on Dwight Street until finally building the Church on Racebrook Road in Orange.

In each place, through God’s Grace, the parish grew. The parishioners supported each other and grew closer as a family of faith, through shared struggles and successes. The early members of this community, always looked beyond themselves, giving assistance to their struggling neighbors. They would do so – in a manner that did not bring attention to themselves – but brought Glory to God and much relief and strength to the toiling stranger.

They would send money to Greece and to struggling families overseas; and supported the ever-expanding vision and work of the Pan-Hellenic Society, AHEPA and Philoptochos.

Through all this, the community grew – and the expansion of ministries and the outreach of the parish continued.

The principles of giving back continue today as we strive to live by the call so beautifully stated in the Apolytikion of the Holy Unmercenary Kosmas and Damianos, (δωρεὰν ἐλαβετε, δωρεὰν δοτε ἡμιν) ‘freely you received, freely give.’ In this same manner, the members of the family of Saint Barbara Church continue to share the blessings that we have freely received by God – with the world.

This most certainly does not mean that we are perfect. Far from it, what it does mean is that, as often as we fall, we call out to God - to help raise us up – to continue our journey to Him.

In his book Spiritual Counsels III: on the Spiritual Struggle, St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, when speaking about life in the church, instructs us to be like the bee and not the fly.

He states: “Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the
Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, “Are there any flowers in this area?” it will say, “I don’t know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want.” And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.

Now, if you ask a honeybee, “Have you seen any unclean things in this area?” it will reply, “Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers.” And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow.

You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is.

As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The foolish person thinks foolishly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.”

There is certainly a lot of ‘buzzing’ that can be heard at the parish of Saint Barbara. It is not however, the sound of flies. It is the sound of many hard working, pious, honey-bees seeking ways to use their God-given talents and gifts to allow the flowers that God constantly plants and nourishes – to flourish to their utmost beauty.

This is a very loving community. A true family. United in faith that seeks ways to support, comfort and celebrate each other on our journey to salvation.

Our son, John-Peter of blessed memory, Presbytera Vangie and I feel truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful, loving and caring family of faith.

Ten years ago, almost to the day, many of us gathered in our brand new hall at 480 Racebrook Road, to celebrate our parish’s great accomplishment of opening its grand ballroom and educational center. That evening, Dorothy and I had the honor of standing before former Archbishop Demetrios and all those in attendance, to share our experiences growing up in this amazing parish. When Father Peter asked us to speak again tonight, we could not have been more thrilled to have a second opportunity to express our love for this community.

As we sat to gather our thoughts on what we would say this evening, we started reflecting on the growth of our parish in the last 10 years, and we felt an immeasurable sense of pride. Reflecting on the 20 years prior to that, the basis of our last speech, we felt an immeasurable sense of love and joy. And reflecting on the 70 years that came even before that (and before us!) and the people who built the community we so treasure, we felt an immeasurable sense of gratitude.

(DD) I am grateful and very proud to be a fourth-generation member of the St. Barbara parish; that my great-grandfather was a founder of this church and my great-grandmother unveiled the cornerstone of the church on Dwight Street. I am blessed that my great Thea Evie, at almost 98 years old, continues to share stories of her life growing up in this parish, still sings in the choir every Sunday and holds court during coffee
for Odyssey and running the frappe booth that fuels us all Labor Day Weekend long, the way our father and mother have for years.

(DD) The legacies and gifts of all our parishioners are what create the amazing community that is our Saint Barbara’s family and are the thread that has held our community together over the past one hundred years. And certainly, we would not be where we are today without the faith, love and spiritual leadership of Father Peter, Presbytera Vangie and John-Peter Iakovos of blessed memory. They have truly been a LIGHT in our parish and have further strengthened the bond we all share through our love for Christ and each other.

(EKM) Going forward, we are each called to emulate the hard work, traditions, and faithfulness of our previous generations, the saints before them, and Christ himself, and be the light that carries this community into the next one hundred years.

We hope that in the next one hundred years, we continue to spend our Sundays and Labor Day weekends - all together growing in faith and fellowship.

(DD) That God-willing our future children and grandchildren participate in all of the ministries that played such an important role in forming who we are as adults and the friendships we have built. That they might have the opportunity to stand on the solea for each other’s weddings as I got to do for Eleni and her husband Brian this year.

(EKM) That our future great-grandchildren speak at the Saint Barbara Parish’s bicentennial celebration, as dear friends, and continue the legacy we started years ago.

(DD) And that all members of this parish continue to be Christ’s ambassadors in this world.

(EKM) We thank and honor of the memory of everyone who has played a role in this parish’s first one hundred years, and we wish blessings and prosperity to those who will play a role in the next 100.

May we continue to use our blessings to serve others and shine our LIGHT into the world.
The following are the remarks of Archon Gregory Stamos at the Centennial Banquet:

It was serendipity that I found myself in Constantinople on a trip to the Patriarchate with a small group of AHEPAns when you were elected Archbishop of America. I had the honor of being one of the first Americans to receive the blessing of our new Archbishop only a few moments after your election. It was a moment and experience that will remain with me forever.

This evening we gather to celebrate a century of accomplishments at the Saint Barbara community. As I was reflecting on all that we, through God’s Grace, have been able to achieve, I remembered a conversation that I had with my Great Uncle Louie on his 99th birthday. I told him, ‘when you reach 100 we will have a big celebration.’ He said, ‘why are we waiting? I’m already in my 100th year!’ It was his way of saying that ‘we should be celebrating each day – always looking forward.’

It was a profound statement and one that we are already embodying at the Saint Barbara community. For while we are pausing to pay tribute to the dedicated founders of our parish, who worked together with us to establish a strong foundation – we honor our current members, and the groundwork that we have paved, as we continue to look forward and preach the Good News of Christ.

We give thanks as well to our country, America, which has provided for us and our neighbors the freedom and ability to proclaim our faith and share it with others. It is a blessing that is not enjoyed by others throughout the world and something that we should never take for granted. We must continue to exercise our faith and proclaim it so that our parish can continue to be a beacon of God’s Truth and Love to the world. Our challenge then is to continue to advance our mission; to extend our ministry beyond to walls of our church – and share with the world the beautiful jewel of the Orthodox Faith.

Purchase your copy of The Saint Barbara Parish’s 100th Anniversary Commemorative Edition Yearbook.

This 492-page special edition celebrates the 1st century of our parish’s history and includes many beautiful and historic photographs.

$100 per book

Please call the Church Office to purchase your copy

Supplies are limited
ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS MEETS WITH YOUNG ADULTS

n September 29, 2019, as part of our parish’s 100 year anniversary celebration, a group of Young Adults from the Saint Barbara parish had the opportunity to meet, and have a unique question and answer session with, Archbishop Elpidophoros prior to the evening gala. Twenty-one young adults met in the conference room of the Lightle Center prepared with questions about the future of the Greek Orthodox Church and about His Eminence’s plans to help the Church continue to grow in these changing, and challenging times. His Eminence provided insightful and progressive answers to many of our questions. He articulated his vision that he saw the young adults of our parishes not as the ‘future’ of the Church but as the ‘present’ leaders of the Church and individual parishes. His initiatives and the fact that the young adults were the one group he requested to meet with during his short time visiting our community truly reflect his hopes for our cohort and desire to address our concerns and goals.

Among his noteworthy initiatives, his Eminence shared, for the first time, he planned to change the charter to make it mandatory that there are certain ratios of adult, young adult, men and women on the Archdiocese Counsel. He expressed his hope that this would trickle down to parish council and other ministries.

He also discussed the revival of the national Young Adult League and announced the conference that just occurred President’s Day weekend in Chicago and the one that is being scheduled for Labor Day Weekend in Los Angeles. Our Young Adult Ministry looks forward to participating in conferences and events like these in the future.

One concern we and His Eminence shared about the future of the Church was the trend that young adults are leaving parishes or becoming less involved due to life changes, such as moving away or inter-Christian marriages, and that certain secular trends may not align with the Church’s views. His Eminence discussed his plan to reorganize the Archdiocese’s Communication Office and improve the Archdiocese’s social media platforms (you can follow The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and his Eminence on Instagram at: @goarch and @archbishopelpidophoros!). Our Parish’s very own Theo Nicolakis is helping these efforts!

Emphasizing the importance of youth and young adults in the life of the Church, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America prioritized meeting with young adults from St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church during his pastoral visit for the community’s centennial celebration. The Archbishop told the young adults that they are the present of the Church—not simply the future—and that we have “much to learn from you.” Archbishop Elpidophoros challenged the young adults to seek leadership positions in the community—including the Parish Council.
Finally, his Eminence shared his thoughts on the sacraments of communion and marriage. Specifically, he shared his goal to make communion more accessible to all Orthodox Christians by allowing Orthodox Christians to continue to participate in the sacrament of communion even if they were married outside of the Church. This would still require further study and dialogue but the fact that the Church is even discussing and examining these issues is a good sign.

At the conclusion of our dialogue we presented His Eminence with a small token of gratitude for his time - a basket full of New Haven area accessories for his dog, Hermes, who was scheduled to arrive in the United States that Monday. As a group, we were warmed by the Archbishop’s smile and encouraged by his focus on the value of young adults in the Orthodox Church.

The above article submitted by:
Dorothy Daniel and Eleni Koutroumanis McArdle

Above: Dorothy Daniel and Eleni Koutroumanis McArdle present His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros with a care package for his dog Hermes.
The Saint Barbara Centennial Clay Tile is a commemorative piece that is emblazoned with an icon of our Patron Saint Barbara on one side and bears the seal of our church building on the other side, marking our 100 years as a community of faith in Christ. It is modern and historical all at once. It is new and it is old. It has the look of antiquity but not outdated. It is made of the earth linking us to our ancestors Adam and Eve. It is for present times helping us in hardships, and inspiring hope. It is for the future, shining forth the gold of the Kingdom come.

The flat, yet characteristically unique wavy-bottomed edge piece of clay, weathered the heat of the kiln, reminding us of a storm-tested tile on a Byzantine style Catholicon rooftop, and it is now a part of our Saint Barbara history.

The clay is considered to be white earthenware. This type of clay is a little more “tender” than stoneware. It has certain “fragility” yet its basic simple formula lends to its pureness. It’s a low temperature clay, yet withstood the “furnace” to get here today as part of our Centennial celebration.

The Church building depicted on the clay tile honors the memory of the parishioners of the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, Connecticut, who have forged the way for us beginning in 1919, setting a firm foundation in Christ for all generations.

The wave pattern at the bottom of the tile reminds us that Christ calms every storm. His walking on water strengthens our ability to be better in faith, rise up against any struggle, and keep moving towards eternal salvation.

The two holes, indicating the openness, not hidden, two natures of Christ: Fully Human and Fully Divine, are at the top of the tile. The gold ribbon threaded through these holes reminds us of the preciousness of Christ’s sacrificial love for us, as His hands were bound, yet His love for us is boundless. This love ties us together intricately, and binds us with resilience.


In honor of his historic visit, the Saint Barbara community presented His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros a beautiful artisan clay pot hand-crafted and fired in a specially built kiln by Saint Barbara Clay Artisan Christine Papadopoulos Alexiades, who is pictured above with Father Peter and the Archbishop.
Centennial Celebration
Centennial Celebration
Following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 29th, the parish gathered for a celebratory Centennial luncheon in the parish’s Grand Ballroom. The wonderful meal, lovingly prepared by Saint Barbara parishioners and underwritten by the parish’s Philoptochos Society provided another opportunity to honor the past, present and future of the Saint Barbara community.

Following the meal, Jeannie Daniel, a life-long parishioner and lead member of the parish’s young adult ministry, served as the commère (M.C.), warmly welcoming Archbishop Elpidophoros and skillfully introducing the speakers who were asked to offer a few reflections which follow:

Koula’s comments are as follows:

I love being a member of the Saint Barbara community – it is a part of who I am. It is a place that makes me feel happy and safe. I have fun here because we are all friends and it feels like we are one big family. No one is ever left out we all look forward to participating in all of the activities that we have here like Greek dancing, Greek School, Summer Camp and so much more. I always look forward to the Odyssey Festival. During Summer Camp and Sunday School we not only get to be with our friends and have a great time, but we also learn the teachings of Orthodox faith and learn the Bible stories. We all discuss how God can help us make the right choices in our life and how He can help guide us. In one part of Summer Camp called ‘Skit and Skatter’ we even get to act out some of the lessons from the Bible stories. This helps us understand how God is present in our everyday lives. Saint Barbara feels like a second home to me and is one of my favorite places to be.

Saint Barbara GOYA President Elli Maniatis

Elli’s comments are as follows:

Celebrations like this provide an opportunity to reflect on how truly wonderful our Church community is. From our seniors to our youth everyone has contributed to our Church’s blessings. As a member of the youth community, we try to organize events that bring us closer to the Church and God. We’ve done community outreach such as clothing drives, mission trips, and CDR which is the Community Dinning Room where GOYAns prepare and serve meals for those who need them for one reason or another.

Our annual retreat to Camp Jewell provided us with time to work together and further strengthen our friendships and bond with each other. Through a beautiful movie and art projects we gain greater
knowledge and understanding of our faith. When we center our lives around God it allows us to grow stronger than we thought possible by ourselves. Saint Barbara Summer Camp was quite possibly the best week of each summer. The lyrics to all the songs I learned during Camp Fire Songs linger in the back of my head and Orthodox Soup always manages to get sung on bus rides to GOYA trips.

There are many other activities in the parish that help keep the Church in the center of our lives. We have athletics, Greek School, movie nights, GOYA dances, Christmas caroling to the members of our community, ski trips, the Odyssey Festival and Greek dancing – my personal favorite. I danced the last time as an Odyssey Dancer at this past festival.

As this chapter of my life starts to end, I am left with all these fond memories to take with me. Fond memories I will tell my children; I look forward to raise them in this Church so they can experience what I experienced, faith, love and family.

Being away from home to further my studies in New York City can be overwhelming for a young adult. You become detached from the people and life you depend upon for stability during the first 18 years of your life. Yet, even when I felt lost – or a strong desire to be home – I would travel to a local parish in NY and instantly feel more at peace, more at home. As humans we tend to gravitate to the places where we feel love – to the places that we feel peace. That is what I experience at this parish.

The challenge then becomes – how do you take this feeling – and bring it with you no matter where your life’s journey takes you? In many ways, my experiences as a member of the Saint Barbara family prepared me for that challenge as well. Through my experience in the Saint Barbara GOYA and Camp Saint Paul I was able to meet other Orthodox peers from throughout the Direct Archdiocesan District. Without even realizing it – the Church provided a network of extended families and friends – through the parishes and individuals I was able to visit and meet.

When I found myself struggling, I looked to God for assistance. I found myself attending the Divine Liturgy and Paraklesis services at various communities that are nearby my University. This opened up even more opportunities as I began to participate in various young adult activities and volunteer as an advisor to GOYA programs in multiple parishes. I took from my experiences here at Saint Barbara and found comfort in the new friendships that I was able to forge in faith.

When I am back home and attend services at Saint Barbara – sometimes I feel anxious that I will be out of place or it will no longer feel like home. Those fears quickly subside, however, once I walk through the doors as I am greeted with loving open arms.

We may not always be able to attend the Divine Liturgy in this parish every week, but through God’s Grace we can carry the message of God’s Love, instilled in us from the time of our youth, with us no matter where we are!

This is where I grew up. This is where I learned to be me. This parish has helped me understand my place in God’s family. For all it has given me I am humbled and greatly thankful.
While reflecting on my own time as a member of the Saint Barbara Parish, I am reminded of how my journey in this parish began in 2009. I was a freshman in high school, which as we all know, can be an awkward age for a teenager. Though I was not born into this community, it often feels like it because of God’s abundant blessings and the fellowship of this community that has helped shape all our spiritual journeys.

This feeling of Grace and Love calls me to give back, to share a part of what I was given. Ironically, I now teach the very same Sunday School class where my own journey in this parish began.

As I continue to navigate the waters of young adult life, I am blessed to be able to share my journey through life and towards Christ with the members of this parish. And though we have spent time reflecting on the past this weekend, this milestone also offers us the chance to focus on the future and what is still to come.

When we look towards our future and what the next 100 years will hold, I see us not only growing together in Christ, but continuing to cultivate this truly amazing parish, that has truly united us into one family of faith.
The following reflection was offered by Presbytera Vangie at the Centennial Luncheon.

By the grace and mercy of God, we are each here in this time and space for a reason, a purpose known or unknown to us.

We, as Orthodox Christians gather, for this Centennial Celebration taking in the immenseness of this moment as best we can in this room. We are surrounded by the Pastoral Love and leadership of our new Spiritual Leader and Archpastoral Shepherd, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. Although he has only physically been with us here in the concrete structure of our church for a mere 25 hours, his prayers have been with us for much longer.

Through Divine Wisdom we have been blessed and honored to be welcomed, and gently, purposefully placed under the fold of his Omophorion, and we trust in the dynamic character and witness of His Eminence to not only lead us in celebration today of our parish’s Centennial Celebration, but for future care, guidance, love and leadership well into the future.

Many of our ancestors of this holy church have already discovered for us, a strong firm foundation here in Orange CT. They have physically unearthed
this property we stand on today, and at the same time repurposed this lot of land for use as a sacred space filled with worship and prayer. A quick search on the term “Eastern Orthodox Architecture” will lead you to a discovery that the churches were in origin “martyria” focused on the tombs of the saints, specifically the martyrs who had died during the persecutions. These churches were roofed over by a dome which symbolized heaven.

The central dome was then many times surrounded by structures at the four points of the compass producing a cruciform shape. Today we honor all our ancestors of this holy church who spread their arms in strength, with all that they had, sacrificing much, so we can have plenty.

We stand, not only on grounds of sacrifice, but also on a field of fortitude and faith laid down by the love of our Patron Saint Barbara. Her witness has made it possible for us to become bearers of the light that shines from the jeweled crown of her martyrdom. She professed, we witness. She loved God beyond measure, we desire to become immeasurable in our dedication to sharing the love of our Savior she willingly died for, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This leads me to talk about Philotimo and Philanthropy. Peace and Perseverance. Purity and Power from on High. Purpose, and the perfectly imperfect way we all strive to walk the path of salvation, as one body of firm believers in Christ.

I’d like to quote something I’ve recently heard from a fellow Orthodox Christian on the term, Philotimo. “Philotimo is the essence of the Greek culture. When the word is translated and broken apart, the two words mean friend and love of honor or respect. But what does that really mean? Uniquely Greek, Philotimo means the following: honor, dignity, duty, humility, character, courage, compassion, generosity, personal sacrifice, and pride. Philotimo is a set of values to live by, and describes a beautiful way of life. It means that you give without expecting anything in return, and always do what is right. It is a celebration of values for the greater good. It is how we express love and make the world a better place. Philotimo is also love of humanity…a love of country and a love of family. It’s generational and a way of life and it can be taught to children. It is loving for something bigger than yourself, inspiring others and leaving a legacy.”

This description reminded me of how we, as a family of faith, live our Christian life here at Saint Barbara Church.
This day marks a moment in time celebrating our 100 years at Saint Barbara Church. It is much more than we can possibly embrace at one time. It is like falling in love all over again with our faith, with the faith of our fathers and mothers who helped us build this holy church in Orange CT, and earlier in New Haven CT, linking us to our ancient biblical ancestors listed in Scripture and to the apostles of Christ.

Their belief echoes back to the Rock, the place that was hewn into a tomb, and at the same time that opened to us everything we know, everything we are, everything we will ever be...us, in Christ.

Entering into the Grand Hall today, we entered in with zeal and excitement. Many of us have been able to attend Liturgy today and we have partaken of the Holy Gifts, sharing the Eucharistic meal that mystically invigorates us and changes us from the inside out, the outside in, the intermingling of Christ's body in ours.

Many times I've told the children of this parish that Christ is here in our heart. He lives in every Christian. His gift of the Holy Spirit is residing in our hearts. This makes us one in the Spirit with our Lord and with one another. A family of faith filled with Philotimo – filled with love of our Patron Saint Barbara, whom we honor today. She was chosen for a reason, and we too are chosen for this moment in time to “praise the most honorable Barbara” as her hymn says – yet she in turn credits and finds her own faith “through the might and strength of The Cross” – we all must do the same. We pick up our Cross today, as our ancestors before us. Many before us have left the legacy of Philotimo. We too, are capable of it.

Many of you lovingly supported our Church’s 100 year Commemorative Album and some of you chose to dedicate a page or more in honor or in memory of a dear loved one. Movements like this – that is - movements of the heart - to take the initiative to lift up the life lived by a precious loved one who has passed – or one whom we currently honor – takes a lot of energy.

The pages compiled in our Commemorative Album only begin to touch on the continued commitment that characteristically calls us to be better Christians. We want to be the kind of Christian that stops people in their tracks. Not by our pride, but by our purpose. Not by our worldly treasures, but by the treasure within which is Christ.

Our Church family is one that goes through pain and gain together, one that invests in time, in relationship – not only with one another, but with God.

That type of true investment is the love that solidifies, the unfading love, the significant love that knows no bounds. It's not without sacrifice, challenge, determination and most of all, God's Grace. When we do things with God – He always has our back. He has our back, our front, our sides. He did this for us in sacrificial love on the Cross, and He allows for us to be empowered, and by His Grace to continue in this present life with a calling and conviction to Him, looking with anticipation to His Heavenly Kingdom. That kingdom is amongst us today, mingling and lingering. It is ever present and also yet to come. It is the daily preparation that has been done here at Saint
Barbara Church from our Community’s DAY ONE. The “ground-layers” placing the foundation with their blood, sweat, and tears, are as equal of significance as the souls who have been called and entered into God’s eternal Kingdom.

We are together. Church Militant – us; Church Triumphant – those amongst the saints in God’s eternal kingdom. God works be done, not only to shine in this life, but eternally.

Let us continue the race. Let us persevere, let us keep finding riches and treasures of His Love in the faces of one another, in the icons of the saints, in the inspiration from our new Archbishop Elpidophoros and from our Pastor Fr. Peter.

Sometimes we end up back at places that we’ve been before because we need healing and we don’t even know it. God has ways beyond our ways. He leads us and shepherds us in mystical ways. We come to the womb of our sanctuary to be renewed, to “return” to the womb of life, to be re-stored, re-energized, re-born anew in our soul, each Divine Liturgy.

When the entire picture is painted, we can see the landscape of Love embracing and encompassing all. So, let us be the continual crop that sprouts. Let our good works be done, not only to shine in this life, but eternally. To God Be the Glory!

Thank You. Amen.
Ο ΟΣΙΟΣ ΕΥΦΡΟΣΥΝΟΣ Ο ΜΑΓΕΙΡΑΣ

Ζούσε κάποτε σ’ ένα μοναστήρι ένας νεαρός μοναχός, που ονομαζόταν Ευφρόσυνος. Καταγόταν από άσημους γονείς και δεν γνώριζε γράμματα, γι’ αυτό τού ανάθεσαν νά διακονεί τήν αδελφότητα σάν μάγειρα.

Εκείνη τήν εποχή, οί άνθρωποι μαγείρευαν τά φαγητά τους σέ μεγάλα καζάνια τά οποία κρέμονταν πάνω από φωτιά πύ άναβαν μέ ξύλα. Ετσι, όπως ήταν φυσικό, ο Ευφρόσυνος, πού τό μεγαλύτερο μέρος τής ημέρας τό περνούσε στό μαγειρείο, ήταν μονίμως μουτζουρωμένος απ’ τήν κάπνα καί τή στάχτη. Οί υπόλοιποι μοναχοί, βλέποντάς τον έτσι λερωμένο, συνήθιζαν νά μή τού δίνουν καμιά σημασία καί νά τού συμπεριφέρονται σά νά’ ταν υπηρέτης τους. Ορισμένοι μάλιστα από τούς πιο αμελείς γελούσαν μαζί του καί τόν πείραζαν. Κάποιοι, μάλιστα, δέν δίσταζαν καί νά τόν χτυπούν κοροϊδευτικά ακόμη.

Ο ευλογημένος Ευφρόσυνος, όμως, παρ’ ότι εξωτερικά ήταν βρώμικος καί ατημέλητος, είχε μιά ψυχή πεντακάθαρη, στολισμένη μέ κάθε αρετή. Υπέμενε μέ γεναιότηα τίς βρισιές καί τίς κοροϊδίες, χωρίς νά θυμώνει, ν’ αντιμιλά, νά κατηγορεί ή νά κρατά κακία σέ κανέναν. Ολους τούς αγαπούσε κι έκανε χωρίς αντίρρηση ό,τι τόν πρόσταζαν.

Ο ηγούμενος του μοναστηριού, ανθρώπος ενάρετος καί μέ μεγάλη παρρησία στόν Θεό, θέλησε κάποτε νά μάθει ποιός από τούς αδελφούς τής μονής είναι άνωτερος από τούς υπόλοιπους στήν αρετή. Παρακάλεσε, μάλιστα, επίμονα τόν Θεό νά πραγματοποιήσει αυτήν του τήν επιθυμία. Μιά νύχτα, λοιπόν, καθώς προσευχόταν στό κελλί του, έπεσε σέ έκσταση καί τού φάνηκε πώς βρέθηκε σ’ έναν πανέμορφο τόπο, γεμάτο μέ υπέροχα λουλούδια καί κάθε λογής δέντρα. Οί καρποί εκείνων τών δέντρων ήταν ασύγκριτα ωραιότεροι από αυτούς πού υπάρχουν στή γή. Μιά δαυμασία ευωδία απλώνοταν παντού. Ποτάμια μέ πεντακάθαρο νερό πότιζαν αυτόν τόν παραδεισένιο κήπο, πού η ομορφία του δέν μπορούσε νά συγκριθεί μέ κανέναν απ’ τά πράγματα τού κόσμου.

Ο ηγούμενος βλέποντας όλα αυτά τά θαυμάσια, καλοτύχιζε τόν ευατό τού καί ευχαριστούσε τόν Θεό πού τόν αξίωσε μιάς τόσο μεγάλης τιμής. Κάποια στιγμή επιθυμήσε θά πάρει μερικούς απ’ εκείνους τούς θαυμαστούς καρπούς. Κάθε φορά, όμως, πού απλώνει τό χέρι του γιά νά κοψει κάπιον απ’ αυτούς, τά κλάδια τών δέντρων σηκώνονταν ψηλά καί δέν μπορούσε νά τά φτάσει. Δοκίμασε πολλές φορές, δίχως όμως νά τά καταφέρει. Κάθισε, λοιπόν, μέ αδεια χέρια κάτω απ’ τά δέντρα, μή μπορούντας νά καταλαβεί τί συνέβαινε. Ξάφνου είδε από μακριά τόν μοναχό Ευφρόσυνο, νά περπατά μέσα στόν πανέμορφο κήπο καί νά απολαμβάνει όλα όσα βρίσκονταν εκεί. Τά κλάδια τών δέντρων, μάλιστα, γέρνανε από μόνα τους μπροστά του καί τόν πρόσφεραν τός καρπούς τους, γιά νά κοψει καί νά γευθεί όποιον ήθελε. Ο ηγούμενος κοίταξε εκπλήκτης. Σάν συνήλθε λίγο, τόν πλησίασε:

“Παιδί μου, Ευφρόσυνε, ποιό είναι αυτό τό μέρος;”

Ο ταπεινός μοναχός τόν κοίταξε χαμογελαστός
Τά κλάδια τών δέντρων, γέρνανε από μόνα τους μπροστά του και τού προσφέραν τους καρπούς τους, για νά κόψει και νά γευθεί οποιον ήθελε.

Τότε ο Ευφρόσυνος πλησίασε ένα απ’ τά δέντρα και αφού έκοψε τρία υπέροχα και ευωδιαστά μήλα τά έδωσε στόν γέροντα του. Εκείνος τά πήξε με μεγάλη χαρά.

Εκείνη τήν ώρα χτύπησε τό σήμαντρο καλώντας τούς αδελφούς στόν όρθρο. Εκείνος τά πήρε μέ μεγάλη χαρά. Μόλις συνήλθε απ’ τήν έκπληξη, κατέβηκε στό καθολικό γιά τήν ακολουθία. Μετά τό τέλος της, ζήτησε νά μιλήσει ιδιαιτέρως μέ τόν Ευφρόσυνο.

Ο Οσίος Πατρός Εὐφρόσυνος ο μάγειρας
Ο ηγούμενος, πέφτοντας στά πόδια του Ευφρόσυνου τον έβαλε μετάνοια.

είδε στὴν οπτασία καί πέφτοντας στὰ πόδια τοῦ Ευφρόσυνου τοῦ έβαλε μετάνοια. Εκείνος, όμως, στενοχωριόταν πολὺ γιὰ τὴν τιμή ποῦ τὸν ἐγίνε καὶ ἐκλαγεῖ μὲ αναστεναγμοὺς σὰ νὰ ἐπάθη μεγάλο κακό. Κατόπιν ο ηγούμενος έκοψε τὰ τρία μήλα σὲ μικρὰ κομμάτια καὶ τὰ μοίρασε γιὰ ευλογία σ’ όλους τοῦ αδελφοῦ.

Τὸν ευλογημένο Ευφρόσυνο δὲν τὸν ξαναείδε κανεῖς. Έφυγε κρυφά απ’ τὸ μοναστήρι, σὲ ἔρημο τόπο, ἐπειδή φοβήθηκε μήπως ὁ ἐπαινὸς τῶν ἄνθρωπων τὸν κάνῃ υπερήφανο καὶ τὸν στερήσῃ τὴν ασύγκριτη εὐφροσύνη τοῦ Παραδείσου. Ἡ ἱστορία του, όμως, καὶ τὸ παράδειγμα του ἔμειναν στὰ συναξάρια τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, ὡστε νὰ μᾶς παρακινοῦν στὴν ταπείνωση. Ετοί, θὰ αξιωθοῦμε κι ἐμεῖς νὰ τὸν συναντήσουμε στὸν πανέμορφο κήπο τοῦ Παραδείσου ποὺ βρίσκεται καὶ ν’ απολαύσουμε μαζί τοῦ τὰ αἰώνια ἀγαθὰ. Γένοιτο.

It has been 39 years since the Saint Barbara parish hosted its first Odyssey Festival, and it seems difficult to imagine a Labor Day Weekend in the State of Connecticut without it. Officially established in 1981, the first Odyssey Festival was held at Lighthouse Park in New Haven; and I can say with confidence, it was an immediate success. There are stories of cars in traffic all the way to the Q Bridge as people from near and far traveled to participate in the largest Greek festival on the East Coast at that time. In 1986 the festival was held at Yale Bowl before finding its permanent home at 480 Racebrook Road in Orange, Connecticut in 1987.

Since its beginning, the Odyssey Festival has been built around a strong desire to present the best Greek food possible, using the highest quality ingredients and time tested recipes. The lovingly prepared meals and pastries help set the stage for the presentation of Greek music and dancing; lectures on the Orthodox faith; and a choir presentation featuring liturgical music. None of this could be possible without the dedicated and coordinated efforts of all of our parishioners.

A sincere thank you to everyone who donates their time and talents every year, to assure that all who visit Saint Barbara over the Labor Day weekend experience the joy and beauty of our community.
The Endowment Fund of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church was established in 1963 with the vision to help foster our community’s financial independence. Its mandate has been and continues to be to safeguard and grow capital for use in furtherance of the church ministries. Since 2008, the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Endowment Fund has been a separate tax-exempt organization.

A primary objective has been servicing 30 named scholarships. The scholarships were established through the great generosity of parishioners in memory of and in honor of the families that are a part of the extended Saint Barbara family. In addition to the named scholarships, the Endowment Fund oversees a few general funds for use around the church, such as for extraordinary needs relating to the physical space that our community enjoys and certain beautification efforts.

The Endowment Fund has established general funds for the support of cultural advancement, religious education and athletic ministries.

A listing of the current funds are as follows:

1. The Religious Education Ministry Fund:
Earnings from this fund will be used to underwrite various religious education ministry programs at the Saint Barbara parish for parishioners of all ages.

2. The Cultural Advancement Ministry Fund:
Earnings from this fund will be used to underwrite various cultural ministry programs at the Saint Barbara parish for parishioners of all ages.

3. The Sports and Recreation Ministry Fund:
Earnings from this fund will be used to underwrite various sports and recreation ministry programs at the Saint Barbara parish for parishioners of all ages.

4. The Landscaping Fund:
Established by Alex Alexiades and Dr. Lycurgus Davey, earnings from this fund are used to underwrite the beautification of our Church grounds with the planting of trees and the replacement of damaged ones, placing shrubbery and bushes and flowers in their proper settings, and keeping the grass in pristine condition. Ordinary ground maintenance (mowing of the grass, raking of leaves and snow removal) are not covered under this fund but fall under the responsibility of budgetary expenditures of the Church.

5. The Church Edifice Fund:
Earnings from this fund will be used to assist in the maintaining of the building and physical aspects of the Church structure.
6. **The Psathas Fund:**
Established by the Psathas Family, earnings from this fund are forwarded to the Building Fund of the parish on a yearly basis.

7. **The Hajedemos Family Fund:**
Established by Harry and Jane Hajedemos, earnings from this fund may be used for the needs of the Saint Barbara Community as determined by the Parish Proistamenos and the Parish Council.

8. **The Nelson and Carole Nicholson Agape Fund:**
Established by Nelson and Carole Nicholson, earnings from this fund are placed into the Agape Fund of the Saint Barbara Parish and used for philanthropic purposes at the discretion of the Parish Proistamenos.

9. **The John-Peter Iakovos Orfanakos Community Enrichment Fund:**
Established in honor of John-Peter Iakovos Orfanakos, earnings from this fund are used to supplement and underwrite the costs associated with various educational and spiritually enriching parish events at the Saint Barbara Parish at the discretion of the Parish Proistamenos.

**How does the Saint Barbara Endowment Fund function?**
A board of up to 13 individuals, which includes the Parish Council President and Treasurer and the Parish Priest meet on a periodic basis to address the following primary mandate: (i) investments, including the development of a ‘tactical asset allocation strategy’ that informs our investment strategy, (ii) proper procedures, and (iii) community outreach, which strives to best serve the Saint Barbara community at large.

The Endowment Fund has developed under the direction of the following Chairmen:
1. Dr. Lycurgus Davey: 1963 - 2006
2. Evangelos Hadjimichael: 2007 - 2012
3. William Kambas: 2012 - present

**Ways to donate to the Saint Barbara Endowment Fund**

**Stock Donations**
The Saint Barbara Endowment Fund gratefully accepts gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds or other marketable securities that you have held for more than one year. Please contact the Church Office for further information on how to donate through this option.

**Planning Giving Donations**
The Saint Barbara Endowment Fund has many financial planning options to help you plan your estate and leave a legacy of love for the Church. We care about you and will work with you and your attorney or accountant to explain the many gift opportunities available to you and the financial advantages of each.

Please contact the Church Office to learn how donations of life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, bequests by wills, annuities, and IRAs can help you achieve your goals while helping to sustain the mission of the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church of Orange, Connecticut.

**Establish:**
1. A Named Scholarship
2. Contribute to an existing Fund
3. Establish a new Fund
4. Make an unrestricted donation to the Endowment Fund
**AHEPA GOLF TOURNAMENT**

It was a beautiful September morning when Saint Barbara parishioners and friends from throughout the State gathered to participate in the annual AHEPA Golf Tournament at Orange Hills Golf Course on Racebrook Road. Scratch golfers as well as those who have only played once or twice in their lives, formed teams for a wonderful cause, as the proceeds from the event benefited the scholarship program of Chapter #98. Prizes were awarded for closest drive to the pin, longest drive and the three lowest scoring teams.

Many thanks to James Bitzonis who served as the event chairman, as well as the dedicated members of the committee, for putting together such a wonderful event! Much appreciation is also extended to the individuals and businesses who sponsored Tee Signs and donated raffle prizes.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The members of AHEPA Chapter #98 once again showcased their culinary talents by offering a pancake breakfast for the community following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 22, 2019. Over 150 parishioners enjoyed a nourishing breakfast buffet that featured an array of nutritious and delicious choices. This is one of three pancake breakfasts that are offered to the community by AHEPA and serves as a fundraiser for the continuing work that the Chapter does both in our parish and surrounding community.

**SHARING SACRED SPACES NEW HAVEN**

Over the past year the Saint Barbara parish has been participating in the Sharing Sacred Spaces New Haven initiative which seeks to build relationships between diverse religious communities. The participants, consisting mainly of houses of worship, seek to share the sacredness of their space; tradition and practice of hospitality in the hope of engendering a spirit of trust, friendship and solidarity.

The groups traveled and visited each other’s Sacred Space, learning about each other’s religious and spiritual traditions. During the course of the past year the group visited a Roman Catholic Church, Hindu Temple (Chinmaya Mission), Baptist Church, Islamic Center and others in the Greater New Haven Area, including the Saint Barbara parish. Jim Sarigianis, Steven Yates and Father Peter have been representing our community at planning meetings and have led our parish delegation through ‘the tour.’

A Sharing Sacred Spaces solidarity ceremony was held on September 15, 2019, at Yale Divinity School during which a representative from each community read a statement concerning their involvement in the initiative. The following is the declaration statement offered on behalf of our parish.

“For nearly a century the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has been a leader in inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue in the United States. As members of the local Greek Orthodox Parish of Saint Barbara we too stand in solidarity with the wider witness of the Church that works for reconciliation and mutual understanding among all people. As such, we share in the vision of the Sharing Sacred Spaces group of faith traditions and look forward to continuing our involvement in this dialogue.”
he University of Connecticut formally inaugurated Thomas C. Katsouleas as the 16th President in its illustrious history on October 4, 2019. During the ceremony, President Katsouleas clearly laid out his bold vision for the future of university including announcing a new program that will provide greater access and affordability to Connecticut families. Under the program known as the “Connecticut Commitment,” lower-income residents admitted to UConn as undergraduates will receive free tuition starting with the fall 2020 entering class, news that was greeted by a standing ovation from the audience.

In his remarks, Katsouleas addressed the ever-changing makeup of the traditional liberal arts education. “We must also work to enhance and even redefine the value proposition of a liberal arts education,” he said. “The traditional 20th century role of liberal arts education of imparting knowledge and instilling identity is not enough. The liberal arts education of the 21st century must also increase agency and purpose. When I speak to legislators, they see the role of the public universities and colleges as work force development, while the faculty I speak to see it as human development. Fortunately, there is no inconsistency between these two views.”

Katsouleas expressed the need for UConn to provide a mentor to each and every student and for students to have the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to authentic real-world problems while still enrolled.

“To do so at the scale of 24,000 undergraduates is the grand challenge before us,” he said. “I believe that the university that takes on that challenge will not only benefit their own students, but will lead higher education and the nation.

“So you may wonder why should Connecticut be the place to lead such a transformation? There are lots of leading institutions that people might expect to point the future directions of higher ed. But UConn is well poised. It has already been a leader in the frontier of the past decade – improving completion rates and time to degree. It has a culture of excellent teaching and renowned programs such as its honors program to build upon. And perhaps as important, it has a culture of exceeding expectations.”

