

Forever Young  
Based On Holy Tradition  
Eternal Unto Christ

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church



Let us honor the Holy Barbara for, with the aid of the Cross as her weapon, she crushed the snares of the enemy, and was rescued from them like a bird.

*Apolytikion of Saint Barbara the Great Martyr*

O noble Champion, following God who is reverently praised in Trinity, you abandoned the temples of idols. Struggling amid suffering, O Barbara, you were not overwhelmed by the threats of the tyrants, O brave One, even singing aloud, "I worship the Trinity, the one Godhead."

*Kontakion of Saint Barbara the Great Martyr  
Translation by Narthex Press*



## SAINT BARBARA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we gather to celebrate the official opening of the new Saint Barbara Education Center and Church Hall it is only natural for us to reflect on the history of our community and parish. Our history is a history that spans over ninety years and celebrates the life and accomplishments of thousands of parishioners. The history goes beyond just us, it is a linking point to our Creator, Christ Himself, God. We are connected to the Logos, the Seed of the Word. As we stand here today, this milestone becomes another way to honor the faith and commitment of the early Orthodox settlers in the Greater New Haven Area. We give thanks unto Christ Himself, for the sacrifice and struggle of our forefathers and mothers, and most importantly, for the opportunity to learn from them and to continue God's work.

As members of The Great Church of Christ, we are called to be *Forever Young* in faith. Recognizing and appreciating God's Grace, given abundantly with love to us all, and the great gift of His all-encompassing Mercy and Love, we are called through faith and action to glorify Him in every moment and with every breath. Our Orthodox Faith is *Based on Holy Tradition*, granted us through the fulfillment of God's promise in Christ; handed down through the generations, by Apostolic Succession, and confession to the world through Christ's Great Commission.

As inheritors of such Truth we recognize that through God's Love we live *Eternal Unto Christ*. His Resurrection has set us free and opened the gates of Paradise and allows us to once again live with Him forever as members of the Church Triumphant.

For those of us, still a part of the Church Militant, this is the challenge that lies ahead. It is not one of complacency. It is rather one of urgency - that calls us to action in faith. The God-given gift to constantly renew is ever present through His Will. Our mission is to constantly seek His will and glorify His Holy Name. We are called to be *Forever Young* in our hearts and souls; proclaiming our faith *Based on Holy Tradition*, seeking a life *Eternal Unto Christ!*

May our Lord continue to nurture and strengthen us all. To God be the glory!

*Father Peter*

**Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church - Parish History (1895 - 1940)**

**1895**  
Christos Koutsoheris becomes the first Greek Immigrant to settle in New Haven, Connecticut. He is soon joined by Peter Proestakes in 1899 and several other Hellenes.

**1900**  
The Pan Hellenic Union is established to provide education and assistance to the new Greek Immigrants. They soon arranged for occasional pastoral visits by an Orthodox priest to celebrate the sacraments. According to the book, "Greek Immigration to the United States" there were a total of 121 Greeks living in Connecticut. That number increased to 614 in 1904.

**1910**  
The Divine Liturgy is celebrated at Crown Hall on Crown Street, New Haven by various out-of-town Orthodox clergy.

**1914-1916**  
The Divine Liturgy is celebrated regularly at the Ukrainian Church and later in the parish house of Christ Episcopal Church on Broadway Street in New Haven.

**1914-1918**  
World War I  
Young Parishioners from the Saint Barbara parish enlist in the Armed Forces to serve their new country America. As a reward for their service many receive their American citizenship.

**1922**  
The Divine Liturgy is regularly celebrated at the Saint George Syrian Orthodox Church.

**1924**



The first Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church building is purchased. It is located at 38 Beer Street, New Haven. The Community consists of 90 families, and 100 community members.

*Left: Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church on Beer Street, New Haven*

**1925**  
The first church community picnic is held.

**1926**  
New Haven Chapter of AHEPA is established with 26 charter members.



*Above: Charter members of AHEPA Chapter No. 98  
Seated: P. Pappas, A.D. Miller, T. Haritos, J. Yavis, Rev. J. Aslanides  
Standing: T. Bouzoucos, G. Zahariades, J. Jenetopoulos, T. Loukides, S. Moskos, J. Koutsopoulos, S. Anastasion*

1895

1907

1910

1921

1922

1924

1925

1940

**1906**  
Mrs. Christos (Olga) Koutsoheris, a young woman and new bride from Greece, joins her husband in the USA, and becomes the first female of Greek heritage to reside in the New Haven area.

**1907**  
The first child of Greek descent born in the area was George C. Koutsoheris on April 15, 1907



*Above: Christos Koutsoheris and his son George.*

**1917**  
The Bermata Society is established.

**1919**  
The community of Saint Barbara is officially founded.

**1920**  
The Pan-Hellenic Union formally requests a permanent priest from the Archdiocese.

**1921**  
The Ladies Society of New Haven – "The Progress" is organized. The first Greek School is established by Mrs. Olga Koutsoheris.



