

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.

Strategic Plan Workshop Postponed: The Parish Strategic Planning workshop, scheduled for February 25, 2017, has been POSTPONED. Due to recent weather-related meeting cancellations, the Strategic Planning committee lost valuable time necessary to ensure necessary workshop preparations and a successful workshop outcome. The workshop will be rescheduled to a date after Pascha. More information in the February Newsletter.

Basics of Orthodoxy Classes: 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.

Chili Cook-Off-----

Young Adults- DINNER, DISCUSSION, and PRAYER on Monday Feb. 13th at 6:30pm - We'll be discussing 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@stjohnnoc.org.

OCMC Missionary to Guatemala, Jesse Brandow will be giving a talk with a slide presentation on Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6pm after Great Vespers. Jesse has served as a Missionary to Guatemala for the past 2 years and is a graduate of St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary and doing wonderful work in Guatemala.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY MARCH 4th: The women of Philoptochos are organizing the first ever Parish-wide Service Day *'March Forth to Serve'*. A variety of service opportunities will be available from which to choose for most all members of our parish family to reach out in love to our local community. This loving use of our time and talents will be a beautiful way to begin our Lenten Journey. Watch for more details to come. Direct questions to either Lisa Corazza or Jennifer Davis. May it be Blessed!

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

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT STJOHNGOC.ORG

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR AGATHA OF SICILY

PLAGAL FOURTH MODE/11TH MORNING GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

On the **Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee** the parable we read from the Gospel of Luke contrasts the tax collector (the Publican), who is known to be a sinner and a thief, and the Pharisee, who is reputed to be religious and should be a spiritual leader of the people and a representative of God. Both men enter the Temple; however, the Pharisee seeks to justify himself before God and judges the Publican. He leaves the Temple, but is not justified before God. The Publican, on the other hand, stays in the back, confesses his sinfulness to God and beseeches Him for mercy. He, unlike the Pharisee, leaves the Temple justified before God on account of his humility. This parable reminds us that without humility, we cannot draw near to God, for humility, being the opposite of man's first sin of pride, is the very foundation of godliness. Great Lent, if it is to be truly an intensified period of repentance and bring us closer to God, must be approached with humility. For this reason, during the week following we do not fast on Wednesday and Friday in order to remind us to avoid falling into pride over our ascetic endeavors. Instead we should remember that fasting and prayer are tools to lead us to Christ when practiced with humility.

Agatha, the Martyr, who was from Panormus (that is, Palermo) or perhaps Catania of Sicily, was a most comely and chaste virgin. After many exceedingly harsh torments, she gave up her spirit in prison at Catania in 251, because she did not consent to the seductions of Quintian, the Governor of Sicily. At her burial, an Angel placed a stone tablet on her grave inscribed with the words, "A righteous mind, self-determining, honor from God, the deliverance of her father-land." The following year this was fulfilled when Mount Etna erupted, spewing forth violent fire from which Catania was manifestly saved by Saint Agatha's prayers. The holy Martyr Agatha, the protectress and chief patroness of Sicily, is, with perhaps the exception of Saint Agnes of Rome, the most highly venerated Virgin Martyr of the West. Saint Damasus, Pope of Rome, and Saint Ambrose of Milan both wrote in praise of her.

PC: Walsh/Taylor G: Goldman Altar Servers Team A: Samuel, Zacharias, Nathan, Elias, Gavin, Tasso
Clean up Team 5: Walsh, Daniels, Hudanish T, Keese, Chan Olson, Ntatsos, Kolpakov, Clary

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Hymn of the Meeting of the Lord (Plagal 4th Mode):

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (Plagal 4th Mode):

From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord; for us did You endure, three days in the tomb, that we may be released from passions in this world, You Who are our resurrection and our life: Glory unto You, O Lord.

Ex ipsus katilthes, o Efsplagnos. Tafin katethexo triimeros, ina imas eleftherosis ton pathon. I zoi ke i anastasis imon, Kirie, thoxa Si.

Repeat Hymn of the Feast

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 Meeting of the Lord (1st Mode):

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Symeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only Friend of man.

EPISTLE READING: II Timothy 3:10-15 (33rd Sunday):

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 18:10-14 (Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee):

The Lord said this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5TH

Sunday, February 5th	Triodion begins Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM Sunday School/Theology 101 12:15 PM Chili Cook-Off Planning Meeting 1:00 PM
Tuesday, February 7th	No fasting all week Bible Study 9:30 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy 5:30 PM followed by Festal Potluck-All foods permitted
Wednesday, February 8th	St. Theodore, the Great Basics of Orthodoxy Class-Orthodox Spirituality I 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM
Thursday, February 9th	ASA Family Heritage Night 6:00 PM
Friday, February 10th	Sts. Mary & Martha Board Meeting 9:00 AM Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study 10:30 AM PC Appreciation Dinner 6:00 PM
Saturday, February 11th	Chili Cook-Off Brownie and Cornbread Baking Day 8:00 AM Sunday School Teachers Seminar 2:30 PM 40 day Memorial for Jimmy Makarounis 4:45 PM & Memorial for Christ and Adele Makarounis Great Vespers 5:00 PM JOY 6:00 PM
Sunday, February 12th	Sunday of the Prodigal Son Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM Sunday School/Theology 101 12:15 PM Chili Cook-Off 5:00 PM