

# SAINT BARBARA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 27, 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

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### FEASTS CELEBRATED TODAY

On this, the 27th of December, the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we celebrate:

*(click red links to learn more about the feast)*

[Afterfeast of the Nativity](#)

[Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr](#)

[Theodore the Confessor, brother of Saint Theophanes the Poet](#)

Theodore, Patriarch of Constantinople

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

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**  
**SUNDAY AFTER 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 (Fourth Tone)**

The women disciples of the Lord heard from the angel the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride they said to the Apostles, "Death is vanquished. Christ our God is risen, bestowing upon the world His great mercy."

**Apolytikion for The Nativity**

Your birth, O Christ our God, dawned the light of knowledge upon the earth. For by Your birth those who adored stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You.

**Apolytikion of Sts. Joseph, David the King, and James**

O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of God, the good news of the miracles you witnessed; you saw a virgin give birth; you worshipped with the Magi; you gave glory with the shepherds; you conferred with an angel. Beseech Christ our God to save our souls.

**Apolytikion for Saint Stephen**

For the struggles you endured for Christ God, a royal diadem crowns your head, O First Champion of Martyrs. For you refuted the folly of the Jews and beheld your Savior on the right of the Father. Ever beseech Him, therefore, for 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 bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

❖Orthros, 9am; Divine Liturgy, 10am

**Thursday, December 31 - Feast of St. Basil /  
Circumcision of Jesus**

❖9th Hour Prayers 3pm; Vesperal Divine Liturgy 4pm

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 - Sunday before Epiphany**

❖Orthros, 9am; Divine Liturgy, 10am

**MEMORIAL FOR ROSALIE FORINASH**



## EPISTLE READING

**Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60**

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and

from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child.

"But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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## GOSPEL READING

### Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