*Above: Charter members of "The Progress"  
Seated: E. Kiotsalides, A. Gankas, O. Koutsoheris, L. Loukides  
Standing: A. Basel, A. Kotsopoulos, E. Psathas, Unknown, E. Lazar*

**1924**  
First recorded wedding at the Saint Barbara Parish: Amelia Daniel to Kostas Klarides on September 7. (Pictured below)



**1924**  
First recorded baptisms at the Saint Barbara Parish take place on October 5. George Anastasion (Nouno – Christos Koutsoheris) and Marianthe Psathas (Nouno – Savas Anastasion) are baptized.

**1927**  
Sons of Pericles establish a local chapter.

**1929**  
Greek American Progressive Association, (G.A.P.A) is organized to preserve and cultivate the Greek language, traditions and religion.

**1930**  
Saint Barbara Sunday School and Choir are founded by Presbytera Triantafilides.

**1939**  
The Community decides to look for a new church facility to meet the growing needs of the parish. Property at 56 Dwight Street is purchased for \$10,000 on November 21, 1939.

**1940**  
The Beers Street Church was damaged by a fire on March 16, 1940 at 12:10 a.m.

## Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church - Parish History (1940 - 1986)

**1940**

Greek War Relief Association is formed two weeks after the invasion of Greece to ship food, clothing and medical supplies to Greece.

**1940-1942**

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated at Christ Church and Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in New Haven.

**1941**

Archbishop (and later Patriarch) Athenagoras presides over the Cornerstone Laying Service at the 'second' Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church on Dwight Street. The ceremony takes place on December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day)

**1949**

Formation of the Greek American Youth of Orthodoxy (GAYO); Vacation Bible School is held for the first time and Parish Boy and Girl Scout Troops are established.

**1952**

GAYO changed to GOYA this year. Archbishop Michael of North and South America visits the Community for the first time.

**1954**

Saint Barbara Junior GOYA is established.

**1955**

A local chapter of the Maids of Athena is established.

**1960**

The Nursery School and PTO are established.

**1964**

The Saint Barbara Junior Choir is established.

**1966**

Katherine Demetriou became the first female member of the Parish Council.

**1968**

The Saint Barbara Basketball teams are organized and participate in the newly formed Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League (CEOBL).

**1983**

The Building Program raises \$1,000,000 to construct a new Church at 480 Racebrook Road in Orange, Connecticut.

**1983**

The Saint Barbara Book and Icon Store is established.

**1984**

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America celebrates the ground breaking ceremony for the property at 480 Racebrook Road.

**1984**

The Saint Barbara Girls Volleyball team is established and they participate in the newly formed Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Volleyball League (CEOVL).

1940

1945

1949

1957

1960

1981

1983

1986

**1941**

AHEPA War Bond Drive is organized. AHEPA is authorized to act as agents of the United States Government, it raised over \$600,000 to purchase a bomber for Greece.

**1941-1945**

America enters World War II. Many young parishioners from the Saint Barbara community serve in the U.S. Military. One, Charles J. Pappas is killed in action.

**1943**

Consecration of the Church by Archbishop Athenagoras of North and South America on October 10.

**1944**

"The Progress" officially became the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

**1945**

Mycal Chapter #37, Daughters of Penelope was formed.



Above: Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
56 Dwight Street, New Haven

**1955**

The State of Connecticut pays tribute to Orthodox Faith and declares it one of the four major faiths.

**1957**

Voting privileges in the parish extended to women. The Church Endowment Fund is established.

**1969**

The Saint Barbara Parish 50th Anniversary Book is published. It contains a detailed history of the community complete with photographs. The parish now consists of 434 families.

**1971**

Connecticut Campaign Against Cooley's Anemia, Inc. founded.

**1974**

The Saint Barbara Cheer leading Squad is established.

**1977**

The General Assembly votes to purchase property and a residence on 7.5 acres of land, in Orange, Connecticut, for the building of a new Church edifice.

**1978**

The Saint Barbara Greek Dance Troupe is established.

**1981**

The first Odyssey: A Greek Festival is held at Lighthouse Park in New Haven. The Odyssey Dance Troupe is established.



Above: Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
480 Racebrook Road during construction

**1986**

Archbishop Iakovos celebrates the Church cornerstone laying ceremony on the Church grounds in Orange.

**1987**

First Odyssey Festival held on Church grounds in Orange.

**Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church - Parish History (1987 - 2003)**

**1987**

The "Thyraxia" or Opening Door Ceremony is celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America. The first Divine Liturgy in the newly built Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange is celebrated.

**1988**

Golden Years Club is established.

**1990**

Saint Barbara Scholarship Program is established. The Mary Alexiades Scholarship becomes the first scholarship awarded. Since its inception, the Saint Barbara Scholarship Program has awarded \$387,095 to students of the community. Currently, there are twenty-three named scholarships awarded on an annual basis.

**1996**

The Saint Barbara Web Site [www.saintbarbara.org](http://www.saintbarbara.org) is established.