A large contingent from the Greek Orthodox community was in attendance including His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Katsouleas’ father, Steven, who made the trip from Greece for the event. The Saint Barbara community was also well represented with the presence of Father Peter Orfanakos, Gregory Stamos, Vasilios Diakogeorgiou and Terry Heath III.

President Katsouleas is a leading plasma scientist and engineer with deep academic roots in teaching and research who was most recently provost and executive vice president of the University of Virginia. Before that he served as dean of the engineering school at Duke University from 2008 to 2015 and was a professor at the University of Southern California.
The Saint Barbara parish gathered on Sunday, November 3 for the annual parish Walk for Missions. This year the cause was closer to the hearts of all as the proceeds from this year’s walk were set aside to support the planned missionary work of Saint Barbara parishioners Steven and Theophani Sarigianis.

Steven and Theophani, graduates of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (class of 2015) and Hellenic College (class of 2016) respectively, are currently traveling throughout the United States, speaking about their planned two-year commitment to serve the Orthodox Church in Albania. They plan to serve His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios at the Resurrection Cathedral in the capital city of Tirana. Among other work, Steve will be involved with the National youth office. Theophani with work together with the office of media & radio, and both with assist with the country’s college campus ministry.

The Orthodox Church in Albania rose out of the brutal decades-long communist regime, and has grown into a flourishing and growing Archdiocese, thanks to the support of the Church of Greece, the Archdiocese of America (especially it’s many missionaries) and sound leadership.

This year’s Walk for Missions raised $3,655 which was added to Steven and Theophani’s OCMC fund. They need to collect a certain amount of money before they can begin their work in Albania. They will make a more detailed presentation at Saint Barbara, in the near future, which will provide another opportunity for us to hear about their planned work and to offer further support.

Listen to an interview with Steven and Theophani and hear more about their journey in the real life story of their calling to become Orthodox Missionaries at: https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/everydayorthodox/meet_steve_and_theophani_sarigianis
Saint Barbara parishioner and renown Psychiatrist Dr. Frank Constantine John Ninivaggi (pictured above) hosted a series of three informative dialogues on the theme: Mindfully Raising Responsible Children. The informal discussions were well attended and provided a wealth of information to all present.

The gatherings were divided into three categories: Early Childhood (birth - 5 years of age); School Age (6 - 12 years of age); and Adolescence (13 - 18 years of age). Dr. Frank offered wonderful insight gained over his five decades of clinical experience. Everyone in attendance found the discussions enlightening and Dr. Frank has graciously offered to continue the series of dialogues with additional themes in the future.


The Saint Barbara parish hosted an interfaith dialogue discussing how the Orthodox Church responds to acts of violence. The discussion was part of a series of discourses sponsored by the Sharing Sacred Spaces of New Haven Initiative.

Father Peter and Jim Sarigianis offered a thoughtful and informative lecture that focused on the Orthodox Church’s responses to acts of terrorism, bigotry and hatred throughout its recent history on the International, National and Local level. The presentation was very well received and was followed by a wonderful question and answer session and reception.

Above: Jim Sarigianis and Father Peter are pictured during their joint presentation in the Saint Barbara Grand Ballroom.
AHEPA Assisting Veterans

On the heels of a century of American wars on foreign soil there is an overwhelming number of military veterans who find themselves in difficult circumstances following their return to civilian life. The Department of Veterans Affairs, the government agency in charge of assisting veterans by providing health care, education, retraining for civilian jobs, and recently, homelessness, is often overwhelmed with the task and unable to fully meet its obligations. Thankfully, local philanthropies step in to provide assistance to these men and women.

Locally, Columbus House in New Haven is a leading organization providing shelter to veterans as a component of its Home Front Initiative; it has established treatment programs, health services, employment training programs, education opportunities, and links to housing. It also has partnerships with, and is assisted by, local religious and philanthropic organizations, service providers and town officials.

One of the shelters for homeless veterans, run by Columbus House, is the Harkness House on Davenport Avenue in New Haven. This shelter houses 16 veterans, initially homeless, during a transition period of three to four months on average, and provides them with the means to eventually move out to private housing with paying jobs. AHEPA Chapter #98, a member organization of the Saint Barbara community, initiated a program in May 2018, to partner with Columbus House by partially providing for some essential needs of the veterans of Harkness House. Currently, this assistance is in terms of household goods that facilitate daily life in the Harkness shelter. Goods are purchased by the Chapter and delivered on a bimonthly basis. AHEPAns view this initiative as central to the philanthropy facet of their mission, and intend to continue and expand the objectives of this program in the future.

“It’s so great to know that there is support for us veterans while we’re in the process of obtaining employment and housing.”

S.W. (Navy) Living at Harkness House

On Sunday, November 10th, in celebration of Veterans Day, a national day of remembrance dedicated to the veterans of the American military, AHEPA members passed a special tray after Church services, thereby allowing parishioners to recognize our debt to those who have served this great country in the military by making a monetary donation. In doing this parishioners contributed to the effort of Chapter #98 of the AHEPA Brotherhood to sustain a robust program of assistance to the Harkness House veterans.

On Memorial Day in America, we remember and honor those in the armed services who have given their lives in the line of duty. Poppies are often given out as a symbol of those fallen men and women. This tradition comes from the first lines of the poem “In Flanders Fields” by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, who wrote it during World War I and was remembering his fallen friends now buried in fields far from home.
CELEBRATING OXI DAY

Students of the Saint Barbara Greek Language School led the parish in a beautiful commemoration of OXI day after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 27th. This year marked the 79th anniversary of the history of “OXI” that was proclaimed on October 28, 1940 by Ioannis Metaxas, on behalf of the Greek Nation.

When the second World War began Greece did not want to get involved. But on August 15, 1940 an Italian submarine attacked and sunk a Greek warship named “Elli,” in the harbor of the island of Tinos during the celebrations in honor of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Greece did not retaliate.

Two months passed and on October 28th at 3:00 am, the Italian Ambassador in Athens visited the Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas and requested that he allow the Italian Army to go through Greece undisturbed. Metaxas responded with the historic “OXI.” Two and a half hours later the Italian Army invaded Greece.

The “OXI” of Metaxas was the “OXI” of all Greeks. United, the Greeks fought bravely. And with the help of the Theotokos in their just struggle, a miracle happened: the much larger Italian Army retreated and the Greeks freed many areas in Northern Epirus and delayed Hitler’s plans. As the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, “If there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know what the outcome of the war would have been.” And “Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks.” President Franklin Roosevelt said: “When the entire world had lost all hope, the Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the German monster raising against it the proud spirit of freedom.”

This anniversary teaches us that as Greeks, when our freedom is threatened, we unite, find strength in each other, courage through God’s Grace, and overcome! We are called to always remember the ties that bind us not just in difficult circumstances, but always.

Let us remember the courage and let us try to imitate the heroism; self-denial; and unity so that the poet’s words will always ring true, that: “Greece never dies.”

Amazon donates .5% of your purchase to Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church at NO cost to you!

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Create an Amazon Account or Sign on to your existing Amazon account.
3. Under “Find a different charitable organization”
4. Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Orange, CT will appear, click “Select.”

That’s it!

Each Time you shop, don’t forget to type smile.amazon.com in your browser!
GOYA FALL RETREAT

Since 1997 the Saint Barbara GOYA has participated in a weekend Fall retreat. What began as a combined event, with the Saint George Parish in Clifton, New Jersey, has now evolved into one of the most anticipated events on the GOYA calendar.

For the past 18 years, the retreat has taken place at Camp Jewell in Colebrook and once again our teenagers traveled to participate in the weekend festivities. It is a time of growth and reflection, a time to turn off and separate ourselves from our cell phones and all other forms of technology and actually talk and listen to each other and to God.

This year proved to be just as rewarding as years past as 45 GOYAns traveled North and participated in the retreat themed: ‘Woven in Christ.’

The retreat provided us with time to work together and further forge friendships with each other and gain a greater knowledge and understanding of our faith. We were shown, through a beautiful movie and art projects, how even if we feel as if we are ‘frayed threads’ that when we seek out God through prayer; when we come together in His Name; he will weave us in a manner that allows us to grow stronger than we thought possible by ourselves. And in turn, become, true vessels of His Divine Grace.

The 2020 Fall GOYA Retreat will take place from Friday, September 18 - Sunday, September 20, 2020 at the Channel 3Kids Camp site in Andover, Connecticut.
Every day blood donors help patients of all ages. The American Red Cross reports that every two seconds someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, treatment of chronic illnesses and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. One donation of blood can potentially save up to three lives as blood and platelets cannot be manufactured and can only come from volunteer donors.

An estimated 6.8 million Americans donate blood each year only about 3% of age eligible people.
Less than 38% of the population is eligible to give blood or platelets.

*Source: American Red Cross*

The Saint Barbara Philoptochos Society held a Red Cross blood drive on October 16th, which marked the second blood drive they hosted in 2019. In addition to providing a well-needed donation of blood, each donor was treated to a bowl of avgolemono soup, juice and other wonderful snacks.

Many thanks to all who assisted the Red Cross and to all those who came forward and gave of themselves to help others.

Save the Date
Next Blood Drive at Saint Barbara Church
May 13, 2020

The Saint Barbara Ladies Philoptochos Society hosted their Fantasy of Trees event over the weekend of November 16-17. The annual Christmas event features Christmas trees, wreaths and urns spectacularly decorated in various themes, showcased and then raffled off at the end of the festivities. Various vendors were also present offering an array of items for sale.

The event featured special performances by the Little Wing Dancers, Adaptive Ballet; the Legend A Capella group of Quinnipiac University; performances of ballet, lyrical and jazz dances from Lee Lund Studio of Dance; the Milford Performing Arts Center; Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet; and the reading of “Smeagull the Seagull” by its author Mark Seth Lender.

And of course there was Greek food and pastry, wonderfully and lovingly prepared by the members of our parish; always a highlight for all the events hosted by our community. The weekend event was co-sponsored by Porch & Patio, The Milford Bank, ABCO the Paperman, Liberty Mutual Insurance and Cascade Fine Catering. A large collection of non-perishable food items were also donated to the Connecticut Food Bank to assist them in their mission to feed our hungry Connecticut neighbors. Proceeds from the event go towards the philanthropic work of Philoptochos.

Many thanks to the many dedicated volunteers who worked so diligently to the event’s success.
ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS CELEBRATES NAMEDAY

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America celebrated his Nameday on Saturday, November 2nd by presiding at the celebration of a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocese Cathedral during which he ordained Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos to the Presbyterate.

Later that afternoon, the Archdiocese hosted a beautiful open-house reception for His Eminence at the Archdiocese Headquarters which was attended by many, including Father Peter and parishioners from Saint Barbara. After personally greeting each person in attendance His Eminence offered the following heartfelt sentiments:

“It is a great joy for me to share this day with you, the Feast of the Holy Martyrs Akindynos, Pegasios, Aphthonios, Anempodistos, and Elpidophoros. Their names, taken together, form a glorious tribute to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is ‘completely secure, overflowing and abundant, which overcomes every impediment, and which brings great hope.’ These martyrs, despite their suffering, radiated a spirit of joy and praise to the Lord. Their songs and their smiles brought confusion to their persecutor, the King of Persia. He could not shake their faith in God; he could not defeat them by any means. They became ‘more than conquerors through Him who loved us’ (Romans 8:37). In their martyrdoms, these five saints proved the truth of their names. May we always follow their shining example of joy in the Lord!

Today is an occasion of double thanksgiving. It is the anniversary of the enthronement of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. It was on the Second of November in 1991 that His All-Holiness was elevated to the Sacred Throne of Saint Andrew in Constantinople. On that day, twenty-eight years ago, Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory addressed His All-Holiness to express this wish: that the names of these five martyrs would hold true also for his Patriarchal reign, so it would be Akindynos, Pegasios, Aphthonios, Anempodistos, and Elpidophoros. Which is to say, “completely secure, overflowing, abundant, overcoming every impediment, and bringing great hope.”

Hearing this, His All-Holiness decided on that very day, that the next deacon to be ordained by him would bear the name of Saint Elpidophoros. And for this reason, this holy anniversary became my Nameday, a twofold celebration.”

We all raise our voices to say: “AXIOS” and pray that God grant him many years of faithful service.

ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS HOSTS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America opened the home of the Archdiocese and hosted an open house in celebration of Christmas on December 23rd. Hundreds of faithful from throughout New York and Connecticut, traveled to the Archdiocese headquarters and were personally greeted by the Archbishop. Several choirs, including the Pontian Society from Norwalk and the Archdiocesan Byzantine Choir, performed Christmas songs and hymns to the delight of all.
Hellenic History Tournament

For the past ten years local AHEPA Chapter #98 has been hosting the Hellenic History Tournament, a competition of Hellenic knowledge, at Saint Barbara Church on behalf of Yankee District #7. The tournament itself was founded by Nicholas Nikas (Church of the Archangels in Stamford), who felt a strong desire to preserve a bit of Hellenic consciousness in the youth of our parishes.

