

SAINT BARBARA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 20, 2020

Liturgy will be **OUTSIDE** this Sunday Services are still live-streaming

**Please call (805) 845-9475 to reserve a space!
We will continue to bring you all services via the
web so that we can all continue to pray together.**

To view our services on the internet, please visit

www.saintbarbara.net/live-streaming/



FEASTS CELEBRATED TODAY

On this, the 20th of December, the Sunday before the Nativity, we celebrate:

(click red links to learn more about the feast)

[Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ](#)
[Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch](#)

Our Righteous Father Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch
John the New Martyr of Thassos

[Holy Father John of Kronstadt](#)

By their holy intercessions, Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Sunday, December 20, 2020
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

*These hymns are sung after the Priest enters the Altar carrying the Gospel.
The Apolytikion for the Resurrection is sung once in Greek at the exit, and it
is repeated in English after the entrance.*

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Third Tone)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord, by His Mighty Arm, has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death, and become the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Forefeast of the Nativity

Prepare O Bethlehem, Eden is open to all. Adorn yourself O Efratha for, in the cave, the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin. Her womb has been revealed as a noetic Paradise wherein lies the divine seedling. If we partake of it we shall live, if not, then we shall die as Adam. Christ is born, restoring the once fallen image.

Apolytikion for the Holy Forefathers of Christ

Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame, the three Holy Youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the Prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions, as though they were sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Apolytikion for Saint Barbara

Let us honor Saint Barbara; for the all-modest one prevailed over the snares of the enemy, and was freed from them as a sparrow, with the Cross as aid and weapon.

Seasonal Kontakion

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to ineffably give birth, to the eternal Logos. Harkening to this, rejoice, O Universe, with the angels and shepherds glorify Him, the God before all ages, who willed to be beheld as a young child.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 - Sunday before the Nativity

❖Orthros, 9am; Divine Liturgy, 10am

MEMORIAL FOR MILEVA SUSNAR - 10 YEARS

**Thursday, December 24 - NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD
AND SAIVOUR JESUS CHRIST**

❖Royal Hours 3pm; Divine Liturgy 4pm

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 - Sunday after the Nativity / Feast
of St. Stephen**

❖Orthros, 9am; Divine Liturgy, 10am



EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.