**1997**

Saint Barbara JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) Group is established.

**1997**

The Saint Barbara Summer Camp is established. The program focuses on creating a healthy, safe, Orthodox learning environment for Campers and Counselors, as well as encouraging Camp Staff development on a parish-wide level on the beautiful grounds of Saint Barbara Church.

**1997**

The Saint Barbara 2000 Master Plan is approved to eliminate all debt and construct an education center, social hall and gymnasium.

*Right: Reviewing the Saint Barbara Master Plan*



**2001**

The community is highlighted in the Orthodox Observer, under the title: "Saint Barbara Maintains a Mind-Boggling Myriad of Ministries."

**2001**

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church begins Live Internet broadcasting of all Liturgical Services via the Internet, providing a wonderful opportunity for those who are unable to attend services on a regular basis an opportunity to experience the prayer cycle of the Orthodox Church. Attending the services via cyberspace continues to be used as a vehicle to enhance the participation of the faithful in both our own parish and worldwide.

1987

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1996

1997

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2001

2003

**1990**

The Saint Barbara YAL is established.

**1993**

The community of Saint Barbara purchases the adjoining former Holy Infant Convent on two south side acres.

**1994**

The Consecration of the Church is celebrated. Holy Relics of Saint Boniface, Saint Kyrikos and Saint Panteleimon are presented by Bishop Alexios on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos.

**1995**

Saint Barbara hosts the Greek Delegation to the World Special Olympics held at YALE University.

**1996**

First Edition of The Ministry, the official parish publication of the Saint Barbara Church, is published.

**1996**

The Clergy-Laity Congress is held in New York City.

**1996**

The first Saint Barbara Golf Classic is held at Laurel View Country Club.



Above: Saint Barbara Summer Camp Counselors  
Below: Saint Barbara Summer Camp Participants



**1998**

A.H.E.P.A. New Haven Chapter No. 98 hosts the Annual District Convention at Omni New Haven Hotel.

**1998**

Patriarch Bartholomew is presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from YALE University .

**2000**

The Saint Barbara Sunday School Choir is established.

**2000**

Saint Barbara Parish hosts D.A.D. YAL Convention 'Seek Out Your Soul in the CT Woods'. The Keynote Speakers are His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, and Nicholas Conostas, Professor of Patristics at Harvard Divinity School.

**2000**

Saint Barbara 2000 Fund-raising Project is deemed a success as all debt is eliminated.

**2000**

The Holy Relics of Saint Barbara are presented as a gift to the community from His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius. The relics were sent from the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Kiev, Russia.



Above: One of our first on-line parishioners in 2001

**2001**

P.A.T.C.H.E.S., our parish's pre-school ministry is established.

**2001**

The Archdiocesan District Choir Federation Christmas Concert is hosted by Saint Barbara Church.

**2003**

Archbishop Demetrios of America lectures at YALE University on "Bright Tuesday." The lecture is titled: "As Poor Yet Making Many Rich: Orthodoxy in the American Context."

**2005**

The adjoining property and residence on 3 west side acres is purchased creating a Church campus totaling 12.5 acres.

**2005**

The Parish holds a Gala with Archbishop Demetrios of America present celebrating the "Past, Present & Future of the Parish of Saint Barbara" at the Omni New Haven Hotel.

**2005**

A DVD is created celebrating the community of Saint Barbara, its history and its parishioners.

**2005**

Saint Barbara Fellowship is established.

**2006**

A section of Route 313 in Woodbridge is named after a Saint Barbara parishioner who heroically served in the United States Airforce in WWII as the co-pilot of 'The Memphis Belle', and is designated: 'Lt. Col. James A. Verinis Memorial Highway.'

**2008**

The Parish approves the Master Plan Expansion Project plan to construct an education center, social hall, cultural center and gymnasium foundation.

**2008**

The Expansion Project Ground Breaking Ceremony is held and construction begins.

**2008**

The Saint Barbara On-Line Global Bookstore is established.

2005

2006

2009

**Saint Barbara Parish Priests:**

- 1916-1919 Rev. Thomas Daniels
- 1921 Rev. Paraskeva Papatheofrastou
- 1922-1923 Rev. Michael Skopelites
- 1924 Rev. P. Manoliades
- 1924-1929 Rev. John Aslanides
- 1929-1937 Rev. Evangelos Triantafilides
- 1937-1938 Rev. John Andreades
- 1938-1939 Rev. George Nicolaidis
- 1939-1945 Rev. Christos Papachristou
- 1946-1951 Rev. James G. Christon
- 1951-1982 Rev. George H. Kerames
- 1982-1983 Rev. Mark B. Arey
- 1983-1996 Rev. William S. Kehayes
- 1996- Present Rev. Peter J. Orfanakos

**2009**

The American Bible Society publishes a Military Bible for Orthodox Christians serving in the Armed Forces. The Icons of the Saint Barbara Church are featured throughout the edition.

**2009**

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish in Ansonia, Connecticut officially merges with the Saint Barbara Community.