This year ten enthusiastic teams participated in the tournament; some traveling from as far away as Rhode Island and New Jersey. The Saint Barbara parish was represented by the “Aristotelians,” Andreas Lolis, Luke Berner and Giovani Panagiotakis. The teens worked diligently to prepare for the tournament - challenging each other and working together with their coach, Emanuel Cosmas.

The teams comprised of three high school students each. Each team participated in at least two matches, answering multiple choice questions through five rounds. The members of the winning team received “The Hellenic History Trophy” and $1000 each. Second place winners received $500 each.

The tournament questions came from “Hellenika: Heritage and History,” a book written by Peter Limber and provided to the participants by their local AHEPA chapter, to study over the summer. With its colorful maps and illustrations of the Mediterranean region, “Hellenika” covers the entire sweep of Greek history.

In 2018 the Saint Barbara team (consisting of the same three teenagers) came in second place in the district competition and finished in fourth place at the International Finals in Chicago. This year the Aristotelians finished first in the District Championship, defeating the team from Pawtucket, Rhode Island! Both teams qualified to participate in the International Tournament Finals in Orlando in July 2020.

### Hellenic History Tournament Rounds 1-3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamford</th>
<th>Pawtucket</th>
<th>New Britain A</th>
<th>New Britain A 13-7</th>
<th>New Rochelle</th>
<th>Hartford</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pawtucket</td>
<td>New Rochelle 10-7</td>
<td>New Rochelle</td>
<td>New Rochelle 12-10</td>
<td>New Rochelle 11-10</td>
<td>Pawtucket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>Paramus</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Orange 17-7</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Pawtucket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Rochelle</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>New Britain B</td>
<td>New Britain B 11-10</td>
<td>New Britain B 11-10</td>
<td>Paramus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Britain A</td>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>Paramus 12-10</td>
<td>Paramus 12-10</td>
<td>Stamford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Round 4 - Semi-Finals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orange</th>
<th>Danbury</th>
<th>Pawtucket</th>
<th>Paramus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>Pawtucket</td>
<td>Paramus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-8</td>
<td>14-7</td>
<td>14-4</td>
<td>13-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Round 5 - Finals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orange</th>
<th>Pawtucket</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Pawtucket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-8</td>
<td>15-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Orange and Pawtucket teams will compete in the International Hellenic History Tournament at the AHEPA Family Supreme Convention in Orlando, Florida in July 2020.
AHEPA MEMBERS

cATHER TO CELEBRATE

members of AHEPA Chapter #98 gathered on March 10th to recognize the achievements of some of its members and welcome new members into the AHEPA family. Local and Yankee District representatives were present to mark the anniversary and honor two 50 year AHEPA members: Rev. Steven Sarigianis and Fred Diamantis. Each were presented with a special AHEPA pin marking the occasion and welcoming them into a special category of the brotherhood.

George Antonellis, Paul DeBassio and Andreas Lolis also received Certificates of Achievements for their submissions in the Chapter’s Essay Competition.

Later that evening Nicholas Diamantes, William Kambas, Steven Pacholyk, Antonios Panagiotakis and Robert Wheway were inducted into the Order of AHEPA.

ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION 2020

ELIGIBILITY: College Students and High School Juniors and Seniors from the Saint Barbara Parish

AWARDS: Winners will receive a Certificate of Achievement and monetary prizes:
1st place: $500  2nd place: $250 in each category

ESSAY TOPICS: Time Management as a Tool for Academic Success (College)
Summer Experiences from Camping, Internships or Jobs (High School)

CRITERIA: (a) Length of Essay between 500 and 750 words.
(b) Connect Essay ideas to the personal and social values of AHEPA (reason, excellence, truth, joy of life, free mind, individual freedom, philanthropy).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2020

Send essay to AHEPA Chapter #98, 480 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT 06477, accompanied by a separate page that includes your personal information: Name, Age, Year in High School or College, Postal and E-Mail Address, and Name of School in 2019-2020.

For more information contact E. Hadjimichael at ehadjimichael@fairfield.edu
Tony Delos atstonacium@aol.com or Elias Lolis at elias.lolis@yale.edu
Lizards, bunnies and snakes... oh my! The Critter Caravan returned to the Saint Barbara parish for its annual visit. During this visit the Saint Barbara PATCHES and JOY groups had the opportunity to bond over their love of animals. Together they learned the names and unique features of each of the various animals; learning each animal’s likes and dislikes. The children were even given the chance to hold, feed and pet some of the animals. Thank you to our local AHEPA Chapter #98 for generously sponsoring this event.

The Saint Barbara JOY and PATCHES groups traveled together with their parents and siblings to the Jones Family Farm in Shelton. The 150 year old 400-acre farm proved to be a wonderful setting for our Fall adventure on a beautiful sunny day.

Our young pioneers enjoyed a beautiful hayride and visiting with the farm animals. They tested their navigation skills in the corn maze, picked the perfect pumpkin, enjoyed fresh cookies and apple cider together with their attentive parents and older siblings.
Members of the Saint Barbara PATCHES and JOY groups participated with their parents in the annual Hayride on the beautiful grounds of our parish complex.

The horse drawn carriage traveled from Maple View Farm, an active dairy and produce farm built in 1790, located on Orange Center Road.

This annual event always seems to bring out the child in each of us and provides such a wonderful opportunity to experience a fall day through the smiles and enthusiasm of our youngest parishioners. Everyone present enjoyed numerous hayrides, seasonal donuts, toasted marshmallows, s’mores and hot chocolate. Hard to say what the children enjoyed more!

The children of the Saint Barbara JOY and PATCHES tapped into their artistic skills as they gathered to participate in the annual Gingerbread House construction project.

Using icing and all sorts of candy, the young “engineers” created wonderfully delicious “homes” for their families’ holiday displays.
GOYA DANCES

The Saint Barbara GOYAns traveled to New York to participate in dances being hosted by the Holy Trinity Parish in New Rochelle and the Zoodochos Phyge Parish in the Bronx.

Teens from throughout Connecticut and New York enjoyed the festive environment at both the Christmas Dance at New Rochelle and the Valentine Day Dance in the Bronx. The teens danced to the wonderful music and reconnected with friends from the other parishes and made new ones.

GOYA ICE SKATING IN CENTRAL PARK

Teens from Saint Barbara and Saint George in Norwalk, Connecticut traveled to NYC to enjoy a crisp winter day. They stepped onto the rink full of excitement. Some clung onto the edge, like a child would cling onto their mother when they’re scared. Others floated – with only a thin piece of metal between them and the thin sheet of ice. With each completed lap – the confidence of those on the edge grew as they freed themselves from the wall into the hands of a waiting friend - gliding together to the center of the frozen blanket of water with growing confidence. Some slipped – some fell. All enjoyed the experience of skating in Central Park under the shadow of the New York skyscrapers. They skated, experienced Christmas Village and enjoyed a wonderful meal at Ousia. Many thanks to all who helped make the event a success.
The Christmas season provides many opportunities for our parishioners to gather together in preparation of the celebration of our Lord’s Nativity. One of these events is the annual GOYA Christmas Caroling event that took place on December 16th. It is a well-loved event, as the GOYAns enjoy the camaraderie and joy of sharing Christmas carols at each house and nursing home they visit. The GOYAns end their night in fellowship. Many thanks to the families who host the GOYA carolers and assist the GOYAns with their fundraising to support future outreach projects.

The teenagers from the Saint Barbara parish hosted their peers from the Saint George parish in Norwalk for a ‘night at the movies’ in the Saint Barbara Ballroom during the Christmas break from School. The GOYAns enjoyed a fun evening of food and fellowship and watched two wonderful movies, “Invincible” and “The Miracle Season” which are based on the true life inspiring stories of Vince Papale and Caroline ‘Line’ Found.

On February 1st the Saint Barbara GOYAns headed to Ski Sundown in New Hartford, CT for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding. Whether it was their first time on the slopes or they were avid skiers the teens enjoyed a fun day on the mountain together with their parent chaparons. Later in the evening the group visited Yorkside Pizza for some much needed sustenance.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, presided at the Archieratical Divine Liturgy at the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of St. Nicholas in Flushing, NY before traveling, later that same afternoon, to the construction site of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

The Archbishop led the faithful gathered in the celebration of the Agiasmos (blessing and sanctification of the water) service in front of the Church. Immediately after, everyone entered the Church where His Eminence addressed everyone and reiterated his confidence in the completion of the church edifice: “I have complete and utter confidence that God is raising up His mighty hand to help us complete this divine work. We will move forward with all necessary openness and transparency and complete our mission here at the World Trade Center, to rebuild the Saint Nicholas Church and make of it a National Shrine.”

Winter’s Embrace by: Patricia L. Cisco

AGIASMOS SERVICE SAINT NICHOLAS SHRINE

Shimmering lakes of silvery ice; hills adorned in lacy white; evergreens draped in capes of snow; winter in Connecticut can be quite beautiful to behold, unless of course, you are not dressed properly. And sadly, for a growing number in our state, that is a reality.

The health effects of extreme cold can be life threatening. Cold weather makes the body work harder, putting stress on the heart to ensure the body stays warm. Exposure to cold predisposes people, especially children, to infections like pneumonia as children are unable to regulate their body temperatures as adults do; they can quickly develop hypothermia without protection from the cold.

PHILOPTOCHOS SPONSORS ONE COAT DRIVE

For the past several years the Saint Barbara Philoptochos Society has teamed with One Warm Coat, a national non-profit organization that works to provide a free, warm coat to any person in need. This year, thanks to the generous donations of our parishioners, Philoptochos was able to collect 116 winter coats which were then given to individuals in the greater New Haven area.

PHILOPTOCHOS SPONSORS ONE COAT DRIVE

Happy 100th Birthday!

A special congratulations to Helen Mountzouris who recently celebrated her 100th Birthday!
Saint Barbara parishioner Alexis Nale, who is originally from Latrobe, Pennsylvania, has been dancing as a member of Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet since she graduated from Mercyhurst University in May 2017, with a Bachelor of Arts in dance.

Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet is a professional dance company comprised of artists whose goal is to create spaces where art and faith can flourish, as their diverse repertory utilizes a full spectrum of emotional and physical vocabulary while addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and human suffering. On the weekend of December 7th they performed the 14th annual showcase of “Ahavah: The Story of Christmas” at The Morgan School in Clinton.

Written and directed by Elisa Schroth, the Artistic Director of Ekklesia, “Ahavah” (a Hebrew word meaning ‘God’s love towards humanity’) is an original ballet that tells the story of a young girl’s search for the meaning of Christmas. It brings in contemporary images as well as Biblical scenes from the Creation of Man and Woman and their expulsion from Paradise; the Annunciation; the Nativity of Christ; the earthly Ministry of Jesus; and His Death and Resurrection. It was a beautifully performed, moving production which utilized the talents of many performers of all ages.

Many thanks and congratulations to Alexis and all of the members of Ekklesia for sharing their talents in such an inspiring performance.

All proceeds from the performances of “Ahavah” benefit The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries.

For more information about the Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet visit: www.ekklesiaballet.org

A scene from Ahavah: A Christmas Story

Alexis Nale waiting in the wings during the performance of Ahavah.
Each year, young speakers and writers of Greek Orthodox parishes all across the country such as Saint Barbara in Orange, Connecticut, are provided with a unique opportunity to express themselves through participation in the Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Office of Religious Education, the 37th annual festival includes competitions at the parish, District, Metropolis, and Archdiocese levels. The Saint Barbara Parish festival has grown each year and 2020 was the biggest yet. Twenty-three young people prepared presentations, speeches, essays, and poems for the March 14 event held in the Saint Barbara Grand Ballroom.

The Elementary Division, made up of Sunday School students from Kindergarten to Grade 6, featured eight participants! They presented speeches, many of which were on par with the work of our older students of the Junior and Senior Divisions. This bodes well for future festivals! Elementary Division participants were Georgios Daoutis - Kindergarten, George Diakogeorgiou - 1st Grade, Kristen Burr - 3rd Grade, Theodora Kontomerkos - 3rd Grade, Koula Diakogeorgiou - 4th Grade, Chloe Perito - 5th Grade, Alexa Pacholyk - 6th Grade, and George Vlandis - 6th Grade.

The four speakers of the Junior Division, made up of students from Grades 7-9, each spoke on one of the five published topics. The panel of judges had their work cut out for them as they had to select two finalists to advance to the District III competition which was scheduled to take place at the Archangels Church in Stamford on March 28th but was canceled due to the Coronavirus protocols. As such, the two highest ranking participants (one Junior and one Senior Division) will advance to the D.A.D. Metropolis Festival Finals on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Brooklyn, NY.

The five Senior Division speakers, made up of students from Grades 10-12, each spoke on one of the five published topics for their division. The Senior Division participants were Tennyson Delos - 10th Grade, Konstantinos Spanolios - 10th Grade, Andreas Lolis - 11th Grade, Ellie Maniatis - 12th Grade, and Ephemia Nicolakis - 12th Grade.

