

# 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.*

**LOST AND FOUND IS BRIMMING!** The lost and found is located in the NFH and it is brimming with lots of items: boots, jackets, etc. If you are missing something, please retrieve it!

**Basics of Orthodoxy Classes:** The full schedule is on the bulletin board and online. The classes are free and open to the public. Learn about Orthodoxy for the first time or refresh your knowledge.

**Stewardship Cards:** If you haven't turned in your 2017 Stewardship card, please turn it in ASAP. If you need a blank card, see Erik Chosvig or pick one up on the visitors table located in the SFH. You may place your card in the offering basket or turn in at the Church Office.

**You are warmly invited to attend our Crossroads Lenten Potluck** tomorrow from 11am-1pm. We are honored to welcome Fr. Theodore who will be speaking to us about Lent. Please call Helen Stinman, if you need a ride.

**Men's Breakfast** and Spiritually led discussion Saturday, Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30am. Open to all men. No RSVP needed. Please bring \$5 to help with the cost of food.

**Looking for a great preschool for your little one? Consider ASA!** Enroll now for the 2017-18 school year! (Apply by Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> for 1st round consideration) Visit [www.asapdx.org](http://www.asapdx.org) for an application today or to schedule a tour.

**JOY Youth Group:** Please join us at the Oregon Food Bank on Thursday Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30pm to volunteer our time to help others in need. Please have all participants register individually for this shift. You may bring other family members and friends - recommended for ages 6 and up! Contact Katherine Braden for registration link and for questions.

**CALLING ALL KIDS!** For **The Holy Friday Youth Retreat** on Friday, Apr. 14, 2017 at 10:45am-2:45pm. It's a fun-filled day! Lunch, activities, and fellowship. A registration table during coffee hour on the following Sundays: Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>. Palm Sunday will be the last day to register! Do not miss out on the amazing opportunity to prepare for Pascha! For more information, please contact Athena Gonzales at [athenacontes@hotmail.com](mailto:athenacontes@hotmail.com). Thank you!

**SAVE THE DATE: Women's Monastery Retreat** sponsored by Sts. Mary & Martha Philoptochos on Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Please email: [nika.buckley2014@gmail.com](mailto:nika.buckley2014@gmail.com) to sign up so she can save your space. Look forward to a beautiful time of fellowship with one another and the nuns!

**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

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## SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS CHEESE-FARE SUNDAY ST. PORPHYRIOS OF GAZA & GREAT MARTYR PHOTINI

THIRD MODE/3RD MORNING GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

This Sunday is called **Cheese-Fare Sunday**, because it is the last day that we may eat dairy products. Tomorrow we begin the Great Lenten Fast, which lasts until after the Paschal Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday night. It is important for each of us who are in good health and old enough to understand the purpose of fasting to be obedient to the guidelines our Church gives to us. Fasting is a necessary ingredient to the Christian life if we desire to be pure and truly become followers of Jesus Christ. Unless we learn to direct our appetites toward God and not seek always to immediately satisfy ourselves, we cannot be healed and experience freedom from our sins and passions.

Today is also referred to as **Forgiveness Sunday**. A basic truth of Christ's teaching is that access to Him is closed if we are not willing to forgive our neighbor. Today's Gospel Reading makes this clear: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." With this in mind, the Church seeks to remind us to begin our Lenten Journey by not only seeking God's forgiveness through the sacrament of Holy Confession, but also by seeking and forgiving our brothers and sisters. This is why our Church traditionally offers a Forgiveness Vespers on the eve of the first day of Great Lent, "Clean Monday."

Another theme of this day is "**The Expulsion of Adam from the Paradise of Bliss.**" This title, given to this last Sunday before Lent, summarizes the entire Lenten preparation. Our sin has deprived us of the bliss of paradise in its fullness, and our existence on earth in this light can be considered "exile." But God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, has opened the door of paradise to everyone who follows Him. The Church, by revealing to us the beauty of the Kingdom, makes our life a pilgrimage toward our heavenly home. This is the meaning and purpose of the Lenten Journey: a return from exile back through the gates of paradise and into communion with God. May God grant us courage, endurance and strength!

PC: Chosvig/Lindgren G: Becker Altar Servers Team D: Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Basil, Wade, Owen, Simon  
Clean up Team 8: Patske, Rich, McKenzie, Reiter, Downs, Ionescu, Walker, Hafez

## SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

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

Let all things above in heav'n 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 depths of Hades, has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

*Effrenestho ta urania, agalliasthō ta epigia, oti epiise kratōs en vrahioni aftu o Kyrios. Epatise to thanato ton thanaton, protokos ton nekron egeneto, ek kilias Athu erisato imas ke paresche to kosmo to mega eleos.*

### Hymn of Great Martyr Photini (3rd Mode/Thy confession):

All illumined by the Holy Spirit, \* thou didst drink with great and ardent longing \* of the waters Christ Saviour gave unto thee; \* and with the streams of salvation wast thou refreshed, \* which thou abundantly gavest to those athirst. \* O Great Martyr and true peer of Apostles, Photini, \* entreat Christ God to grant great mercy unto us.

### 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 Sunday of Forgiveness (Plagal 2nd Mode):

O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor: establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master. Grant me speech, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto Thee: Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who have fallen.

### EPISTLE READING: Romans 13:11-14:4 (Forgiveness Sunday):

Brethren, you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

### GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:14-21 (Forgiveness Sunday):

The Lord said: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and

wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26TH

Sunday, February 26th	<b>Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)</b> <b>Great Martyr Photini</b> <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</b> 8:45 AM <b>Forgiveness Vespers</b> 11:45 AM No Sunday School or Theology 101
Monday, February 27th	<b>Clean Week - Strict Fast Begins</b> <b>Lent Begins</b> Crossroads 55+ Luncheon 11:00 AM Speaker: Fr. Theodore Dorrance <b>Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew</b> 6:30 PM
Tuesday, February 28th	Bible Study 9:30 AM <b>Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew</b> 6:30 PM
Wednesday, March 1st	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy with Lenten Potluck</b> 6:30 PM No Choir Practice
Thursday, March 2nd	<b>Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew</b> 6:30 PM
Friday, March 3rd	<b>Pre-sanctified Liturgy</b> 8:30 AM Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study 10:30 AM <b>Salutations to the Theotokos</b> 6:30 PM
Saturday, March 4th	<b>Saturday of the Miracle of Koliva</b> <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy and Memorial</b> 8:30 AM <b>Great Vespers</b> 5:00 PM
Sunday, March 5th	<b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b> <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy &amp; Procession w/Icons</b> 8:45 AM No Sunday School/Theology 101