**2009**

The new Saint Barbara Educational Center and Saint Barbara Hall are completed. The foundation of the Saint Barbara Gymnasium has also been completed.

**2009**

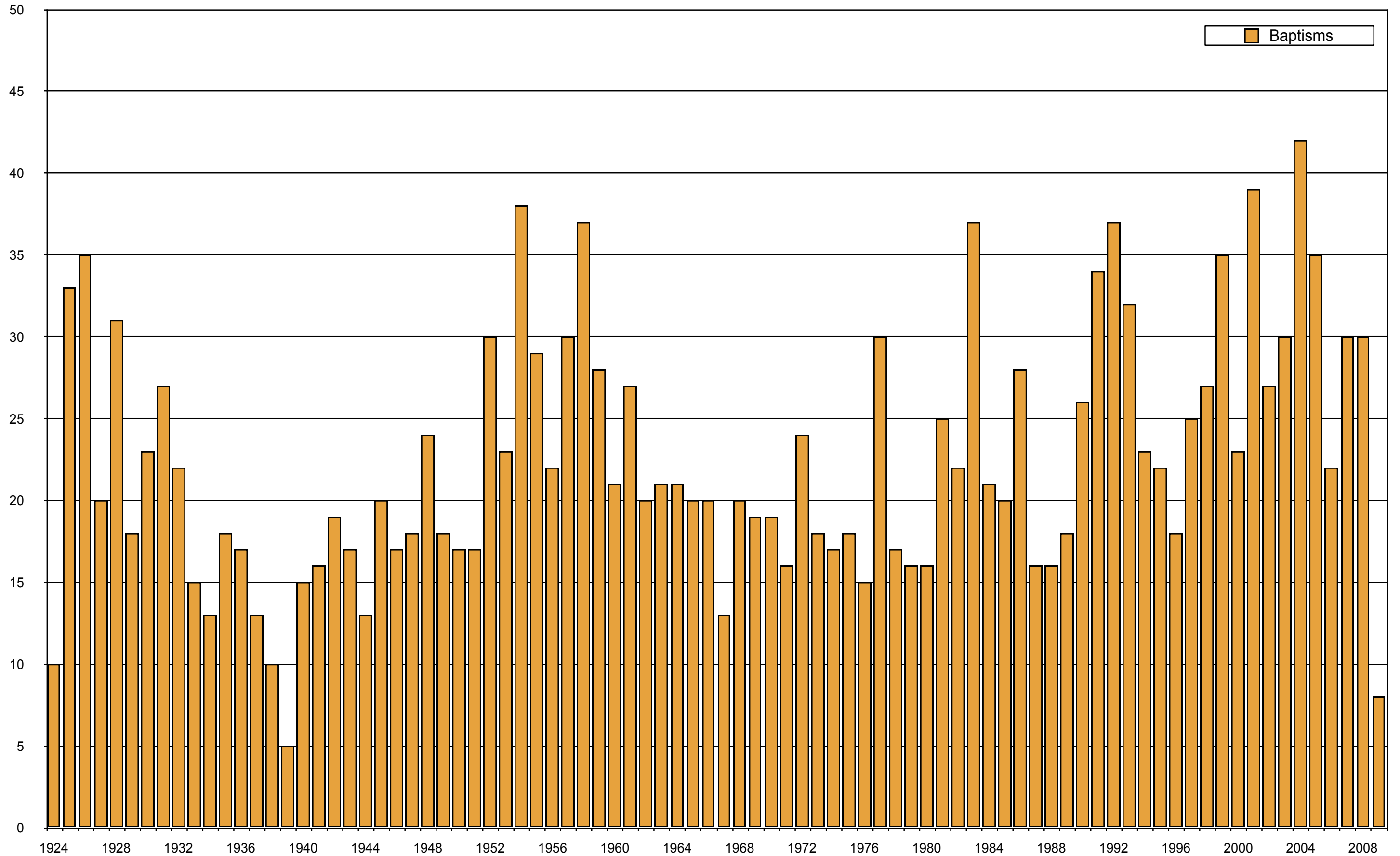
The Official Opening of the new Saint Barbara Educational Center and Saint Barbara Hall is celebrated in a ceremony officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.

