

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.



Thank you for your Mocha for Missions donations! **We have collected \$593**, plus a whole lot of change (lots of silver) that we haven't counted yet. After today, we will have a two week break without a table to collect your donations, but please continue to collect them in your coffee cup at home! We'll be back on the Sunday of Thomas, after Pascha. Questions? See Diane Cherry.

Thank you for supporting "The 2nd Great St. John Chili Cook-Off" on February 12th. Final numbers are in and **we made \$2025** for our Parish Building Fund. Jon Corazza took home 1st Place for his chili. Others received prizes for Best Spice, Most Distinctive, and Youth Division participation. Thank you, all!



Project Mexico Homebuilding Trip Aug 2nd-9th

We now have a fundraising page for our trip this summer. The initial trip fees of \$540 each to Project Mexico are due April 31. We are going to send 20 people from our Parish.

<https://volunteer.projectmexico.org/fundraising/group/st-john-the-baptist-beaverton-or>

Basics of Orthodoxy Class full schedule can be found on the bulletin board or our website.

Lenten Care Packages Project. Did you know there are 11 students from SJB attending out-of-town colleges and universities? St. Justin's College Student Ministry is fundraising to cover the cost of a signed card, a chocolate bar, and a spiritual book. Visit Logos bookstore today to make a donation to cover the cost of this endeavor! Questions? Awesome ideas? Contact Sam M. or Bethany D.

Sts. Mary and Martha membership opportunities. For those who may have missed sign-ups at coffee hour or the Membership Social, you may be receiving a letter from the Membership Committee in the next few weeks with a return envelope to make your offering more convenient. If you have any 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. Thank you for your continued support.

Spring Flower Baskets - Order now for May 6th pick up. This year we're selling the same 12" flower baskets you've come to know and love from ASA's annual sale, to benefit our Parish Building Fund. Please reach out to Irini Hall to help with facilitating basket pick-up. TWO SUNDAYS ONLY--today and Palm Sunday.

We're Hiring! Agia Sophia Academy seeks experienced part-time & full-time educators for the 2017-18 school year. Visit www.asapdx.org to learn more about these exciting job opportunities!

ASA Gala Tickets are on Sale now during coffee hr. and help support our school! ASA is in need of donations of: wine bottles, gift card (purchase a SCRIP card), and silent auction items! Visit: www.asagala.org for more information.

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 STJOHNOC.ORG

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ST. MARY OF EGYPT

PLAGAL FOURTH MODE/8TH MORNING GOSPEL

APRIL 2, 2017

St. Mary was born and raised in Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Justinian (527-656). She was a woman of remarkable beauty. Although baptized a Christian by her parents, upon reaching adolescence, Mary turned to a life of fornication. Finally after seventeen years of this life, her insatiable desires brought her to Jerusalem on the Third Sunday of Lent: the Feast of the Veneration of the Holy Cross. Joining a group of Christians, whose love for Christ peaked her curiosity, she attempted to follow them into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to see the relic of the Holy Cross. She was prevented, however, from crossing over the threshold of the church by an invisible power. She tried several more times, but each time was unable to enter. For the first time in her life, Mary began to fear God, to see her sinfulness and to realize that it was her own unworthiness that prevented her from entering this holy place. In a fervent act of repentance, Mary vowed to turn from her sins. She immediately made a sincere supplication to the Theotokos and was allowed to venerate the Holy Cross.

After leaving the church, Mary went to a monastery near the Jordan River on the edge of the desert, where she confessed her sins and received Holy Communion. With only two loaves of bread and the clothes on her back, Mary left the world to enter the desert and further repent of her immoral life. For the next forty years, Mary lived in the desert, shedding many tears, praying and fighting-off many unspeakable temptations from her former life. Mary's sincere repentance allowed her to be purged and sanctified by God's merciful grace.

At the very end of her life, Mary came into contact with the Hieromonk St. Zosima, who heard her confession and gave her Holy Communion. With the zeal of the martyrs, St. Mary became one whose life is upheld by the Church as an example of repentance. This is why the Fifth Sunday of Lent has been set aside by the Church in her memory; that we may all be inspired by her example and strive to sincerely repent no matter how grave our sins.

PC: Weick/Davis G: Becker Altar Servers Team D: Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Basil, Wade, Owen, Simon!
Clean up Team 3: Cherry, Makarounis, Chiprout, Knight, Chosvig, Poulos J & P, Contes, Dorrance

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

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 to You, O Lord.

Hymn of St. Mary of Egypt (Pl. 4th Mode):

In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

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 (2nd Mode):

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 9:11-14 (Fifth Sunday of Great Lent):

Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:32-45 (Fifth Sunday of Great Lent):

At that time, Jesus, taking the twelve again, began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 2ND

Sunday, April 2nd	St. Mary of Egypt Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
	Sunday School/Theology 101	12:15 PM
Monday, April 3rd	Great Compline	6:30 PM
	Basics of Orthodoxy Class-Holy Mysteries II	7:30 PM
	Choir Practice	7:30 PM
Tuesday, April 4th	Bible Study	9:30 AM
	Strategic Planning Meeting	7:00 PM
Wednesday, April 5th	Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten Potluck	6:30 PM
Thursday, April 6th	JOY Youth Group-Oregon Food Bank	6:00 PM
Friday, April 7th	Presanctified Liturgy	8:30 AM
	Sts. Mary & Martha Board Meeting	10:00 AM
Saturday, April 8th	Saturday of Lazarus Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM
	Pancake Breakfast & Palm Tying	11:00 AM
	Great Vespers	5:00 PM
Sunday, April 9th	Palm Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
	Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon	12:00 PM
	Bridegroom Orthros	7:00 PM

If you would like to schedule confession with Fr. Timothy, please do so **BEFORE** Holy Week.

Lenten Announcements

Logos Bookstore is taking orders for **Tsourekia**, the traditional Pascha bread made by the Sisters at St. John the Forerunner Monastery. The price has been \$10 per loaf. Please stop by the bookstore and place your order for delivery before Pascha.

SIGN UP TODAY for Saturday of Lazarus Pancake Breakfast & Palm Tying! "Learn How to Make Easter Palm Cross" through this YouTube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI-k9LqalS8

Pascha Picnic Needs: Please bring a bag of nut-free candy or small toys to donate to the annual Pascha Picnic Children's Activities. Contact Shannon Rush (971-300-3753 or shannon.a.rush@gmail.com) to help make the fun possible!

CALLING ALL KIDS! The Holy Friday Youth Retreat is on Fri., Apr. 14th from 10:45am-2:45pm. It's a fun-filled day! Lunch, activities, and fellowship. Register during the coffee hour TODAY-Apr. 9th. For more info., please contact Athena Gonzales at athenacontes@hotmail.com.

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).

PALM SUNDAY & PASCHA PICNIC ticket sales will begin TODAY! You may purchase the luncheon tickets with 1 check! Cost is: \$10/person and \$30/family. Palm Sunday fish luncheon benefits the St. John the Forerunner Monastery. Pascha picnic cost includes lamb, salad, and beverages.