

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.

The ASA Gala is only two weeks away!

Please see Naomi Knight or Christina Blankenstein to purchase your tickets.

If the ticket expense is holding you back from participating here is a win-win for everybody! The entire evening cannot run without dedicated volunteers. We need you! Volunteering at the event is a great way to be a part of the action, help the school, be an active bidder, and have a wonderful time.

If this is something you are interested in, talk to Naomi today!

Basics of Orthodoxy Class - The final 3 classes of this important series of classes are coming up. Don't miss the opportunity to attend for the first time, continue your education or brush-up on your knowledge.

April 24th

May 1st

May 8th

Final Class for 2017

Holy Tradition.

Church Architecture and the Icons

The Basics of Bible Study

Registration begins today for the June 4th Farewell Luncheon for Fr. Theodore, Presvytera Stacey, and the Dorrance family. There is no charge for the event, but registration is required as there will be assigned seating. Registration continues until May 15th. StJohnregister@gmail.com

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.

Our Spring General Assembly is next month- Mark your calendars for this important meeting Sunday, May 21st after services! The agenda packets will be sent out 10 days prior to the meeting.

Crossroads Ministry: Please join us and the ASA children for a brown bag lunch at 11:15am on May 15th. In celebration of Mother's Day, Eli Chiprout will be sharing about mothers and children. Please be there right at 11:00 and bring your lunch, desert will be provided.

C.O.M.E. was founded in 1991 to: educate and engage the faithful of the Metropolis in Evangelism, to fulfill The Great Commission ("Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...") and to assist in the establishment and growth of mission parishes to achieve self-sufficiency. Mochas for Missions helps fund these activities. We have raised **\$593 towards our goal of \$4,000**. Thank you! Questions? See Diane Cherry.

Camp Angelos 2016 is August 5th-10th. On line registration for youth (ages 9-17) will be opening soon. Go to: www.goholytrinity.org for more details as they become available.

Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School 2016 is planned for August 14th-18th for youth from 1st-6th grades. Held at Holy Trinity, this will be a week-long day camp filled with an abundance of activities, fun, and fellowship! Registration details coming soon.

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
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VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT STJOHNGOC.ORG

SUNDAY OF THOMAS - ANTIPASCHA THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS GREAT MARTYR GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER

1ST MORNING GOSPEL

APRIL 23, 2017

On this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, we celebrate the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. We also commemorate the appearance of the Lord to His disciples eight days later when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ. It is this occasion that has inspired the expression "Doubting Thomas."

Is the apostle Thomas an exception in his desire to have proof of Christ's Resurrection, or is he the rule? Don't we all need some hard, concrete evidence to support our faith? The Lord said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." (Mt. 7:7) If He tells us to ask, to seek and to knock, then a little doubt is okay as long as we are not paralyzed by it. St. Thomas' doubt led him to action, an action which increased his faith. After placing his hand in the Lord's side, he cried out, "You are my Lord and my God!" This type of doubt can be positive because it motivates us to ask the right questions and to seek out truthful answers. Many think that our faith should be blind, but in fact, this is far from the truth. We have a rational faith, as it says in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy. Therefore, there is support for our faith all around us. When Thomas sought out evidence, the Lord provided him with it. Likewise, when we seek out the Lord with all our mind, soul and strength, He will reveal Himself to us and provide us with the evidence we need. From now on, when we hear about the doubt of St. Thomas, let us not think of him negatively. His was not the doubt of paralysis, but of action, an action that led to his own heroic missionary efforts in India and eventually his own martyrdom. The apostle Thomas is also commemorated on October 6th.

This Sunday is also called the *Antipascha* (meaning "in the stead of Pascha") because with this day, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

PC: Weick/Chosvig G: Goldman Altar Servers Team A: Samuel, Zacharias, Nathan, Elias, Gavin, Tasso
Clean-up Team 4: Corazza, Trumpower, Buckley, Williams/Teeney, Soot, Ketrenos B & A, Dunfield, Gonzales, Ramzi

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Hymn for Pascha (Plagal 1st Mode):

Christ is risen from the dead, by death He has trampled upon death and on those in the tombs He is bestowing life.

Hymn for Sunday of St. Thomas (Grave Mode):

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

Hymn for St. George the Martyr: (4th Mode):

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Kontakion of Pascha (Plagal 4th Mode):

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

EPISTLE READING: Acts 12:1-11 (St. George the Great Martyr)

ABOUT THAT TIME, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church.

The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31 (Sunday of St. Thomas)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 23RD

Sunday, April 23rd	Sunday of St. Thomas St. George the Great Martyr Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM 12:15 PM
Monday, April 24th	Sunday School/Theology 101	
Tuesday, April 25th	Basics of Orthodoxy-Holy Tradition	7:00 PM
Wednesday, April 26th	Mom's Night Out-Amelia's Mexican Restaurant	6:30 PM
Thursday, April 27th	Walsh Baptism	10:00 AM
Friday, April 28th	Memorial for Ekaterini Sardis	4:45 PM
	Great Vespers	5:00 PM
Sunday, April 30th	Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM 12:15 PM
	Sunday School/Theology 101	

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Thank you to all parishioners who donated and prepared food for the retreat, potlucks, Palm Sunday and Pascha; who assisted with the Holy Friday Youth Retreat; who facilitated the events of the Pascha Picnic; who brought and arranged flowers; who sang, who prayed and who otherwise offered sacrifices unto the Lord this Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha.

Thank you to ASA and St. John the Baptist for your help in my Pantry Partner fundraiser for Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage. We collected 23 bags of dried beans and rice and \$134. Thanks again! Christ is Risen! - Pavlos Blankenstein

The trip fees for Project Mexico 2017 are **due on April 30th**. Please consider making a donation for this mission. Go to our dedicated webpage today!

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