*Parish Time line Compiled by:*

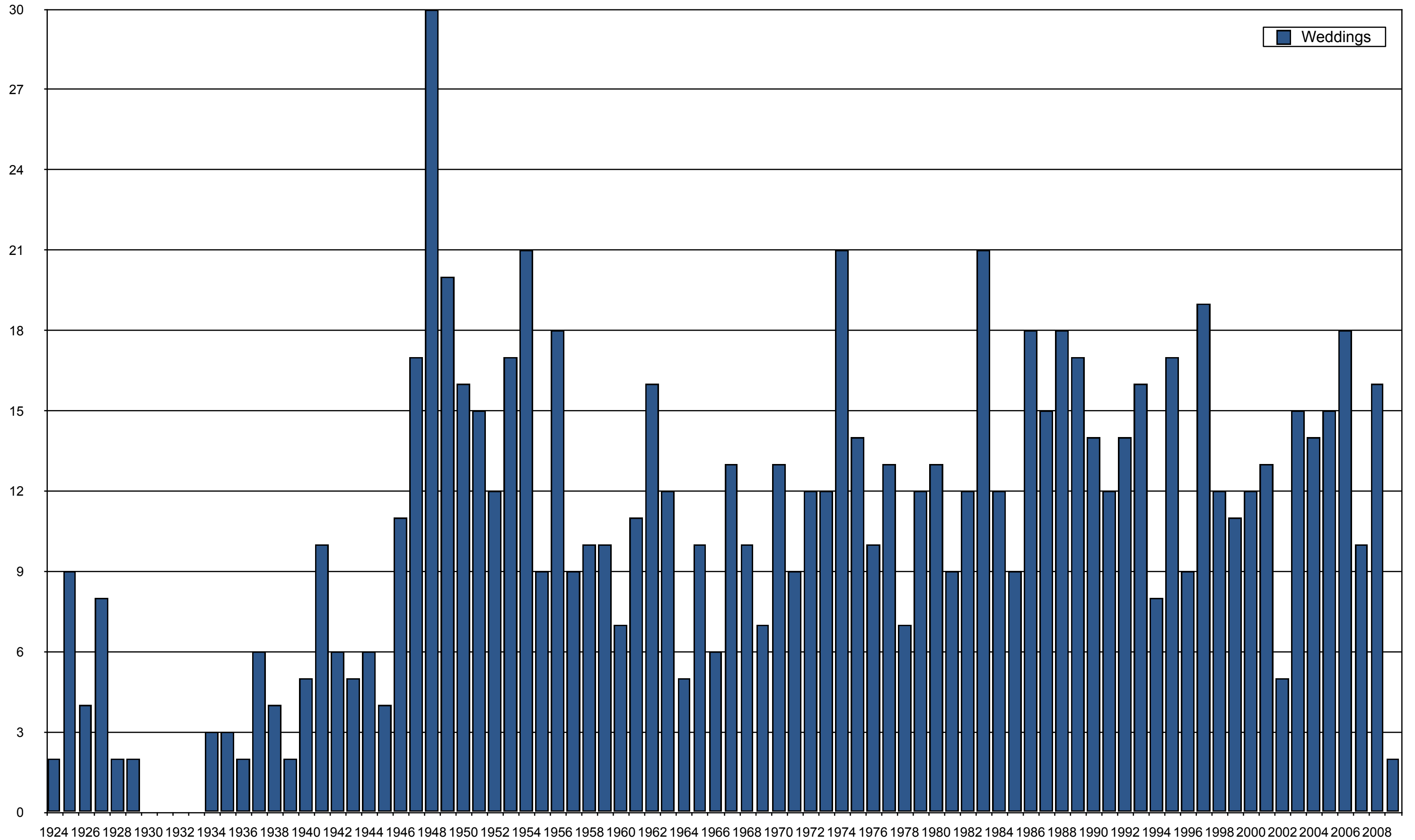
*Rev. Peter J. Orfanakos, Dorothy Guiliotis, Marie Basel, Bill Chaltas, Eftalia B. Chaltas, Theo Nicolakis, Clio Nicolakis, Gregory Stamos, Lea Loussides*

