

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.

St. John's Strategic Plan: The new strategic plan, which was started by Fr. Theodore many months ago, is now underway. Please take part in this important activity, as your observations and opinions will directly affect the future of our parish community. Together we can create a shared vision that builds upon the foundation of these past 20 years. You should have received an email (or will receive a mailing) which describes a "SWOT analysis." **Please fill out one of these by August 4**, and have every family member do the same. (We prefer the on-line form; however a paper form is available as well – see Diane Cherry.) Thank you for your participation!

Greek Open Golf Tournament Monday, September 18th at Langdon Farms! Only \$100 per golfer. Register now and support Agia Sophia Academy! www.greekopen.com Questions? Contact Christina (Bournelis) Blankenstein at christina@asapdx.org or (503) 641-4600. Thank you for your support of Oregon's only Pan-Orthodox Christian school!

Today's Coffee Hour is offered in honor of those who celebrate namedays in the end of July-whose patron saints are St. Marina, St. Makrina, St. Mary Magdalene, Prophet Elias, St. Markella, St. Christina, St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos, St. Eupraxia, St. Paraskevi, St. Panteleimon, and St. Irini Chrsovolantou. Free-will offerings will be donated to St. John the Forerunner Monastery in honor of Gerondissa Eupraxia.


Coffee Hour  **Almsgiving Opportunities:** Want to Host a Sunday Coffee Hour and at the same time raise money for a worthy cause? Individuals and ministries are invited to host a coffee hour during July and August and donate all the free-will offerings collected to a St. John the Baptist-supported cause. Please contact the church office to sign up for a coffee hour date at (503) 644-7444 or email: churchoffice@stjohnnoc.org. Thank you.

The Annual raft trip is postponed. Look for more information once a new date is selected.

Men's Breakfast. Come join us this coming Saturday, July 29th at 8:30am. Cost is \$5 per man. No RSVP needed. All men are welcome.

Job openings at ASA. Math Assistant Teacher and Janitor. Both are P/T on M/W/F. Visit: www.asapdx.org to learn more.

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. Matthew Swehla
Rev. Fr. Timothy Pavlatos
Dcn. Innocent Duchow-Pressley

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VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT STJOHNGOC.ORG

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

PHOCAS THE HOLY MARTYR BISHOP OF SINOPE

PLAGAL 2ND MODE/7TH MORNING GOSPEL

JULY 23 2017

Saint Phocas was born in the city of Sinope on the coast of the Black Sea. From youth he led a virtuous Christian life, and in his adult years he became Bishop of Sinope. Saint Phocas converted many pagans to faith in Christ, both by his inspired words and supernatural wonders. He was perfected in martyrdom during a time of a persecution against Christians under the emperor Trajan (98-117).

Bishop Phocas was brought before the Governor Africanus and was questioned by him, and he in turn theologized and boldly taught him the faith in Christ the true God. Because Africanus dared to blaspheme Christ and torture the saint, for this reason a great earthquake took place, violently striking the governor and his soldiers dead. But the saint raised him from the dead, due to the pleadings of his wife.

After this, the saint was brought before Emperor Trajan. Because Phocas preached Christ, the emperor had him flayed. Continuing to courageously confess Christ, he was finally placed in an overheated bath. There, the courageous athlete handed his soul into the hands of God.

After his death, Saint Phocas continued to work miracles for those who called upon him with faith. The translation of his sacred relics to Constantinople is celebrated on July 23, an occasion upon which St. John Chrysostom gave a homily in his honor. A monastery in Constantinople was dedicated to his honor. His sacred skull is located in Xenophontos Monastery on Mount Athos.

The Hieromartyr Phocas is especially venerated as a defender against fires, and also as a helper of the drowning.

PC: Weick/VanSickle G: Reiter/Carper Altar Servers Team E: Constantine, Yoas, Pavlos, James, Noah, Peter
Clean up Team 5: Walsh, Daniels, Hudanish T, Keese, Chan, Olson, Ntatsos, Kolpakov, Clary

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (Tone Six):

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For You did vanquish Hades, and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Angelike thinamis epi to mnima Su, ke i filassontes apenekrothisan. ke istato Maria en to tafo zitusa to achranton Su soma. Eskilefsas ton Athin me pirasthis ip aftu ipindisas ti Partheno, thorumenos tin zoin o Anastas ek ton nekron, Kirie thoxa Si.

Hymn of St. Phocas (Tone Four):

As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, you found discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Where, having rightly divided the word of truth, you did also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Phocas. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Tone Two):

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 Theotokos (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: Romans 15:1-7 (7th Sunday of Matthew)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please Himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 9:27-35 (7th Sunday of Matthew)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among all the people.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 23RD

Sunday, July 23rd	7th Sunday of Matthew Phocas the Holy Martyr Bishop of Sinope Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
Tuesday, July 25th	Parish Council Meeting	6:45 PM
Wednesday, July 26th	St. Paraskevi Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM
Thursday, July 27th	St. Panteleimon Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM
Friday, July 28th	Sts. Mary and Martha Board Meeting	9:00 AM
Saturday, July 29th	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Sunday, July 30th	8th Sunday of Matthew Apostles of the 70: Silan, Silvan, Crescens, Epenetus & Andronicus Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM

