

The 4th Day of December



Commemoration of the Holy Greatmartyr Barbara; and our Venerable Father John of Damascus.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera

3 stichera of Greatmartyr Barbara, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Down from the tree....”*

When Juliania the blessed, beheld in the arena /
The glorious martyr Barbara /
Scourged by the whip, her body torn and covered with wounds, /
With fervent tears she cried aloud: /
O Lover of mankind and Word of God, ///
Grant that I too may be worthy to share in her suffering!

The holy Barbara and Juliania /
Were truly united in a single pious desire: /
They struggled against and defeated the enemy, /
And were vouchsafed glory from Christ-God. /
Having cleansed themselves from the scourge of passions ///
They now bestow swift healing to the faithful.

When death mercifully approached thee, O martyr Barbara /
Thou didst eagerly complete thy course, rejoicing, /
And the wicked hands of thine impious father slew thee; /
Thus thou wast made a first-fruit offering to God. /
And being now united to the choir of the wise virgins in heaven ///
Thou dost behold the radiant glory of thy Bridegroom, Christ.

And 3 stichera of Venerable John of Damascus, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

O most wise father John, /
Thou hast truly adorned the Church with thy hymnography, /
Sweetly singing of things divine, O glorious one, /
Striking thy harp in emulation of David, the singer of psalms, /
By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, ///
Brining us all together by thy sacred melodies.

O most-glorious father John, /
Having left behind the tumult of this world /
Thou didst hasten to tranquil stillness of Christ. /

Where, thou wast truly enriched, O ven'rable one /
Through divine visions and actions /
Which thou didst impart to the faithful, ///
Through thy God-pleasing life, O blessed one.

Come, O ye faithful, /
And with pious songs let us praise today /
The sacred and hon'rabe memory of our father John, /
For truly, he was accounted worthy to receive the Light from above. /
O, Thine ineffable compassion, O Lord, ///
Through which we have come to know how to glorify Thee, O good One

Glory..., of the Greatmartyr Barbara, in Tone 6:

Forsaking thy homeland, birthright and possessions, /
And renouncing thy pagan father, /
Thou didst come to love God and betrothed thyself to Him, /
Like the merchant finding the pearl of great price, O Barbara. ///
Beseech Him now that He may save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion: *To the melody, "On the third day...."*

When the Virgin, Thy Pure Mother, /
Beheld Thee unjustly nailed to the Tree by lawless men /
Her womb, O Savior was wounded, ///
As Symeon had foretold.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The Aposticha from the Octoechos.

Glory..., of Venerable John, in Tone 6:

O venerable father John, /
Thine instructions have gone out into all the earth; /
Destroying the legions of demons; /
By this thou hast found the reward of thy labors in heaven; /
And attained to the ranks of the angels, /
Whose life thou didst blamelessly emulate. /
And having great boldness before Christ God ///
Entreat Him that peace be granted to our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

GREATMARTYR BARBARA; AND OUR VENERABLE
FATHER JOHN OF DAMASCUS

Beholding Thee crucified, O Christ /
She who gave Thee birth cried out to Thee: /
“What is this strange mystery I see, my Son? /
How, being hung in the flesh, the Giver of Life, ///
Dost Thou die on the Tree?”

The Troparion of the Greatmartyr Barbara, in Tone 8:

Let us honor Saint Barbara, for she destroyed the snares of the enemy /
And like a bird, she was delivered from them ///
With the aid and proteciton of the All-precious Cross.

Glory..., the Troparion to the Venerable John, in the same Tone:

As an instructor of Orthodoxy, a teacher of piety and purity, /
A lamp of the universe, and divinely-inspired enrichment of hierarchs, /
O most-wise father John, by thy teachings thou didst enlighten all ///
O spirit-filled voice, beseech Christ God to save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion.

Matins

— incomplete as of 10/31/2016

After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Saint John, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “When the women disciples”*

Come, O ye faithful, and let us honor John, worthy of all praise, /
The composer of hymns, the star and teacher of the universal Church, /
And the defender of her doctrines. /
Vanquishing heretical errors through the power of the Cross of the Lord. /
And as a fervent intercessor before Him /
He entreats Christ God to grant us all ///
The remission of our sins.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Saint Barbara, in Tone 4: *To the same melody.*

O holy martyr Barbara /
Thou didst follow Him who is piously praised in Trinity. /
And thou didst abandon the worship of idols /
And didst not shrink from the threats of the tyrants and for this suffered in the arena, ///
Where, with great courage thou didst cry: I worship One God, the Trinity.