

SparkLight

Enlightening Monthly Updates Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church April 2020

Illumination by the Spirit is the endless end of every virtue.
Saint Symeon the New Theologian

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

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

Over the years it has united our community of faith to others from all corners of the earth. Among many e-mails that I have received, I recall one from a parish in the Outback (the remote interior of Australia) whose parishioners told me that because

of their remote location, they were only able to have a priest present for Palm Sunday. They had found our liturgical broadcast online and set up a projector and speaker system in their Church. Their family of faith praying the services of Holy Week together with our community. They struggled to find the words to describe the joy that they were able to experience as they celebrated Pascha united with our parishioners from afar.

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

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

I continue to pray that our Lord grant:

To the Saint Barbara family, safety and good health;

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

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

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

Faithfully,

Father Peter



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

My Orthodox Prayer Book

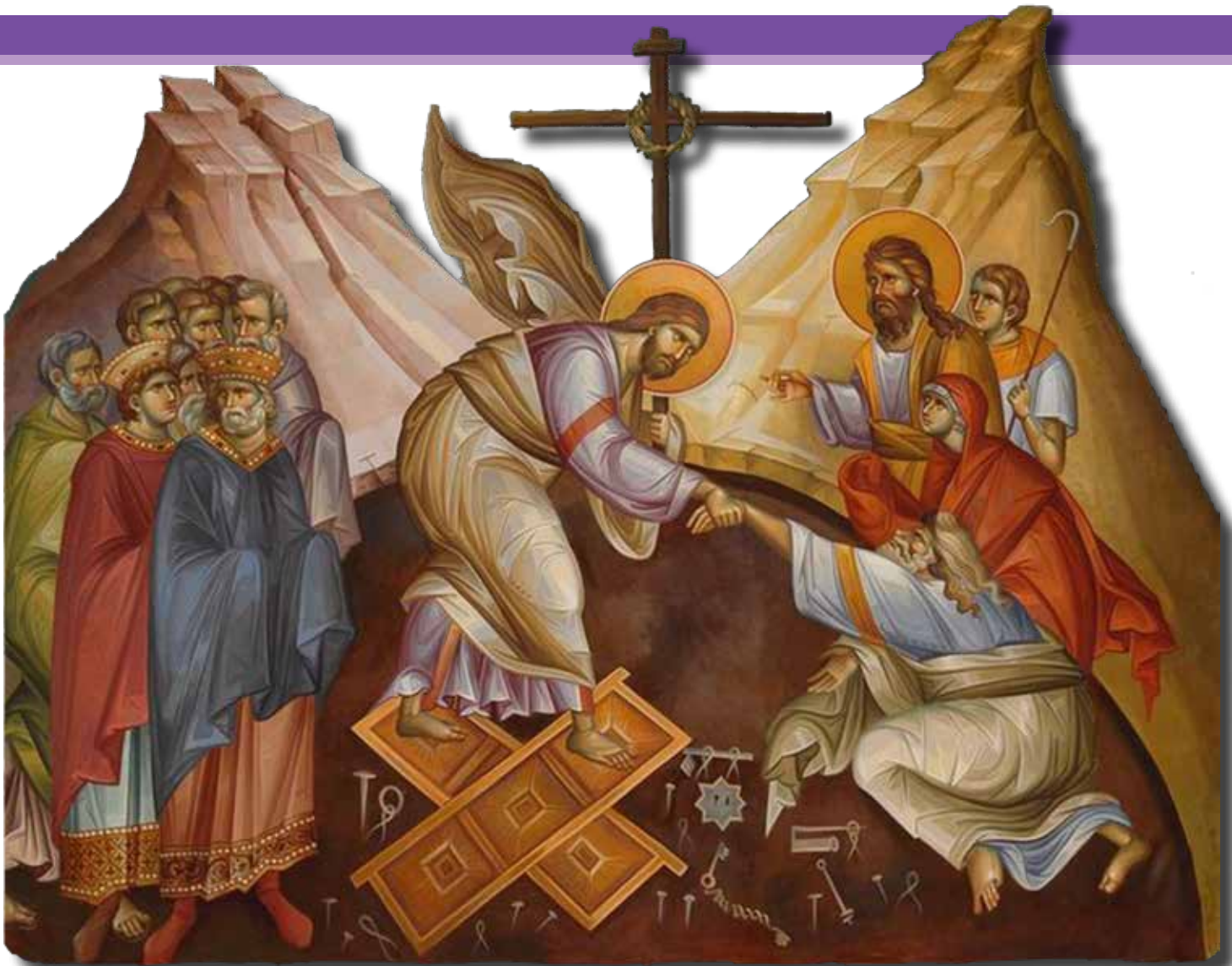
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
 Department of Religious Education



Prayer of Protection from the Coronavirus

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

O Lord who loves humanity, deliver us from the impending threat of the corona
 virus. Send Your Angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and
 recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians, and
 preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve You in peace and
 glorify Your most honorable and majestic Name, of the Father and of the Son
 and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