*Booklet edited by: Rev. Peter and Presbytera Vangie Orfanakos*



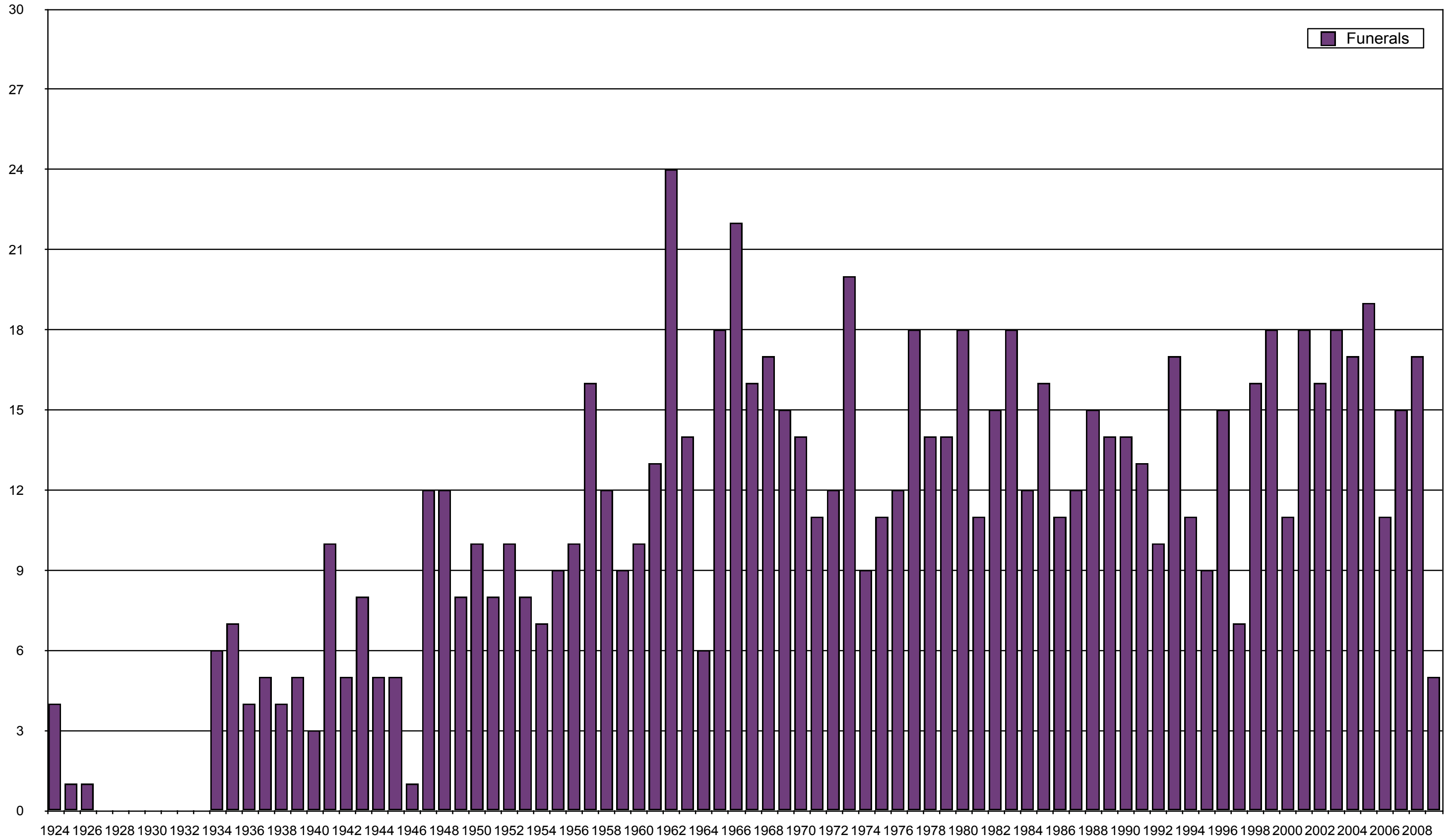


Weddings Celebrated at Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church from 1924 - May 2009





Funerals Celebrated at Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church from 1924 - May 2009





She was a lovely and delightful girl and the daughter of Dioscorus, who was a wealthy nobleman and a pagan. Barbara was exceedingly beautiful and her father always kept a close watch over her. In his zeal to protect his young daughter, Dioscorus built a magnificent tower for her to live in and to keep her safe. He spared no expense, providing her with every material luxury, the best food, clothing, servants and teachers, but forbade her to have friends and even speak to anyone without his permission.

Dioscorus's intentions were simple - he wanted to surround his daughter with the greatest comforts and attendants focused on teaching her how to worship the pagan gods. He felt that by keeping her secluded from the world, she was sure to remain a pagan worshipper. Barbara was a bright and intelligent girl who was obedient to her father's wishes and remained in the tower, without complaint, even during his frequent business trips.

One day, before leaving on one of his many business trip, Dioscorus decided to build a bathhouse for Barbara next to her tower. He drew up plans and left strict instructions for the builders to follow. Dioscorus' business however kept him away for an unusually long time, so that the workers were over half finished with the bathhouse and still there was no word on his return.

While Dioscorus was able to control her environment he was unable to prevent Barbara from exercising her acute intelligence, conformably to the image of God imprinted in every one of us. Through contemplating the reflection of God in nature, Barbara had come to the knowledge of the One God in Trinity and, turning aside from vanities, she felt in her heart a longing for Christ.

It was around this time that Barbara came down from her tower to inspect the new structure. She noticed that it only had two windows, and she instructed the builders to insert a third window so that the room would



be lit by a triple light, symbolizing the threefold light of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that enlightens everyone who comes into the world.

Remembering Dioscorus's stern instructions, the workers were afraid to deviate from the plans, but Barbara assured them that she would assume full responsibility for the change in plans. The workers, aware of the love that Dioscorus had for his only daughter, agreed and placed a third window in the bathhouse. One day, as Barbara stood by the pool facing the east she said, "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," and she miraculously drew the sign of the cross in the hardened marble wall of the bathhouse with her finger. She then returned to her tower and spent her days praying and fasting.

When Dioscorus finally arrived home he immediately noticed the additional (third) window in the bathhouse and became very angry. He entered the bathhouse, to inspect it further, and then noticed the large cross, carved on the marble wall. He became furious. He quickly went to the workers and demanded to know who gave them permission to make changes to the bathhouse? The workers, cowering in the face of such anger, replied that Barbara instructed them to add the third window and then drew the cross herself, on the marble wall with her finger.

