

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*To foster the spiritual maturity of the Orthodox Christian faithful of St. John the Baptist and reach out to inquirers, the unchurched and inactive Orthodox on the west side of metropolitan Portland through worship, the sacramental life, education, philanthropy, hospitality, fellowship and the practice of Christian Stewardship, thereby serving as an instrument in the growth and expansion of the Orthodox Christian Church.*

Please bring your **Holy Water Bottles** back to Church. Take them to the Church office or leave them in the appointed place in the Narthex. They will be washed, filled with water, blessed at the Great Blessing of the Waters and re-distributed at Theophany and during house blessing season.

### BLESSING OF THE HOMES

After January 6, the Feast of Theophany, Fr. Theodore and Fr. Timothy will begin blessing the homes of our Parishioners as well as businesses.

Our annual **Basics of Orthodoxy Classes** begin Wednesday, Jan. 11th at 7:00 p.m. Check the full schedule on the bulletin board and online. Each class in this 14-part introductory series is free and open to the public. Come for one or attend an entire season to learn about Orthodoxy for the first time or refresh your knowledge.

**Portland Walk for Life 2017**, Sunday Jan. 15th – You're invited to peacefully rally for life and against abortion with Portland-area Orthodox Christians. The Walk for Life will take place after the 12:30 p.m. Pan Orthodox Blessing of the Willamette River. Meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Oregon Convention

**How to Present the Orthodox Faith:** a free seminar sponsored by the Missions & Evangelism Committee. Jan 26, 27 (7pm), Jan 28 (9am, 12:30pm). An experienced missionary Priest – Fr. Russell Radoicich, pastor of Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte, Montana – will be our speaker. Fr. Russell will teach us how he has been successful in bringing many to Orthodoxy through his efforts in Montana.

Each lecture is a “building block” for the whole picture, so, you won't want to miss any of them.

**Topics:** Eastern vs Western Mindset, The Theotokos, The Scriptures, and Morality and Spirituality. Questions? See Patrick or Eli.

Center (777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd) and look for the “Orthodox Christians for Life” banner.

**The 2017 Chili Cook-Off** is Sunday, Feb. 12th. Save the date, review guidelines and register as a contestant at [stjohnnoc.org](http://stjohnnoc.org). Deadline to register as a contestant is Feb. 1st. \$15/person and \$50/family. Tickets available online or at the door.

**Holy Trinity Talent Show** is Saturday, Feb. 4th at 6pm in the Large Hall and they are *‘looking for talent’!* singers, dancers, comics, actors, musicians, etc. Please register by Sunday, Jan. 29th.

**Welcome Visitors!** All non-Orthodox visitors to our parish are welcome and may receive the blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. To receive Holy Communion, you must be baptized and confirmed in the Orthodox Church. You must also have prepared under the spiritual direction of your Father Confessor, which presumes participation in the Sacrament of Confession. Before approaching the Communion Chalice, we should not have any foreign matter in or on our mouths; this includes food, gum, lipstick, etc. Please come up the middle aisle with reverence and humility. When receiving, please place the cloth under your chin, wipe your mouth and then hand the cloth to the next person.



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Bringing Orthodox Christianity to the Portland Westside and Beaverton Area

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA \* METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Witnessing  
the Truth  
of Apostolic  
Christianity

Rev. Fr. Theodore Dorrance  
Rev. Fr. Timothy Pavlatos  
Dcn. Innocent Duchow-Pressley

14485 SW WALKER ROAD  
BEAVERTON, OREGON 97006  
503.644.7444 FAX: 503.296.2507  
[churchoffice@stjohnnoc.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnnoc.org)

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT [STJOHNGOC.ORG](http://STJOHNGOC.ORG)

# THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, BASIL THE GREAT

### THIRD MODE/6TH MORNING GOSPEL

#### JANUARY 1, 2017

Since the Mosaic Law commands that if a woman give birth to a male child, he should be circumcised in the foreskin of his flesh on the eighth day (Lev. 12:2-3), on this, the eighth day from His Nativity, our Saviour accepted the circumcision commanded by the Law. According to the command of the Angel, He received the Name which is above every name: JESUS, which means “Saviour.”

**Saint Basil the Great** was born in 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emmelia. His mother (commemorated July 19) and his grandmother Macrina (Jan. 14) are Saints of the Church, together with four of his nine brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (Jan. to), Peter of Sebastia (Jan. 9), and Naucratius. Basil studied in Constantinople, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called “the Theologian.” Through the good influence of his sister Macrina (see July 19), he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies. His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexaemeron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honoured as “the revealer of heavenly things” and “the Great.” He was a fierce defender against Arianism and a provider for orphans and the sick. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labours, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

PC: -Mirras/Poulos G: Benson Altar Servers Team A: Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Basil, Wade, Owen, Simon  
**All Parish Clean-Up Today.**

## SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

### Hymn of the Feast of the Lord's Circumcision (1st Mode):

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

### Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (3rd Mode):

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death. And first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

### Repeat Hymn of the Feast

### Hymn of St. Basil (1st Mode):

Thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hast adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

### Hymn of St. John the Baptist (2nd Mode):

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since thou wast granted to baptize in the stream Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting to us great mercy.

### Kontakion of the Feast (3rd Mode/On this day the Virgin):

Now the Lord of all that is \* doth undergo circumcision, \* in His goodness cutting off \* the sins and failings of mortals. \* He this day doth give salvation \* unto the whole world; \* and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator \* now rejoiceth in the highest, \* Basil the wise and \* divine initiate of Christ.

### EPISTLE READING: Colossians 2:8-12 (St. Basil the Great):

**Brethren**, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

### GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 (Feast of the Circumcision):

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled

with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did

not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1ST

Sunday, January 1st	<b>The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> <b>St. Basil the Great</b> <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy &amp; Vasilopita</b> 8:45 AM <b>No Sunday School/Theology 101 -- All Parish Clean-up</b>
Monday, January 2nd	New Year's Day Observed <b>Church Office Closed</b>
Tuesday, January 3rd	Bible Study 9:30 AM Strategic Planning Meeting 7:00 PM
Wednesday, January 4th	Choir Practice 7:00 PM
Thursday, January 5th	<b>Forefeast of Theophany</b> Strict Fast <b>Royal Hours</b> 8:30 AM <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</b> 5:30 PM with Blessing of the Waters, followed by Festal potluck
Friday, January 6th	<b>Holy Theophany</b> Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study 10:30 AM Great Vespers & Artoklasia for St. John the Baptist 7:00 PM
Saturday, January 7th	<b>Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</b> <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</b> 9:00 AM followed by lunch Great Vespers 5:00 PM
Sunday, January 8th	<b>Sunday After Theophany</b> Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM Sunday School/Theology 101 12:15 PM

**Parish Feast Day!** Our Parish Feast Day has changed from August 29th to January 7th by the wish of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. This year we will have Great Vespers for our patronal feast on Friday, January 6th at 7 pm with an Artoklasia and a light reception. On Saturday, January 7th, we will have Orthros, Divine Liturgy and a Luncheon starting at 9:00 am. Please make every effort to honor our beloved patron Saint John the Baptist through your presence and participation.

**Observing the Feast** - remember, there is no fasting December 25th through January 4th in observance of the Nativity of Christ! January 5th, however, is a strict fast day in preparation for Theophany.