In addition to the speaking competition, there were six entries in the poetry and essay competitions. Our Junior Division poet was Gabriella Panagiotakis - 7th Grade. Senior Division poets were Irena Komninakas - 10th Grade and Giovanna Panagiotakis - 11th Grade. Junior Division essayists were Zachary V. Berner - 7th Grade and Thana Zikos - 9th Grade. Our Senior Division essayist was Kallista V. Berner - 10th Grade. Recognition should be given to the timekeeper and the judges that had the difficult task of evaluating each of the Junior and Senior Division speakers according to the criteria set forth by the Archdiocese. Our judges were Kevin Burr, Corey Millazo, Eleni Millazo, Maria Diamantis, Val Lott, and Stacey Grimaldi. Our timekeeper was Jim Sarigianis.

The finalists of the Saint Barbara parish Junior Division (Ana DeBassio and Evie Komninakas) and Senior Division (Ephemia Nicolakis and Andreas Lolis) speech competition qualified to advance to the District III competition which was scheduled to take place at the Archangels Church in Stamford on March 28th but was canceled due to the Coronavirus protocols. As such, the two highest ranking participants (one Junior and one Senior Division) will advance to the D.A.D. Metropolis Festival Finals on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Brooklyn, NY.
In 2019, the Saint Barbara parish introduced the “Say A Prayer Tree” that provided the opportunity for people to say a prayer for anyone, while at the same time offering a free-will donation that will benefit the Agape Fund of Saint Barbara Church, which provides assistance to those in need.

Parishioners as well as visitors, were given the opportunity to write their name or the name of a loved one, or anyone for whom they’d like a prayer said, on an Agape Angel ornament. They would then place the Angel on the “Say A Prayer Tree,” saying a prayer silently or aloud, that was located in the Education Center Hall through January 7, 2020.

The Saint Barbara Agape Fund is administered by the Parish Priest with pastoral care. Funds are used to assist families in need. This helps promote forms of outreach and assistance compatible with the teachings of our Orthodox Christian faith in fulfillment of the Gospel and commands of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To God be the Glory!

Members of the ΙΧΘΥΣ Reading Group gathered for a special time of spiritual collaboration and thought-provoking discussion as they reflected on the book, “Royal Monastic: Princess Ileana of Romania” by Bev Cook, which examines the life of Princess Ileana.

Princess Ileana was a very devout Orthodox Christian whose faith saw her through a fascinating life that included much sacrifice and hard work. In her later years she would be called to the life of a monastic, and as Mother Alexandra, built the first English-language Orthodox women’s monastery in the United States – the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania.

The morning group meets in the Education Center from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. And the evening group meets in the Lightle Center from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. The group facilitators for this ministry are: Tony Delos, Mario Kontomerkos and Presbytera Vangie. We will begin a new book in the Fall of 2020. The title of the next book will be announced soon. Join us if you can!
The following article appeared in The National Herald’s Christmas edition

The Saint Barbara Parish in Orange, Connecticut is a growing parish in numbers, in faith, and in good works. In an interview with The National Herald its presiding priest Fr. Peter Orfanakos said that “the Saint Barbara community consists of 750 families that live in 67 towns in the State of Connecticut.”

Apropos of the holidays, he said that “in anticipation of the celebration of Christmas, children of the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Parish participate in a variety of programs and events. The members of the Sunday School Program offer a Christmas Pageant that involves about 120 children, who participate with various speaking and non-speaking parts and in the Children’s Choir. The 70 students of the parish’s Greek Language School also hold an annual and very well attended Christmas celebration. This year it will be held on December 19 and consists of poems, songs and special reflections. Meanwhile, the children of GOYA continue their year-round ministry at the Community Dining Room in Branford, CT where they prepare and serve meals to approximately 100 individuals and families in need. During the month of December the teenagers also visit many parishioner homes and local Senior Housing facilities singing Christmas Carols and spreading holiday cheer while the Sunday School sponsors a toy drive for the patients at Yale Children’s Hospital.”

Asked about the Holy Services Fr. Peter said that “analogous to many Greek Orthodox parishes throughout the world, the celebration of the Feast of the Incarnation of Christ begins with the service of the Royal Hours of the Nativity on the morning of December 24. This special service offers readings, prophecies, and hymns which point to and interpret the Birth of Christ. Later that afternoon the community gathers for the celebration of the Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. This service ‘opens the liturgical day’ and begins the celebration of the Nativity.

Parishioners from near and far gather for the evening service before traveling to family celebrations. For the Saint Barbara Community, this service is the one that is attended by the majority of the faithful. The beautiful choir leads the congregation in the chanting of the hymns of the Liturgy and the singing of a selection of Christmas Carols in both Greek and English at the conclusion of the service.”

Fr. Peter said that, “on Christmas morning the parish celebrates the Orthros and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, providing another opportunity to offer prayers of thanksgiving to God for His timeless Love and Mercy. Children of the parish participate in the above services by prayerfully reading many of the Psalms and Prophesies as well as serving in the Altar as Acolytes.”

Asked, “what does Christmas mean to you, Fr. Peter said that “Christmas is God’s continuing response of love to humanity’s cries of repentance, that began with the voices of Adam and Eve. God is born on Earth to show us the way home, the way back to heaven. Saint John Chrysostom states it much more eloquently that I do: ‘…that coming among us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that man cannot see.’”
Celebrating the Nativity of Christ
Celebrating the Nativity of Christ
GOLDEN YEARS MINISTRY
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Participants in the Saint Barbara Golden Years ministry gathered to celebrate Christmas in the Saint Barbara Grand Ballroom. The festive feast featured a beautifully prepared meal, lively conversation and special performance by ‘The Levendes.’ The annual event is a highlight for all!

Many thanks to our volunteer chefs Helen S. Wachter and Jane Hajedemos for their generosity in preparing the meal. A hand of applause and appreciation also goes to Nick Laggis, Jim Triantis, Peter Demetropoulos, Fotis Diamantes, Mike Kaloyiannidis and John Prodos for providing the beautiful entertainment.
GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The teachers and students of the Saint Barbara Greek Language School put together a wonderful Christmas program that included poems about the Nativity of Christ along with the performance of traditional Christmas Hymns and Carols. Parents and family members filled the Saint Barbara Community Center and were treated to a wonderful evening that concluded with a meal and dessert. We thank and congratulate the Greek Language School staff and students for their prayerful participation.

COVENANT CARE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

On December 18th the Saint Barbara Community gathered together for a prayer service in our Church. Father Peter led the parish in a service highlighting prayers of remembrance for any loved ones who have fallen asleep. As a community we offered a fortitude of prayers beseching God for spiritual strength and comfort.

At the conclusion of the Prayer Service, we had an opportunity to honor the names of the departed souls of our loved one(s), who have passed, by lifting up their names in prayer and placing a Leaf Of Remembrance handmade ornament on a beautiful Christmas Tree that was set-up at the front of the church. Each leaf signified a way for us to embrace our Holy Faith, as well as to embrace with love and remembrance, the souls of those in the Church Triumphant. The three-layered leaf signifies our belief in the Holy Trinity and reminds us of our Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The ribbon signifies our ongoing ties to those we love, through the mystery of God’s enduring Love that never ends. Memory Eternal. To God be the Glory. Thank you to all who participated in this very moving service, and to those who sponsored a leaf in memory and honor of a loved one.
The Saint Barbara Greek Language School hosted an Apokreatiko Glendi on Saturday, February 29th to the delight of the greater community who enjoyed a tremendous evening of entertainment and dancing.

Participants in the sold out event danced to the rhythm of live Greek music and feasted on exquisitely prepared culinary delights including hors d’oeuvres spanakopita, tyropita, pork souvlaki, chicken souvlaki, lamb, green beans, potatoes, salad and galaktoboureko. The students helped set the tone for the evening by leading all present in the singing of traditional Greek songs then kicked off the dancing by leading the first dance.

Many thanks to all of the Greek Language School teachers and volunteers for their tireless efforts as well as to the families who donated items that helped this event become such a success.
New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo visited the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Headquarters on January 2, 2020 to officially welcome Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to New York. During the visit, Archbishop Elpidophoros officially announced plans to resume the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center. This was the Governor’s first meeting with His Eminence since the Archbishop was elected by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as Archbishop of America to succeed Archbishop Demetrios in May. The project will be driven by a new non-profit organization with an independent, 13-member board - the Friends of St. Nicholas. The new entity has been formed to ensure that the sacred space is completed as expeditiously as possible and can begin welcoming visitors from around the world. The Friends of St. Nicholas will aim to resume construction with a two-year target to complete the church.

“The rebuilding of St. Nicholas Church that was destroyed on September 11th is a moment of coming together and healing not only for the Greek Orthodox community but for all New Yorkers who lived through that horrific day,” Governor Cuomo said. “This house of worship will serve as a reminder that our collective faith is something we can always count on to move past our painful memories and build a better tomorrow.” Archbishop Elpidophoros said, “On behalf of the Greek Orthodox Faithful, we have made a commitment to open the doors of this National Shrine by September 11, 2021, the twentieth anniversary of that fateful day. I pledge to you, Governor Cuomo, and to all the people of New York, that we will be ready; we will be on time; and we will be open to all women and men of good will who wish to honor the memory of all who perished on September Eleventh.”

The Governor and the Archbishop were joined by Rick Cotton, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; John Catsimatidis, Vice Chairman of the Archdiocese Council; Dennis Mehiel and Michael Psaros, Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Friends of St. Nicholas; and the Rev. Father Alexander Karloutsos, Vicar General of the Archdiocese to discuss and announce the resumption of work at the St. Nicholas Church site on the south side of Liberty Street.

The Friends of St. Nicholas will be responsible for the timely rebuilding of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. The new organization will raise money for the re-building of St. Nicholas; fund the re-building of St. Nicholas; oversee construction of St. Nicholas; and conduct appropriate audits. The 13-member board will be chaired by Dennis Mehiel, former Chairman of the Battery Park City Authority (2012-2018), and the Chairman of US Corrugated. Richard Browne, Managing Partner of Sterling Project Development Group, will serve as COO of construction.

Rick Cotton, Executive Director of the Port Authority, said, “Governor Cuomo has been a passionate advocate for St. Nicholas Church and for the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan. The Port Authority welcomes the news that, following consultation with the Governor and the Port Authority, the Archdiocese has formed.
The Friends of St. Nicholas Chairman, Dennis Mehiel, added, “The Friends of St. Nicholas are one hundred percent committed to expediting the completion of the Shrine, and at the same time maintaining a public and transparent record of the finances surrounding this historic and sacred project. We thank the Governor and the Port Authority for their unfailing support.”

The original St. Nicholas Church at 155 Cedar Street was the only place of worship that was completely destroyed in the September 11th attacks. Upon taking office, Governor Cuomo made the restoration of St. Nicholas Church a top priority, working with the Archdiocese and the Port Authority to reach agreement on a larger, more accessible site for the rebuilding of the Church and National Shrine and personally raising donations for the privately funded complex. When completed, the new St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at 130 Liberty Street just south of the 9/11 Memorial Plaza will serve as a place of prayer and silent reflection and also house a nondenominational bereavement center for anyone seeking solace and strength at a time of loss.

The Saint Barbara parish hosted the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in the Town of Orange on Sunday, November 24th. The annual event, which takes place on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, is a special time for parishioners of the different faith communities in town to gather in the spirit of gratitude. Each year the service is hosted by a different house of worship with each location offering its own special program.

Over 250 people attended this year’s service and a special collection raised $1,054 for the Town of Orange Food Pantry and Fuel Assistance Program.

(Left to Right) Rev. Bill Cavanaugh, Church of the Good Shepherd; Rev. Norman Brockett, Holy Infant Roman Catholic Church; Deacon Cheryl Smith, St. Joseph of Arimathea Church; Rev. Peter Orfanakos, Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church; Rabbi Michael Farbman, Temple Emanuel; Rev. Jennifer L. Campbell, Orange Congregational Church; Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, Congregation Or Shalom
**Blessing At Wellspring**

Father Peter was invited by Saint Barbara Parishioner and Wellspring Board member Babette Basil to celebrate a special blessing and Agiasmos service on October 25th at the official opening of Stempie’s Stable and Pasture, named in honor of Robert Stemper of blessed memory. The newly renovated stable is beautifully situated on the campus and is the ‘home’ of many of the animals that are an important part of the therapeutic work being accomplished at the Wellspring Institute.

Located in Bethlehem, Connecticut Wellspring and The Arch Bridge School assist individuals and families in working through the emotional, psychological and educational issues that may prevent them from establishing and maintaining healthy and meaningful lives. A place of hope.

**Parish Council Elections**

Elections for the Parish Council 2020-2021 term, took place on December 8, 2019.

Congratulations to the following individuals for their election to the Parish Council – Anna Albanis, Paul Faraclas, Andrianna Papadimitriou, Paul Redding Andriana Triantis and Tina Valaouras.

Many thanks and congratulations to the following outgoing Parish Council members, for their tireless dedication to our faith and the life of our parish: Val Lott (who served in the office of President); Eleni Yates (who served in the office of Secretary); Theodore Belales; Olympia Hadjimichael; and Eleas Vlahos.