Dioscorus immediately sought out his daughter and demanded to know why she had deviated from his strict instructions and if the inclusion of this third window had an additional meaning. Barbara responded in a very loving way to her father stating that indeed the three windows represented the three Lights which guide everyone who comes into the world (the Holy Trinity). Barbara then proceeded to explain and confess her faith in the Holy Trinity.

Upon hearing Barbara's confession of faith, Dioscorus became furious! His plan of keeping his daughter in darkness had failed! Even though she had no 'human' teacher to bring her to the knowledge of God's existence, Barbara's mind, heart and soul were opened by the grace of God to feel His presence. Secretly, she was able to meet with some Christians who told her about Christ and His teachings. Convinced of the Truth concerning Jesus, she became a Christian whose love

for God inspired all who heard of her.

Blinded by his fury, Dioscorus delivered Barbara to Marcian, the Roman prefect, to torture her until she denied Christ. Young Barbara was stripped and struck with whips and clubs until she was standing in a pool of her own blood. To increase the pain and suffering, the soldiers rubbed vinegar into her wounds. Through all this however, Barbara stood firm in her faith and would not deny Christ.

She was then thrown into a dark dungeon and ordered to return the following day. While in her cell Barbara knelt in prayer to ask God to continue to grant her the strength that she needed to remain faithful, and as she prayed her heart was filled with heavenly joy



The Icon of the Martyrdom of Saint Barbara

**The Life of Saint Barbara the Great Martyr**

The History of our Church is full of examples of individuals who dedicated their lives to God. Their stories are different and vary, yet the one thread that links them all is their Love for God. They endured whipping, stoning and other forms of torture because of their belief. Some, were even fed to lions and beheaded, yet, even when faced with this enormous pressure to deny Christ they stood firm and fearless even to death.

One such heroine, named Barbara, lived in the city of Heliopolis in the beginning of the third century.

and her wounds were completely and miraculously healed.

In a nearby cell, was another pious young lady named Juliana, who was also imprisoned because of her belief in Christ. Upon witnessing the miraculous healing of Barbara, Juliana praised God and promised to endure what ever terrible tortures that were facing her because of her faith.

The next day, Barbara was brought in front of Marcian. He was amazed to see that her wounds had healed, and demanded that she deny her faith in Christ. Her refusal angered the prefect who ordered her body to be hung on a stake and ripped with iron claws. The soldiers then burned her wounds with hot irons and beat her head with spiked clubs. Yet through it all, Barbara found consolation in prayer.

Juliana witnessed Barbara's tortures and wept bitterly over her inability to assist her. When Marcian saw this, he ordered that Juliana be brought forward and tortured in an effort to have her renounce her faith in Christ. The horrible beatings resumed and continued for several hours while the young ladies stood praying and chanting hymns. Their refusal to renounce their faith only further frustrated Marcian and he ordered that the two girls be taken out of the city and killed!

