

# 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.*



**Mochas for Missions has started!** Our goal this year is \$4,000, or about \$40 per family over the campaign. Last week, **we collected \$41** and many of you took home a Mocha for Missions cup, which contains some fast facts on C.O.M.E. You can use the cup to collect money at home and bring it in each Sunday. If you need one they will be available at the table in the SFH. Questions? See Diane Cherry.

### Support Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage!

Please donate bags of dried pinto beans and rice to the orphanage. Questions? Contact Pavlos B at [grkgks12@gmail.com](mailto:grkgks12@gmail.com)



**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.

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

**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 the registration link and for questions.

**CALLING ALL KIDS! The Holy Friday Youth Retreat** is on Friday, Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:45am-2:45pm. It's a fun-filled day! Lunch, activities, and fellowship. Go to the registration table during coffee hour Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>-Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>. Palm Sunday is the last day to register! This is an amazing opportunity to prepare for Pascha! For more information, please contact Athena Gonzales at [athenacontes@hotmail.com](mailto:athenacontes@hotmail.com).

**Men's Lenten Retreat** at the Monastery is on March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please see the bulletin board for details or find a brochure on the table in the SFH.

**Myrrhbearing Maidens** is an opportunity for girls, 3rd grade - 8th grade, to serve at Christ's Burial and Resurrection during Holy Week. Donations of outgrown white dresses are also being accepted. For questions, contact Jennifer Rich ([jenniferannarich@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferannarich@gmail.com)).

**Agia Sophia Academy** seeks an experienced educator to serve as our Principal for the 2017-18 school year. Learn more at <http://www.asapdx.org/about-us/employment/principal-position>.

**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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Rev. Fr. Timothy Pavlatos  
Dcn. Innocent Duchow-Pressley

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

PLAGAL FIRST MODE/5TH MORNING GOSPEL

MARCH 12 2017

**St. Gregory** was born in 1296 in Constantinople. His father died when he was only seven. At the age of twenty, Gregory decided to become a monk, and persuaded his whole family to follow his example. He left Constantinople for Mt. Athos, where he remained until around 1325, when he was forced to leave the Holy Mountain because of Turkish raids and poor health. St. Gregory went to Thessalonika, and at the age of thirty was ordained to the priesthood. For the next five years, he lived as a hesychast, devoting himself to the uninterrupted Jesus Prayer during the week and to communal worship services on weekends. As soon as he was able, St. Gregory returned to Mt. Athos and continued the hesychastic life. For a period of two years, he was the Abbot of the Monastery of Esphigmenou. Soon, however, he was drawn into the arena of theological controversy, which would dominate the rest of his life.

The most notable aspect of this second part of his life was his three debates with the Italian philosopher, Barlaam. The entire debate could be summarized as follows: Both St. Gregory and Barlaam believed that God was unknowable in His divine essence. Barlaam argued that God could be known only in a natural way through human wisdom and knowledge. Barlaam believed that the faculty of knowledge was the greatest of all the powers of the soul. Through education and increased knowledge, all evils in the soul could be dispelled and man could be led to the knowledge about God, not directly, but through the illumined knowledge of creation and God's creatures. St. Gregory, on the other hand, saw the heart (*nous*) as the life-center of the soul. Furthermore, he made a distinction between the essence of God, which is unknowable for all God's creatures, and the energies of God, which, although fully divine and uncreated, are revealed directly to every person who has purified his heart and received grace. This direct experience of God, most often revealed as uncreated light, is not derived from natural knowledge or intellectual striving, but by virtue of a purified heart and the grace of God that brings the saints into union with Him.

The conclusion of their debates resulted in the exile of Barlaam and rejection of his teachings and the support of St. Gregory's teachings as Orthodox. In 1347, the saint was elected Archbishop of Thessalonika. In 1359, he fell asleep in the Lord, and in 1368, by a decision of the Synod of Constantinople, Gregory Palamas was canonized a Saint. This 2nd Sunday of Lent is dedicated to his honor as a second victory of Orthodoxy—a second Sunday of Orthodoxy.

PC: Keese/Crosby G: Goldman Altar Servers Team A: Samuel, Zacharias, Nathan, Elias, Gavin, Tasso  
Clean up Team 9: Feyler, Jones/Kuchillis, Lindgren, Rush, Wehlitz, Solomon, Mansager, Crosby, Gebreyesus

## SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

### Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (Plagal 1st Mode):

Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure, and He raised the dead unto life, through His glorious resurrection.

*Ton sinanarhon Logon Patri ke Pnevmati, ton ek Parthenu tekthenta is sotirian imon. Animnisomen pisti ke proskinisomen, oti ivthokise sarki anelthin en to stavro ke thanaton ipomine, ke eyire tus tethneotas en ti en thoxo anastasi Aftu.*

### Hymn of St. Gregory Palamas (Plagal 4th Mode):

Light of Orthodoxy, pillar and teacher of the Church, adornment of monastics, invincible champion of theologians, O Gregory thou wonderworker, boast of Thessalonica, herald of grace: ever pray 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 for this Sunday (Plagal 4th Mode):

To thee, the Champion Leader we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.

### EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (Second Sunday of Great Lent):

"In the beginning, You O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

### GOSPEL READING: Mark 2:1-12 (Second Sunday of Great Lent):

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

## PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 12TH

Sunday, March 12th	<b>Second Sunday of Great Lent</b> <b>St. Gregory Palamas</b> <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</b>	8:45 AM 12:15 PM
	Sunday School/Theology 101	
Monday, March 13th	<b>Great Compline</b>	6:30 PM
	Basics fo Orthodoxy Class-Church History II	7:30 PM
	Choir Practice	7:30 PM
Tuesday, March 14th	Bible Study	9:30 AM
Wednesday, March 15th	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> followed by Lenten Potluck	6:30 PM
Friday, March 17th	<b>St. Alexios the Man of God</b> <b>Presanctified Liturgy with ASA</b>	8:30 AM
	Amazing Race Portland	
	<b>No</b> Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study	
	<b>3rd Salutation to the Theotokos</b>	6:30 PM
Saturday, March 18th	Men's Breakfast	8:30 AM
	<b>Great Vespers</b>	5:00 PM
	Mom's Night Out-The Marine Home	
Sunday, March 19th	<b>Sunday of the Holy Cross</b> <b>Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</b>	8:45 AM 12:15 PM
	Sunday School/Theology 101	

### Sts. Mary & Martha Announcements

**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 to sign up so she can save your space. Look forward to a beautiful time of fellowship with one another and the nuns!

For those who may have missed the **Sts. Mary & Martha membership** opportunities, you may be receiving a letter from the Membership Committee with a return envelope to make your offering more convenient.

**\*\*Thank you for your support.\*\***

For questions, please feel free to contact a member of the Membership Committee: Patrice K., Bethany D., Cindy T., Vicki H., Jo Anne F. or Catherine C.

### Gleaning Groups

**Ladies of St. John the Baptist**, please consider signing up for the upcoming round of "Gleaning Groups", sponsored by Sts. Mary and Martha Philoptochos. If you decide to sign up to be in a "Gleaning Group", you can expect to meet at least once every two weeks, discuss a spiritual book together, pray for one another, and deepen your relationships with a small group of women over the next 6 months. Look for the sign up table during coffee in the SFH. See Nika B. or Jessie C. for questions.

*We look forward to building and deepening relationships with our sisters in Christ.*  
We hope you will be able to join us!