Presence of the Lord

May the following quote awaken God's Peace in your heart. "...If we shall not have Easter in the Church, let us remember that every contact with Christ is Easter. We receive grace in the Divine Liturgy because the Lord Jesus is present in it, He performs the sacrament and He is the One imparted to the faithful. However, when we invoke His Name, we enter the same Presence of Christ and receive the same grace. Therefore, if we are deprived of the Liturgy, we always have His Name, we are not deprived of the Lord. Moreover, we also have His word, especially His Gospel. If His word dwells continually in our heart, if we study it and pray it, if it becomes our language with which we speak to God as He spoke to us, then we shall have again the grace of the Lord. For His words are words of eternal life (John 6:68), and the same mystery is performed, we receive His grace and are sanctified.



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

Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou

Operation Food Exchange

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



The restaurant owners of our parish have always volunteered to support our events. Now, it is our turn to say "thank you". In this difficult time, when dining rooms are closed and their only income is through food

deliveries and curbside pick-ups, we decided to help these Philoptochos supporters by purchasing food from them to feed people at local soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and residents at the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut.

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

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

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

Anne Faraclas
Saint Barbara Philoptochos President



Stay Connected With The Church

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

Sign-up at the following link:

<http://www.saintbarbara.org/news-and-events/email>



Saint Barbara Scholarship Program 2020

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

The Saint Barbara Scholarship Online Application is now available on the parish website:

www.saintbarbara.org/our_parish/scholarships

Scholarship Deadline is May 30, 2020

Please note that the deadline has been extended

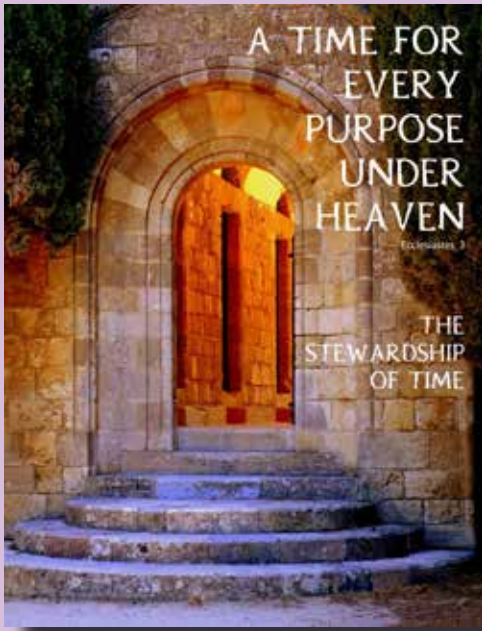
A complete listing of the available scholarships can be found on the parish's website

Holy Week and Pascha Service Schedule

Please do not come to the Church at this time. Please do pray fervently at home.

All Services: online participation only.

Saturday of Lazarus	April 11	Σαββάτο του Λαζάρου
Orthros	9:00 a.m.	Ορθρος
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.	Θεία Λειτουργία
Palm Sunday	April 12	Κυριακή των Βαΐων
Orthros	8:30 a.m.	Ορθρος
Divine Liturgy	9:45 a.m.	Θεία Λειτουργία
Service of the Bridegroom	7:00 p.m.	Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου
Holy Monday	April 13	Μεγάλη Δευτέρα
Service of the Bridegroom	7:00 p.m.	Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου
Holy Tuesday	April 14	Μεγάλη Τρίτη
Service of the Bridegroom	7:00 p.m.	Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου
Holy Wednesday	April 15	Μεγάλη Τετάρτη
Holy Unction	4:00 p.m.	Το Μυστήριο του Ευχέλαιου
Holy Thursday	April 16	Μεγάλη Πέμπτη
Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	9:00 a.m.	Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου
The Holy Passion Service	6:30 p.m.	Η Ακολουθία των Παθών
Holy Friday	April 17	Μεγάλη Παράσκευη
Royal Hours of the Passion	9:00 a.m.	Ακολουθία των Μεγάλων Ωρών
Service of the Entombment of Our Lord	3:00 p.m.	Η Αποκαθήλωσις
Lamentations at the Tomb of Christ	7:00 p.m.	Ακολουθία του Επιταφίου Θρήνου
Holy Saturday	April 18	Μέγα Σάββατο
Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	9:00 a.m.	Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου
The Paschal Vigil	11:00 p.m.	Η Πρό Αναστάσιμος Ακολουθία
The Glorious Resurrection	12:00 a.m.	Η Ανάστασις
Divine Liturgy of Pascha	12:15 a.m.	Θεία Λειτουργία του Πάσχα
Great and Holy Pascha	April 19	Κυριακή του Πάσχα
Agape Vespers	11:00 a.m.	Εσπερινός της Αγάπης



STEWARDSHIP 2020

Our Stewardship contributions are necessary to help maintain the ministries and programs of our parish. All of us have been mailed the 2020 Stewardship brochure that explains the importance of our participation from the time that we are 18 years old.