Without volunteers like you, the progression of our community would not have flourished as it has. We look forward to others being inspired by all who serve on the Parish Council, various committees and organizations of the Church.
On January 29th a special ceremony took place inside the Varsity Room of the Ray Tompkins House at Yale University. The Yale Woman’s Volleyball Team had a special recruit sign her letter with Yale University Volleyball. Saint Barbara parishioner, fifteen year old Kassiani Nicolakis, became an official part of the Bulldog family as she had her signing day in conjunction with Team IMPACT.

With Kassiani’s entire family, the Yale volleyball team and coaching staff, numerous administrators and Fox61 on hand, she signed her letter of intent and proudly donned her Yale hat and jersey to officially become a member of the team. She will attend Bulldogs practices, games, team dinners, events, and more.

“I think for our team, we get so much out of this,” said Yale head volleyball coach Erin Appleman. “They are a close-knit group, the chemistry is great, they like to have fun and Kassi loves to have fun. She truly loves the sport of volleyball and I think this is a really good match.”

Kassiani got to answer questions at her press conference and could not help but continually exclaim, “This has been the best day of my life!”

Rising Senior and Captain Chiara Spain said “She’s just a ball of energy and has a very positive attitude,” said Spain. “You just hear her laugh and it just changes the whole mood and its like nothing can go wrong if she’s there and we all just want to impress her because she knows volleyball well too. So there’s so many fun aspects of her being around us that just makes us better in a variety of ways”

“We want to say thank you to Team Impact, and a special thank you to Coach Erin and all of you who have embraced us immediately as part of your family,” said Kassiani’s father, Theodore Nicolakis. “We feel the
passion you have for your school, we feel the passion you have for our daughter, and we feel the passion and the relationship that you want to build with her.”

Kassiani will look to help Yale Volleyball to a fourth-straight Ivy League Championship in 2020 and the 11th in Appleman’s tenure.

Team IMPACT is a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Boston, MA that connects children facing serious or chronic illnesses with college athletic teams, forming lifelong bonds and life-changing outcomes. Since 2011, Team IMPACT has matched more than 2,000 children with more than 700 colleges and universities in 48 states, reaching over 55,000 participating student athletes. The child joins the athletic team and the student athletes join the child’s support team. Throughout the journey, the child gains strength, camaraderie and support while the student athletes experience lessons of courage, resiliency and perspective they can’t learn in a classroom.

**Souper Bowl of Caring / Parish Basketball Teams**

Often times we run the risk as a society to simply be concerned about wins and losses when it comes to sports. In truth, there are many benefits of participating in team athletics for people of all ages – but especially our youth. All sports encourage children to get active and remain healthy, they teach teamwork, commitment and what it means to work together with others towards a common goal. Teamwork encourages socialization and the building up of friendships.

The 2019-2020 Basketball Season in the Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League recently came to an end and our two Saint Barbara Parish teams – one in the Farm Division and one in the Varsity Division. Each team enjoyed a successful run marked with much fun and excitement, personal and team growth, and the continued development of our players basketball skill and knowledge.

As their coach, I can tell you it was humbling watching all the players grow as individuals and as a team. The manner in which they competed was most telling. The first thing that they did as they walked into the gym for a game was greet the players and friends they had made on the ‘other team.’ They laughed, shared jokes, and exchanged pleasantries before beginning their own warm-ups. It was beautiful to see the manner in which they continued to build on the foundation of friendships that will certainly stand the test of time. It should be noted that while our teams have not been found atop the standings in either division the past two or three years – we have been awarded the League Sportsmanship Award several times. This is an award voted on by the other coaches of each league.

I look forward to seeing them continue to develop as a team and thank my assistant coaches and their parents for all their support.

Coach Pete Maniatis
COMMUNITY DINING ROOM

The Saint Barbara community continues to gather once a month to prepare and serve savory feasts at the Community Dining Room in Branford. Our group, under the guidance of Saint Barbara parishioner and Chef Michele Papadimitiou, provides warm, comforting and nutritious meals to all. At each service, we serve as many as 100 guests a homemade, 3-course lunch.

VIEWING THE BIG GAME

Over 100 parishioners and friends gathered in the parish’s Grand Ballroom to cheer on the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs as they played in the last football game of the Season. Much thanks to Pete Maniatis and Vasilios Diakogeorgiou for chairing the event, and to all in attendance. Everyone had a great time!
Saint Barbara parishioner Daniel Canevari was recently named Firefighter of the Year in the city of Middletown. Daniel has served the citizens of the City of Middletown for over ten years and has received several commendations for exemplary service from the department for his efforts during his tenure. They include awards for bravery at the Kleen Energy power plant explosion, meritorious service at a high-angle rescue for saving two people who had fallen off of a cliff, a platoon citation from his response to dangerous hazardous materials release, a company citation for locating a sick person who was lost in a state forest, and a maternity award for assisting in a childbirth.

Dan serves as a mentor to junior members, sharing his vast knowledge and experience and often offers his mechanical expertise to the marine units. His care towards the well being of the youth in the community is shown by his participation in the city’s Adopt-a-Firefighter program where he teaches third graders about fire safety and other risk-reduction lessons. He also serves in the department’s Technical Rescue Team, Dive Team, and Marine Team.

You can often find him in Church with his beautiful wife Petrina (Ballas) (pictured above with Daniel) and his adorable young daughters, Christina and Alexa and volunteering in various Church activities and ministries.

As part of the Saint Barbara Parish Wellness Ministry we are requesting monetary donations to be able to provide two beautiful books on behalf of Saint Barbara Church to families when they experience the death of a loved one. We are seeking donations to underwrite this expense. Donations may be sent to the Saint Barbara Church. Please write: Grief and Wellness Ministry in the memo line.

Below is a brief description of the two books:

**When You Lose Someone You Love** by Joanne Fink

Filled with expressive sentiments and beautifully simple illustrations from the personal grief journal of award winning artist/author Joanne Fink, this special edition of When You Lose Someone You Love offers a healing connection with all who are dealing with one of life’s most challenging times. Readers will understand that they are not alone, that there will be days when you feel overwhelmed, nights when you can’t sleep, and times when waves of sadness wash over you unexpectedly. Affirming and cathartic, this book will help bring healing without sugarcoating the challenges of losing a loved one. When You Lose Someone You Love is an incredible gift of comfort for anyone who endures the journey of losing a spouse, a family member or close friend.

**Elf Help Book: Grief Therapy** by Karen Katafiasz

The death of a loved one has a powerful and significant impact on a person’s life. But the surrounding world often expects survivors to move quickly beyond their loss, to “just snap out of it.” A wise and sensitive dissenting voice, “Grief Therapy” demonstrates how the grieving process takes time and deserves attention. With succinct, meaningful guidelines and hope-filled illustrations, it reassures those who grieve that out of their pain can come profound, transforming healing.
The Saint Barbara young adults, who are part of the National Young Adult Initiative called the Telos Project, hosted a Peer Group at Two Roads Brewery in Stratford. The event was well attended and provided a wonderful opportunity for all present to be able to get to know each other better. More young adult gatherings are being currently being planned. Contact the Church Office for more information.

Pictured: Participants in the TELOS Peer Group event at Two Roads Brewery in Stratford, CT.
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announced the decision of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, after much consideration and in collaboration with His Eminences’ advisors, to create the following Archdiocesan Regions:

Region 1: Manhattan and Bronx, overseen by the V. Rev. Chrysostomos Gilbert. The list of Parishes is as follows: Annunciation (Manhattan), Sts. Anargyroi (Manhattan), St. Barbara (Manhattan), St. Eleftherios (Manhattan), St. George – St. Demetrios (Manhattan), St. George (Manhattan), St. Gerasimos (Manhattan), St. John the Baptist (Manhattan), St. Spyridon (Manhattan), Zoodochos Peghe (Bronx), St. Petros (Bronx),

Region 2: Astoria, Brooklyn and Staten Island, overseen by the V. Rev. Nektarios Papazafiropoulos. The list of Parishes is as follows: St. Demetrios and Sts. Catherine and George (Astoria), Holy Cross (Brooklyn), Three Hierarchs (Brooklyn), Sts. Constantine and Helen (Brooklyn), Kimisis tis Theotokou (Brooklyn), and Holy Trinity – St. Nicholas (Staten Island),

Region 3: Long Island, Flushing and Jamaica, overseen by His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod. The list of Parishes is as follows: St. Nicholas (Flushing), St. Demetrios (Jamaica), Sts. Constantine and Helen (Jackson Heights), Transfiguration (Corona), Holy Cross (Whitestone), St. Paul (Hempstead), Holy Trinity (Hicksville), Archangel Michael (Port Washington), Holy Resurrection (Brookville), Kimisis tis Theotokou (Island Park), St. Demetrios (Merrick), St. Markella (Wantagh), St. Paraskevi (Greenlawn), St.
Nicholas (West Babylon), Assumption (Port Jefferson), St. John (Blue Point), Transfiguration (Mattituck), and Kimisis tis Theotokou (Southampton).

Region 4: Westchester and Connecticut, overseen by Rev. Protopresbyter Peter J. Orfanakos. The list of Parishes is as follows: Prophet Elias (Yonkers), Holy Trinity (New Rochelle), Church of Our Saviour (Rye), Assumption (Danbury), Holy Trinity (Waterbury), Holy Trinity (Bridgeport), St. Demetrios (Bristol), St. George (New Britain), St. George (Hartford), St. George (Norwalk), St. Barbara (Orange), Archangels (Stamford), Annunciation (Stamford), St. Basil (New Haven) and Three Hierarchs (Storrs).

Region 5: Upstate New York, overseen by Rev. Protopresbyter Constantine Sitaras. The list of Parishes is as follows: St. George (Schenectady), St. Basil (Troy), St. Sophia (Albany), Assumption (Windham), St. George (Kingston), Kimisis tis Theotokou (Poughkeepsie), St. Nicholas (Newburgh), Holy Cross (Middletown), Sts. Constantine and Helen (West Nyack).

The newly appointed Vicars will have the responsibility, effective immediately, to be responsible for and maintain proper Ecclesiastical order and progress within the Parishes assigned to them. In addition, they will be tasked with dealing with day-to-day issues that arise, in conjunction with the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, the Rev. Protopresbyter Fr. Andreas Vithoulkas, and His Eminence the Archbishop; except in the case of His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia who will be reporting directly to His Eminence, the Archbishop.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomed everyone to his office on February 6, 2020, and officially announced to them their appointments. He wished them much success in their endeavor and encouraged them to serve with sacrificial love the faithful Orthodox Christians, the Parish Councils and the Reverend Clergy. The appointed vicars thanked His Eminence for their appointment and the honor bestowed upon them and they promised they will fervently work with all their energies in their new responsibilities assigned to them.

Congratulations to Fr. Peter and Presbytera Vangie Orfanakos for being named co-recipients of the Alumni of the Year Award at Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology. Also being honored, as Alumni of the Year, is the Very Rev. Constantine Moralis, Dean of the Annunciation Cathedral in Baltimore, MD. The honor is scheduled to be given on Thursday, May 7th at a dinner following the Vespers Service on the grounds of Hellenic College Holy Cross in Brookline, MA.

Past recipients have included: Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras; Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America; Metropolitan Titus Silligardakis; Archbishop Ezekiel of Australia; Archon John; Archbishop Athenagoras Kokkinakis; Metropolitan Silas of New Jersey; Metropolitan Methodios of Boston; Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco; Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh; Bishop Gerasimos Papadopoulos; Very Rev. Maximos Constatinos; Rev. Anthony Coniaris; Rev. Nicholas Triantafilou; Rev. Theodore Stylianopoulos; Rev. Alkiviadis Calivas; Dr. Lewis Patsavos; Rev. Byron Papanikolaou; Dr. James Skedros; Rev. John Magoulas; and Rev. John Touloumes and many others.

Visit hchc.edu for a complete list of the HCHC Alumni of the Year recipients.
HCHC Alumni of the Year

Hellenic College
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445 • (617) 731-3500 • fax (617) 850-1460 • www.hchc.edu

HCHC Alumni Association

December 19, 2019
St. Boniface of Tarsus
St. Gregentius, Bishop of Ethiopia

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
480 Racebrook Road
Orange, CT 06477

Esteemed Officers and Members of the Parish Council
Esteemed Officers and Members of the Ladies Philoptochos
Ministries and Organizations of the Saint Barbara Church

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray this letter finds you and your parish family well during these final days of the Advent Season!

It is with great joy that I write this letter informing you that your Parish Priest and Presbytera, The Rev. Fr. Peter J. and Pres. Vangie will be one of two recipients for the Hellenic College Holy Cross Alumni of the Year Award which will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2020 immediately following Great Vespers.

This award is given during the Presidents Alumni Dinner, while we celebrate and honor the 10th, 25th and 50th Anniversary classes of that particular year. This year we will be recognizing the classes of 1970, 1995, and 2010.

As you know Fr. Peter and Pres. Vangie are a true couple of servitude! Upon finishing their studies (Fr. Peter HC ’89 SOT ’92, Pres. Vangie SOT ’93), though physically leaving the grounds, the school never left their hearts. Fr. Peter and Pres. Vangie are great mentors and role models to current students and many alumni. During their ministry Fr. Peter and Pres. Vangie have been pillars of the church representing what Hellenic College Holy Cross is to all who come in contact with them. You know firsthand how dedicated they are to spreading the Good News and they have also encouraged many to follow their call from Almighty God and to help spread that message by taking up their cross and following the Lord.

