

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.

Portland Walk for Life 2017, Sunday Jan. 15th. You're invited to a peaceful rally for life and against abortion with Portland-area Orthodox Christians. *The Walk for Life* will take place after the 12:30 pm Pan Orthodox Blessing of the Willamette River. Meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Oregon Convention 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 stjohngoc.org. Deadline to register as a contestant is Feb. 1st. \$15/person and \$50/family. Tickets available online or at the door.

Strategic Planning Parishioner Workshop Scheduled for Saturday Feb. 25, 2017

Your Strategic Planning Committee is excited to announce that a Parishioner Workshop has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 at St. John the Baptist. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE. Ministry heads and all St John Parishioners over the age of 18 are invited to participate in the workshop!

While a final time frame is yet to be finalized, it has tentatively been set as being held from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Refreshments and lunch to be provided. It will be a highly interactive, participatory workshop to obtain additional parishioner input on the current "state of the parish" and your hopes and dreams for its future. While the final agenda for the workshop is not yet completed, we can say that the workshop will include:

*Small and larger group discussion. Participation by attendees will be essential! Your chance to be heard and help us brainstorm.

*A 'SWOT' exercise that provides a proven method for all workshop participants to help identify the Parish's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and what they mean for the future. The Strategic Plan we are developing is a plan to build the future we wish to see for the Parish.

Summary of the "Homegrown" Parish Survey Results To Be Posted on the SJB Website in Jan., 2017

The Strategic Planning Committee is finalizing summaries of the results of the Parish wide survey completed this past Fall. The summaries will include both the many positive strengths of the parish that were identified and the areas for further discussion and improvement that were identified. The summaries will provide good background and "food for thought" in preparation for the February Parish Workshop. An upcoming e-blast from Fr Theodore will alert everyone when a link to the survey summaries is posted on the Parish website later this month.

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

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VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT STJOHNGOC.ORG

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY RIGHTEOUS FATHER GEORGE THE CHOZEBITE RIGHTEOUS MOTHER DOMINICA OF CONSTANTINOPLE

FOURTH MODE/7TH MORNING GOSPEL

JANUARY 8, 2017

St. George, the Chozebite was born on the island of Cyprus toward the end of the sixth century. After the death of his parents, he went to Palestine to worship at the holy places. Here he entered into the monastic community of Chozeba between the River Jordan and Jerusalem, and he later became head of this monastery. Saint George presented the monks example in fasting, vigil and physical efforts. Having lived as an angel upon the earth, he died in peace.

St. Domnica came from Carthage to Constantinople in the time of the holy Emperor Theodosius the Great. Here she was baptized by Patriarch Nectarius and entered a women's monastery. Through strict and prolonged ascetic effort she attained to high spiritual perfection. The saint healed the sick, demonstrated power over the natural elements, and predicted the future. By her miracles the saint moved inhabitants of the capital towards concerns about life eternal and the soul. Adorned by virtues, the saint departed this life a spotless virgin in her old age.

How to Present the Orthodox Faith: a free seminar sponsored by the Missions & Evangelism Committee. Jan 26th, 27th (7pm), Jan 28th (9am, 12:30pm). An experienced missionary Priest – Fr. Russell Radoicich, pastor of Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte, MO – 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.

PC: -Chosvig/Keese G: Blankenstein Altar Servers Team B: Anthony, Christos, Stathi, Nicholas S., Makarios, Nicholas D.
Clean-up Team 1: Becker, Armstrong, Benson, Lowe, Whitton, Marine, Leslie, Mirras, Maletis

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Hymn of Theophany (1st Mode):

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (4th Mode):

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world His great mercy.

Repeat the Hymn of Theophany

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 Theophany (4th Mode/Original Melody):

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast come, * Thou hast appeared, * O Thou Light unapproachable.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday after Theophany):

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday after Theophany):

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8TH

Sunday, January 8th

Sunday After Theophany

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Sunday School/Theology 101

Chili Cook-off Planning Meeting

8:45 AM

12: 15 PM

1:00 PM

Monday, January 9th

House Blessings begin

Young Adults at the Dorrance Home

ASA Winter Performance

6:00 PM

6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 10th

Bible Study

9:30 AM

Wednesday, January 11th

Choir Practice

Basics of Orthodoxy: Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity

Strategic Planning Workshop Meeting

7:00 PM

7:00 PM

7:00 PM

Thursday, January 12th

Sts. Mary & Martha Service Night at the OFB

6:30 PM

Friday, January 13th

Sts. Mary & Martha Board Meeting

Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

Saturday, January 14th

Philoptochos Planning Meeting

Great Vespers

Jr. GOYA Fireside Chat at the Ketrenos Home

9:00 AM

5:00 PM

6:00 PM

Sunday, January 15th

12th Sunday of Luke

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Outdoor Blessing of the Waters

8:45 AM

12:30 PM

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

Fr. Theodore and Fr. Timothy have begun blessing the homes

of our Parishioners, as well as businesses.

What should you expect in terms of the House Blessing? Father offers a short prayer service at your home altar and then proceeds through the home sprinkling it with holy water, while chanting the Dismissal Hymn of Theophany.

What should you have ready? Have your home altar/icon corner ready and accessible, a bowl of water, a bunch of fresh basil tied at the stem for Father to use in sprinkling Holy water, a candle, charcoal and incense (if you have an incense burner). If you have new Holy water bottle at Church, please have that handy too. Father will pick up Holy water bottles from years past.

- Blessings will begin after our Feast Day, and will continue until the beginning of Great Lent.
- Please do not offer the Priests any money. They will not accept it. House blessings are part of our membership in the Church.
- We will make an effort to schedule several house blessings in one area or neighborhood on the same day - so we will contact you when we know what day we will be in each neighborhood. You may also contact the Church office at 503-644-7444, for questions about scheduling your house blessing.

Young Adults- DINNER, DISCUSSION, and PRAYER Tomorrow Jan. 9th at 6:30 pm. We will discuss: Repentance and Confession by Hieromonk Gregorios, with Fr. Theodore, at the Dorrance home. Please bring \$5 to help cover food costs and a drink to share. RSVP to Beth Carper at youthdirector@stjohngoc.org.

Basics of Orthodoxy Classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 11th at 7:00 pm. 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.