

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.

Update on Parish Finances: Blessed Feast of the Transfiguration! I would like to give a brief update on our parish's finances, since we are more than half-way through the year. Last fall the parish approved a 2017 budget which was based upon our 2016 stewardship, totaling \$467,000 pledged. This year we have received far lower total pledges than last year, with 2017 stewardship totaling \$377,000 pledged – or \$90,000 less than last year. Because of these reduced pledges (and the lower stewardship contributions) we are now spending more than we are receiving, putting our parish in a deficit. As we try to reduce expenses to a bare minimum, we will also have to prepare a much smaller 2018 budget with limited or no funding for ministries, unless this situation changes.

Please prayerfully consider raising your 2017 pledge (by contacting Erik Chosvig or Barbara) or giving beyond your pledged amount, so that our budget can continue to reflect the dynamic and diverse ministries and outreach which we as a community support.

I thank God for our clergy, all of you and our loving community.

John Davis, PC President

Panagia Picnic for the Feast of the Dormition: Join us for food and fellowship to celebrate this beautiful Feast Day of the Theotokos. The picnic will be at Cedar Hills Park on Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and bring beverages for yourself or to share. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join us.

Greek Open Golf Tournament: Monday, September 18 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!

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

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

FESTAL MORNING GOSPEL

AUGUST 6, 2017

The Feast of the Transfiguration occurred at a time when Jesus's disciples were having a difficult time grasping His identity, approximately forty days before the Crucifixion. Many were saying He was a prophet, or the Messiah, or Elijah, or even a man possessed by demons. Jesus knew how important it was for His disciples to accept His identity, especially this close to His Passion. So He took His three closest disciples, Peter, James and John, up with Him to Mt. Tabor where He was transfigured, revealing His divinity as uncreated light brighter than the sun. On either side of Him stood Moses and Elijah (Elias), the former as a representative of the Old Testament Law and the latter as a representative of the Old Testament Prophets.

The meaning of the event is threefold. First, the light is Jesus' own divinity shining through the power of the Holy Spirit. He has this uncreated light with Him always, but at the Transfiguration He revealed it to His disciples, so they would know that He is indeed God. Later in Church history, the Holy Fathers described this light of Christ's divinity as "uncreated", because it is part of His divine energies. The Fathers made a distinction between God's essence and His energies. Both are fully divine and uncreated, but the essence of God is unknowable to everything created, while the energies are revealed to us by God's grace. The experience of Peter, James and John has been repeated many times in the lives of the saints who have reached an advanced state of sanctity. Secondly, the voice of His Father in heaven is heard, "Behold, this is My beloved Son, listen to Him." By seeing Jesus filled with light by the power of the Holy Spirit and hearing the voice of the Father, the Transfiguration becomes a revelation of the Holy Trinity and is considered a second Theophany. Theophany literally means "a manifestation of God." Finally, the presence of both the Prophet Elijah (Elias) and Moses, holy men of the Old Testament, show in an even more dramatic manner that Jesus is the Messiah. Elijah and Moses are symbolic of the Old Testament Law and prophecies, which anticipate the coming of the Messiah.

It was important for Jesus' three closest disciples to see the uncreated light of Jesus' divinity, to see the witness of Moses the Law-giver and Elijah the Prophet, and to hear the voice of the Father. With this experience, they were able to later remember it and be encouraged and strengthened in their faith.

PC: Davis/Walsh G: Dale Altar Servers Team B: Christos, Nicholas, Basil C., Kyle, Makarios, Nicolas

Clean up Team: Voluntary

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Special Second Antiphon of Holy Transfiguration:

Save us, O Son of God, Who were transfigured on Mount Tabor, we sing to you, Alleluia

Soson imas I-e Theou, o en to óri to Thavór metamórfothís, psalontas si Alliluia,

Hymn of Holy Transfiguration (Grave Tone):

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your glory to your disciples, as much as they could bear. Shine Your everlasting light upon us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Giver of light, glory to You.

Small Entrance Hymn of Holy Transfiguration:

With You is the fountain of life, and in Your light shall we see light. Save us, O Son of God, Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor, we who sing to You: Alleluia.

The Hymn of Holy Transfiguration is then repeated.

Kontakion of Holy Transfiguration (Grave Tone):

On the mount You were transfigured, and Your disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Your glory, O Christ our God; that when they should see You crucified they would know Your passion to be willing, and would preach to the world that You, in truth, are the radiance of the Father.

Special Hymn to Theotokos, in place of “It is truly meet and right” (Plagal Fourth Tone):

Now the unheard-of is heard; for the Son, Who without father came forth from the Virgin, is gloriously testified by the Father’s voice to be God and man, the same unto the ages.

Communion Hymn of Holy Transfiguration:

O Lord, in the light of the glory of Your face shall we walk, and in Your Name shall we rejoice for ever. Alleluia.

EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 1:10-19 (Transfiguration)

Brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased,” we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 17:1-9 (Transfiguration)

At that time Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead.”

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 6TH

Sunday, August 6th	Transfiguration of our Lord Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
Monday, August 7th	Paraklesis	6:00 PM
Tuesday, August 8th	Paraklesis	6:00 PM
Wednesday, August 9th	Paraklesis	6:00 PM
Thursday, August 10th	Paraklesis	6:00 PM
Friday, August 11th	Paraklesis	6:00 PM
Saturday, August 12th	Great Vespers	5:00 PM
Sunday, August 13th	Tenth Sunday of Matthew Leavetaking of Transfiguration St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, St. Maximos the Confessor Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM

Announcements

Sunday school registration is now open! Please stop by the registration table during coffee hour to register your child/children for class! Registration will be open every Sunday in August.

Vacation Church School: August 14-18, 2017 Join us at Holy Trinity this summer for VCS - focused on the Theotokos - for kids in 1st - 8th grades. High schoolers, we need you as counselors. See the Holy Trinity website for online sign-ups. We also need some parent volunteers this year!! Parents, please email Dina Khoury at dinagkhoury@hotmail.com if you can volunteer.