I humbly ask that you announce and share this information to the faithful of the Saint Barbara Parish so they may offer their love and congratulations to their Parish Priest and Presbytera.

Praying that you have a Blessed Nativity and with love in the Lord,

[Signature]
Fr. Demetri Costarakis
HCHC Alumni Association President
### Baptisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Godparent(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11, 2018</td>
<td>Menos</td>
<td>Dimitrios and Rigopoula (Halkias) Magriplis</td>
<td>Stamatina Hiras &amp; Sophia Stamos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 22, 2018</td>
<td>Elias Yiannis</td>
<td>John and Sevasti (Papakanakis) Aspras</td>
<td>Spyro and Maria Menegatos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2018</td>
<td>Jackson Daniel</td>
<td>Daniel and Debra (Pierre) Crane</td>
<td>Michael Pierre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12, 2018</td>
<td>Giuliana Maria</td>
<td>Christian and Anamaria (Andreeescu) Ciuc</td>
<td>Vanessa Petrini &amp; John Petrini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 2018</td>
<td>Kyriakos Panagiotis</td>
<td>Peter and Effie (Papadimitropoulos) Kollias</td>
<td>Dimitri Hadjimihalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20, 2018</td>
<td>Samuel Thomas</td>
<td>Aris and Amanda (Abbott) Lopez</td>
<td>Katholiki Filindarakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26, 2018</td>
<td>Maximos Eoin</td>
<td>Daniel and Kristin (Esars) Dwyer</td>
<td>Stephen Esares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 3, 2018</td>
<td>Derek Paul</td>
<td>Brian and Gina (Touttoulos) Choiniere</td>
<td>Liza Touttoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 9, 2018</td>
<td>Alexa Danielle</td>
<td>Daniel and Eleni (Simoulis) Turner</td>
<td>Valentina Ballas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 9, 2018</td>
<td>Isla Maria</td>
<td>David and Julia (Paridis) Turco</td>
<td>Eleni Waskiewicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul. 7, 2018</td>
<td>Joseph Elias</td>
<td>Sean and Stephanie (Liaskas) Hobin</td>
<td>Mirofora Paridis &amp; Andreaas Elias Menegatos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul. 8, 2018</td>
<td>Jaxon James</td>
<td>Joel and Jennie (Antonakis) Dean</td>
<td>Peter Liaskas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul. 15, 2018</td>
<td>Andonis Mason</td>
<td>Demetris Touttoulos and Josephine Jennings</td>
<td>Joanna Tsoumpas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul. 20, 2018</td>
<td>Nina Jean</td>
<td>Christopher and Caitlin Gumas</td>
<td>Jean and Antonios Touttoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul. 21, 2018</td>
<td>Charles Paul</td>
<td>Gregory H. and Samantha Gerakelis</td>
<td>Alexis Henkel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4, 2018</td>
<td>Savannah Blake</td>
<td>Giorgos and Elizabeth Krikris</td>
<td>Anastasios Marnerakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25, 2018</td>
<td>Christos Ioulianos</td>
<td>Giorgos and Elizabeth Krikris</td>
<td>Dimitri Krikris &amp; Maria Koutros-Grech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25, 2018</td>
<td>Panagiotis Anastasios</td>
<td>Kyle and Stephanie (Kerames) Laham</td>
<td>Eleni Grigoriadis -Vega &amp; Theodora Goulas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26, 2018</td>
<td>Dean Alexander</td>
<td>Matthew and Efthyia Koulouris</td>
<td>Brooke Parlato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24, 2018</td>
<td>Sophia Alexis</td>
<td>Jason and Tanya (Saoulidis) Laudano</td>
<td>Stamatoula Liberatos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30, 2018</td>
<td>Jordyn Ariana</td>
<td>Namedashwar and Kiran Singh</td>
<td>Parthena Apazidis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6, 2018</td>
<td>Prapti</td>
<td>Michail and Melpomeni Kontouris</td>
<td>Lizabeth Haskos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14, 2018</td>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>Adam and Dina (Chatzopoulos) Bajko</td>
<td>Gerasimos Arvanitidis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27, 2018</td>
<td>Evangelos Jake</td>
<td>Kosta and Maria Myzithras</td>
<td>George Chatzopoulos &amp; Agatha Vastakis Pestilli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25, 2018</td>
<td>Eliana</td>
<td>Konstantinos and Marimina Milas</td>
<td>Valantis and Eleni Koutsaplis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19, 2019</td>
<td>Nikolas Konstantinos</td>
<td>Sean and Erin Maher</td>
<td>Steven and Maria Rountos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17, 2019</td>
<td>Liam</td>
<td>Nancy Lee Hocking</td>
<td>Arhontia Maher Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19, 2019</td>
<td>Stephanie</td>
<td>Michail and Melpomeni Kontouris</td>
<td>Haralambos &amp; Aspasia Bertos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17, 2019</td>
<td>Andrew Thomas</td>
<td>Adam and Dina (Chatzopoulos) Bajko</td>
<td>Greg and Tracy Wachter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18, 2019</td>
<td>Aristotelis Angelos</td>
<td>Stephen and Jessica (Dabakis) Kubicki</td>
<td>Dionisios Finetis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26, 2019</td>
<td>Evelyn Zaher</td>
<td>Z. George and Rozina Jaser</td>
<td>Natalie Talhami &amp; Juliana Jaser &amp; George Jaser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26, 2019</td>
<td>Leonidis Francis</td>
<td>Christopher and Tiffany (Nousoipoulos) Petersen</td>
<td>Nikole Nousoipoulos Giovinazzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26, 2019</td>
<td>Artemios Alexandros</td>
<td>Petros and Anna Giannopoulos</td>
<td>Konstantinos and Marimina Milas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 1, 2019</td>
<td>Phoebe Hyo Jeong</td>
<td>Georgios and Miriam Seferidis</td>
<td>Stelianos Seferidis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Christmations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 15, 2018</td>
<td>Mary Ann Nicolia</td>
<td>Penelope Daoutis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16, 2018</td>
<td>Jamie Harrison</td>
<td>Ioannis Vamvakas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 16, 2018</td>
<td>Kyle (Iakovos) Michael Magri</td>
<td>Shaun and Tina Valaouras Berner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 10, 2019</td>
<td>Annalis Panagiotakasis</td>
<td>Anna Albanis and Tina Valaouras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 30, 2019</td>
<td>Stacey Ferrence</td>
<td>Christine Alexiades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 29, 2019</td>
<td>Christopher Gumkowski</td>
<td>Molly Arabolos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 7, 2020</td>
<td>Jorge Gandarillas</td>
<td>Mirofora Paridis, Maria Menegatos, Virginia Nikolopoulos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Weddings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Couple</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Couple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/21/2018</td>
<td>Juan and Samantha (Buzelle) Mendoza</td>
<td>07/29/2018</td>
<td>Gregory and Samantha Gerakelis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Veronica Buzelle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Irene (Gerakelis) Gurtazaca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/28/2018</td>
<td>Andrew and Brittany Tramontanis</td>
<td>07/31/2018</td>
<td>Steven and Brooke (Artes) Parlato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Michael Tramontanis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Paige Bullock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/26/2018</td>
<td>Christopher and Christina (Celentano) Root</td>
<td>08/18/2018</td>
<td>Harvey and Demetra (Eleftheriou) Tinnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Christopher Celentano</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Vasiliki Anton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/21/2018</td>
<td>John and Liza (Touttoulos) Mattiace</td>
<td>09/29/2018</td>
<td>Alexander and Joanna (Anastasiou) Tuneski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Angela Touttoulos Suppa</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Anastasia Babos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/28/2018</td>
<td>George and Bertha Gekas</td>
<td>10/13/2018</td>
<td>Jamie and Sotiria (Vamvakas) Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Michael Gekas</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsor: Chris Annino</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Weddings**

10/14/2018  Michail and Melpomeni (Togridis) Kontouris
*Sponsor: Thalia Katranis*

10/21/2018  Anthony and Marina (Stefanopoulou) Papadopoulos
*Sponsors: Konstantinos and Marimina Milas*

10/27/2018  John and Prapti Haskos
*Sponsor: Steven Haskos*

11/03/2018  Dimitri and Jesse Kallivrousis
*Sponsor: Stamati Kallivrousis*

12/09/2018  Paul and Anita Tzovolos, Jr.
*Sponsor: Nikolaos Milas*

05/04/2019  Gregory and Melanie (Rice) Barron
*Sponsor: Melinda Myer*

05/04/2019  Dimitrios and Jeanette Vasilopoulos
*Sponsor: Thimios Vasilopoulos*

05/18/2019  John and Rhoda (Emmanouil) Zervos
*Sponsor: Maria L. Pertesis*

06/01/2019  Gregory and Tracy (Dabakis) Wachter
*Sponsor: Dorothy Daniel*

07/06/2019  Brian and Eleni (Koutroumanis) McArdle
*Sponsors: Nikolaos Koutroumanis & Melpomeni Vasilellis*

07/21/2019  Georgios and Miriam Seferidis
*Sponsor: Stelios Seferidis*

07/27/2019  Pedro and Julia (Hajedemos) Falci
*Sponsor: Dean T. Hajedemos*

08/24/2019  Haralambos and Ariel Efthymiou
*Sponsors: Paul Efthymiou & Panayota O’Connor*

09/07/2019  Vincent and Anastasia (Kalaidi) Marottoli
*Sponsors: Petro and Anna Giannopoulos*

09/22/2019  Christopher and Angeliki (Papastavros) Gumkowski
*Sponsors: Themis Klarides & George Chatzopoulos*

**Funerals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/23/2018</td>
<td>Andrew Tsamalis</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/28/2018</td>
<td>Helen G. Vasil</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/02/2018</td>
<td>Anna Klonaridis</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/08/2018</td>
<td>John Skitzis</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/16/2018</td>
<td>Irene Katechis</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/27/2018</td>
<td>Salwa Miseh Kaoud</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>Louis W. Basel</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/11/2018</td>
<td>Sofia Stardellis</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/30/2018</td>
<td>Dionysia Dimas</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/21/2018</td>
<td>Elizabeth Foufas</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/2018</td>
<td>Klimenita Vlahos</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20/2018</td>
<td>Evelyn Anastasiou</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25/2018</td>
<td>Conella P. Chagares</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/31/2018</td>
<td>Helen Redding</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/07/2018</td>
<td>Pauline Fanolis</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/28/2018</td>
<td>George P. Anastasiou</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30/2018</td>
<td>Barbara Tsipouras</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/08/2018</td>
<td>Irene Pournaras</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10/2018</td>
<td>Joann Stavrides</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/2019</td>
<td>Clara Genetos</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/29/2019</td>
<td>Elias T. Georges</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/07/2019</td>
<td>Elizabeth Papageorgiou</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/08/2019</td>
<td>Evangeline Kitsos</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/23/2019</td>
<td>James Fifis</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/23/2019</td>
<td>Ann Andris</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/28/2019</td>
<td>Victoria Sherry</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12/2019</td>
<td>James W. Kambas</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/05/2019</td>
<td>Lee Sekas</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/07/2019</td>
<td>Dorothea Chagares</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/01/2020</td>
<td>Antonios D. Touttoulos</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/2020</td>
<td>Vidi (Victoria) Krist</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/14/2020</td>
<td>Nikolaos Vasilopoulos</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/18/2020</td>
<td>Mary Besbesides Mattie</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/21/2020</td>
<td>Dorothea A. Giarelis</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/24/2020</td>
<td>Helen Piperas</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/02/2020</td>
<td>Helen Chagares</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEEING THE UNDERLYING BEAUTY IN ALL PEOPLE

Every one of us is in the image of God, and every one of us is like a damaged icon. But if we were given an icon damaged by time, damaged by circumstances, or desecrated by human hatred, we would treat it with reverence, with tenderness, with brokenheartedness. We would not pay attention primarily to the fact that it is damaged, but to the tragedy of its being damaged. We would concentrate on what is left of its beauty, and not on what is lost of its beauty. And this is what we must learn to do with regard to each person as an individual, but also—and this is not always as easy—with regard to groups of people, whether it be a parish or a denomination, or a nation. We must learn to look, and look until we have seen the underlying beauty of this group of people. Only then can we even begin to do something to call out all the beauty that is there. Listen to other people, and whenever you discern something which sounds true, which is a revelation of harmony and beauty, emphasize it and help it to flower. Strengthen it and encourage it to live. Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

“... As the Prophets beheld, as the Apostles taught, as the Church received, as the Teachers dogmatized, as the Universe agreed, as Grace illumined, as the Truth revealed, as falsehood passed away, as Wisdom presented, as Christ awarded, thus we declare, thus we assert, thus we proclaim Christ our true God and honor His saints, in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in holy icons. On the one hand, worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord; and on the other hand, honoring and venerating His saints, as true servants of the same Lord. This is the Faith of the Apostles. This is the Faith of the Fathers. This is the Faith of the Orthodox. This is the Faith which has established the Universe.” The Synodical Decree of the Seventh Ecumenical Council