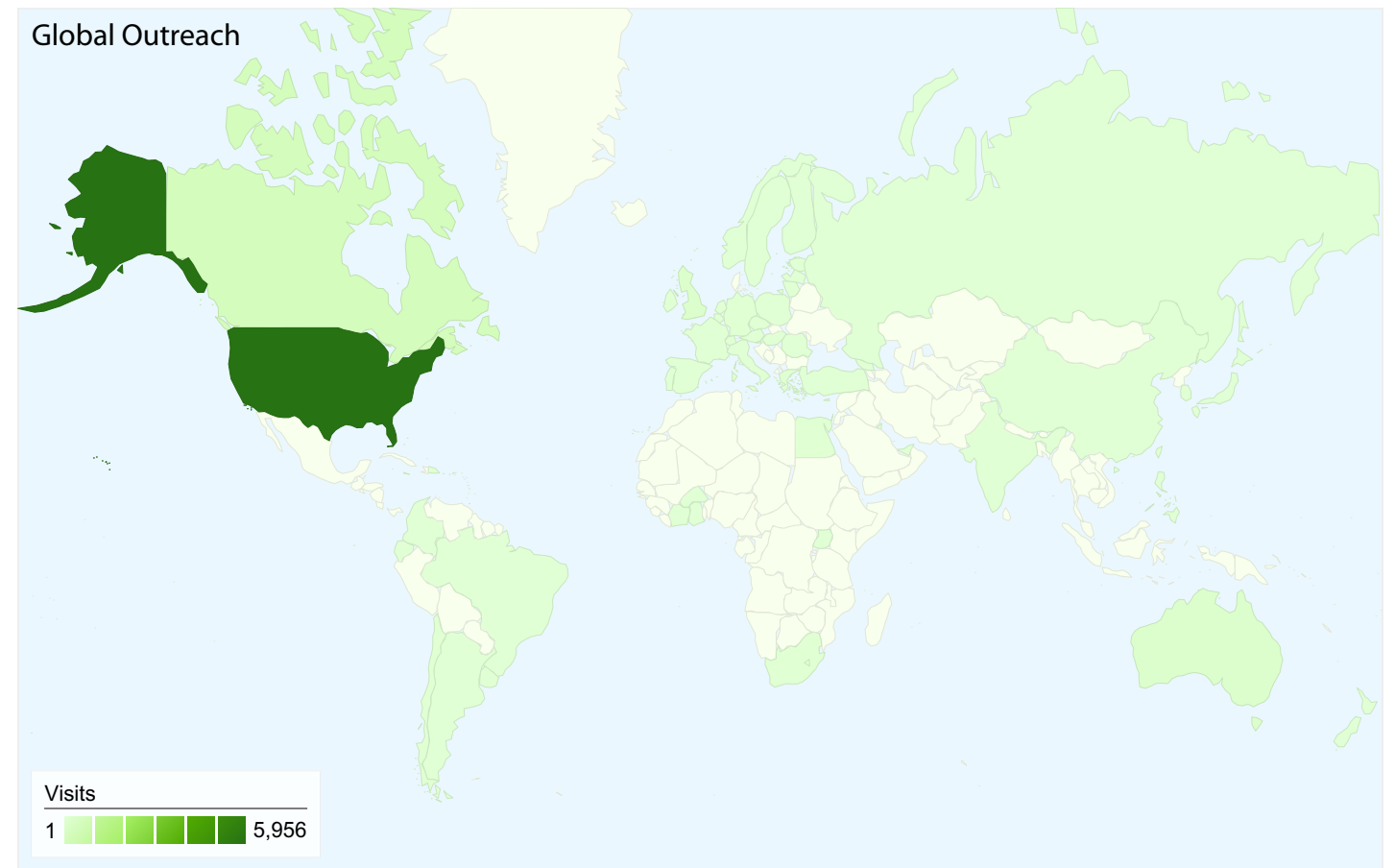
When Dioscorus, who was watching his daughter's torture, heard Marcian pronounce the sentence, he offered to execute Barbara himself with his own sword. Saint Barbara and Saint Juliana were then led out of the city to a mountainside where they were beheaded – Saint Barbara, by her father and Saint Juliana by an executioner. As the two men hurried down the mountainside, a great bolt of lightning came from heaven striking Dioscorus and killing him, another lightning bolt killed Juliana's executioner. When the cowardly Marcian heard of these events, he became so paralyzed by fear that he died of fright.

Saint Barbara gained her crown of martyrdom on December 4, 306 and joined her true Father in Heaven. Through her intercessions, O Lord, Have Mercy on Us.

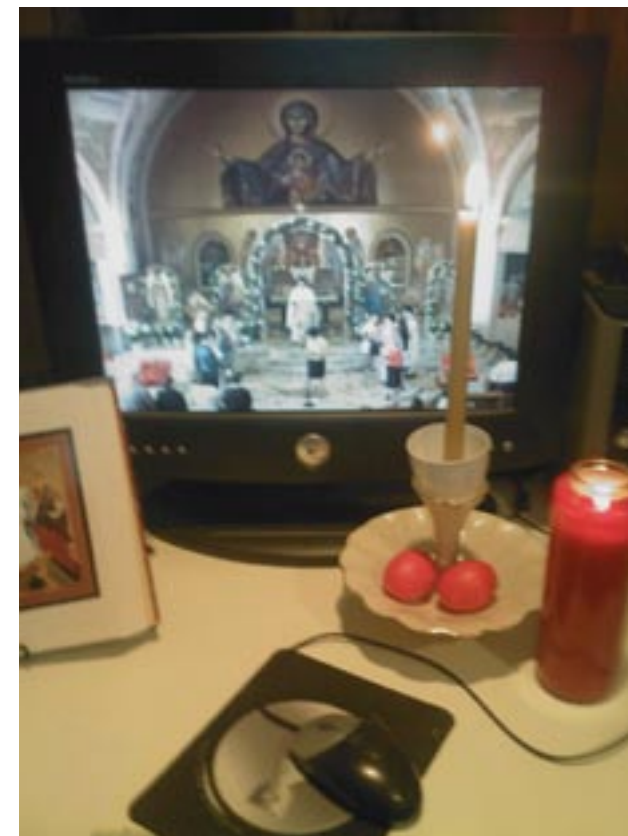


The Icon of Saint Barbara the Great Martyr

*Saint Barbara is the Patron Saint of delivery from sudden death. As such, she is known as the patron Saint of artillerymen, firefighters, policemen, military engineers, miners and all who work with explosives. She is also the beloved Patron Saint of our parish.*



**7,032 visits came from 62 countries/territories**



Above: World map shows how many households joined us in worship 'on-line' during Great and Holy Week in 2009, and the country in which they received the Gospel message via our parish web site.

**The Great Commission**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

Left: Internet Ministry - Photo of the Live Broadcast of the Agape Vespers on Pascha 2009 from Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, Connecticut, proclaiming the Gospel to all corners of the world.



NO PARKING