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

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

eye toward helping your church reach its Stewardship goal.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. John Agapiou
 Mrs. Bessie Agapiou
 Mr. Anthony Alessio
 Mrs. Pamela Alessio
 Mr. Nicholas Amoratis & Stacey Cascone
 Mrs. Cynthia Anasson
 Miss Nina Waskiewicz
 Miss Eleni Waskiewicz
 Mr. Charles Waskiewicz
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 Mrs. Aikaterini Anastasiou
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 Mr. George Antonellis
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 Miss Babette Basil
 Dr. Helen Bass
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 Mrs. Angela Belales
 Mr. James Benas
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 Mrs. Chrisanne Burr
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 Mrs. Avenya Buzelle
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 Mr. & Mrs. William Cambras
 Mr. Daniel Canevari
 Mrs. Petrina Canevari

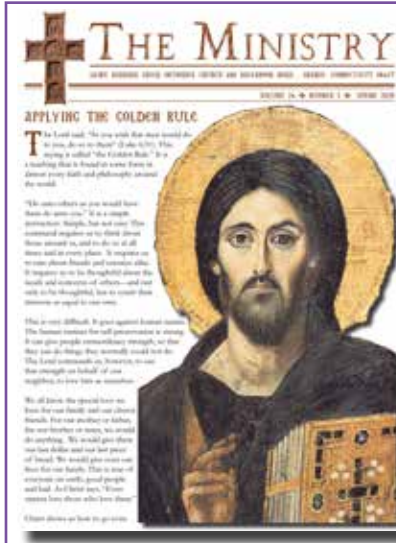
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 Mrs. Efthalia Chaltas
 Ms. Nicole Chomiak
 Mr. James Chow
 Mrs. Theodora Dogani
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 Mrs. Sofia Christakos
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 Miss Anastacia Coclin
 Miss Alexandra Coclin
 Mrs. Mary Constantinidi
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 Miss Marianthe Corradino
 Mr. Joseph Corradino
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 Mrs. Antigoni Diamantes
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 Mrs. Maria Diamantis
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 Mr. & Mrs. Al DiGrazia
 Mrs. Melissa Dinar
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Dolan
 Dr. Andreas Drakonakis
 Mrs. Jane Drakonakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Dwyer
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 Mrs. Ariel Efthymiou
 Mr. Pantelis Efthymiou
 Mrs. Renee Efthymiou
 Mr. Paul Efthymiou
 Mrs. Rachel Efthymiou
 Mr. Mark Ehrhardt
 Mrs. Maria Ehrhardt
 Dr. John Eleftheriades

Mrs. Peggy Eleftheriades
 Mr. Paris Eliopoulos
 Mrs. Virginia Eliopoulos
 Mr. Kostas Eliopoulos
 Mr. James Eliopoulos
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 Mrs. Kalliope Emmanouil
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 Mr. Stavros Gioulos
 Mrs. Christina Gioulos
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 Mrs. Roula Kallivrousis
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 Mr. Nicholas Kefalas
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 Mrs. Despina Kittleman
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 Mrs. Christina Komninakas
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 Mrs. Kiriaki Konstantinidis
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 Dr. Ann Marie Liapakis
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 Mrs. Fotini Loucopoulos
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 Mrs. Bernadette Louros
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 Mrs. George Proestakis
 Mr. Peter Proestakis
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 Mrs. Barbara Redding
 Ms. Robyn Reilly
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 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Russo
 Mr. James Sarigianis
 Mrs. Florence Sarigianis
 Rev. Steven Sarigianis
 Presvytera Electra Sarigianis
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 Mrs. Theodora Sarris
 Mrs. Catherine Sauer
 Mrs. Elizabeth Sava
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 Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Stamos
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 Ms. Angela Stavrianos
 Mr. Andrew Stavrides

Mrs. Joanna Stavrides
 Mr. J. Michael Suffredini
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 Mr. & Mrs. Giuseppe Suppa
 Dr. & Mrs. Chris Szabo
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 Mrs. Angeliki Terzakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Testo
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 Mrs. Tracy Wachter
 Mr. Herbert Wachter
 Mrs. Helen F. Wachter
 Mr. Michael Wachter
 Mrs. Helen S. Wachter
 Mr. Joseph Welsh
 Mrs. Eleni Welsh
 Mr. Roger Wheeler
 Mr. & Mrs. James Winkel
 Mr. Steven Yates
 Mrs. Helene Yates
 Mr. Alexander Yates



**The Spring
 2020 Edition of
 "The Ministry"
 is now available
 and can be accessed
 on the parish
 website:
 www.saintbarbara.org**

*Please note that it will
 not be printed and is only
 accessible online.*

New! Candle Lighting Ministry



We are currently following precautions and guidelines that prohibit us from safely entering the church building at this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

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

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

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

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

