

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.

Don't Miss the Annual Christmas Tea and Caroling Party TODAY at 4pm until 7pm in the Parish hall. Please join us for delicious potluck Lenten snacks and appetizers. The carols will be led by the St. John the Baptist choir and sponsored by the Crossroads Sr. Ministry. The **Sts. Mary & Martha GATHERING** for December will be to ATTEND & SUPPORT our Senior Crossroads CHRISTMAS TEA TODAY at 4pm!!! Please bring a Lenten finger food and your lovely voices to join them in singing Christmas Carols!!!

A Note written By Kyle Hummel at The Oregon Food Bank: The Parish brought in **962 pounds** which will allow Oregon Food Bank to distribute about 802 meals back to the community. Every meal should go to help one person so you all helped 802 of our neighbors out!

I hope you are as happy and proud of those numbers as we are to work with you to achieve them.

Project Mexico Matching Grant Opportunity: Thanks to the generosity of several anonymous donors, up to \$150,000 of all donations received through Dec. 31st will be matched 1-for-1! What a fantastic opportunity to double your gift to the poor and orphaned. Please help us meet our matching goal; we cannot do it without you!

St. John has sent \$558.23 from monies collected in our canister in the Narthex.

The Nativity season is upon us, and the **CHAAMPS Art Group** would like to make Nativity altar cloths and paraments, but we need your help! We are looking for donations to off set the cost of materials. Contact Sarah Dale or Lauri Chosvig!

Young Adults- DINNER, DISCUSSION, and PRAYER- Monday, Dec. 19th at 6:30 p.m. - Our final discussion of Repentance and Confession by Hieromonk Gregorios, with Fr. Theodore, at the Dorrance home. We will preview our next book for discussions 2017. Please bring \$5 to help cover food costs and a drink to share. RSVP to Beth Carper at youthdirector@stjohnnoc.org.

Immediate opening! Agia Sophia Academy is seeking a Lower Elementary Classroom Teacher beginning Jan. 3rd. Due to the immediacy of this job opening, please email a letter of interest, and resume: ranae@asapdx.org. To find out more information about this position and to download an application visit <http://www.asapdx.org/about-us/employment>.



Our Adopt-an-Icon campaign is underway! So far, St. Menas, St. Stephen, and St. Mary Magdalene have been adopted. We have 3 spots left. Please see Rachel Daniels (rachelmdaniels@hotmail.com) if you would like to adopt an icon!

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 STJOHNGOC.ORG

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ST. DANIEL THE STYLITE

PLAGAL 4TH MODE/ THIRD MORNING GOSPEL

DECEMBER 11, 2016

On this Sunday, the Second Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we remember the **Holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ**. The "Forefathers" are the Patriarchs and Prophets of the Old Testament, from Adam to John the Baptist. A careful reading of the Old Testament reveals the operation of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity working through the events and the people, such as Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel and the Three Youths, etc. With them we also celebrate the memory of foremothers, such as Eve, Rachel, Ruth, Susannah, Hannah, Sarah, Rebecca and others. This Sunday the Church asks us to open the eyes of our hearts that we may understand the message of the Old Testament and see the coming of Christ from the moment of creation all the way to that starlit night in Bethlehem. We can also take this Sunday's commemoration as a reminder that it is time for us to narrow our focus in preparing for the feast. Let us use these 14 Liturgies that remain to guide our preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ.

St. Daniel the Stylite was born in Mesopotamia of Christian parents, Elias and Martha. Through her tearful prayers, his barren mother received him from God, and as an only son he was dedicated to God from early childhood. Daniel became a monk at the age of twelve, visited Simeon the Stylite, and was blessed by him. Desirous of solitude, Daniel left the monastery and withdrew to an abandoned pagan temple on the shore of the Black Sea. There he endured countless assaults from demons, but he conquered them all by perseverance, prayer and the sign of the Cross. Afterward he climbed up on a pillar. There he remained until his death, enduring both heat and cold, and attacks from both men and demons. Many disciples gathered around his pillar, and he directed them to eternal life by his example and his words. God rewarded His faithful servant with abundant grace while in this life, and he performed miracles and prophesied future events. People from all parts crowded beneath his pillar, seeking help and counsel. At the time of his death, his disciples beheld angels, prophets, apostles and martyrs above his pillar. This occurred in the year 489.

PC: Taylor/Poulos G: Chosvig Altar Servers Team C: Tobias, Kyle, Levi, Aiden, Thomas, Petros, Gabriel
Clean up Team 8: Patske, Rich, McKenzie, Reiter, Downs, Ionescu, Walker, Hafez

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 You, O Lord.

Ex ipsus katilthes, o Efsplagnos. Tafin katethexo triimeros, ina imas eleftherosis ton pathon. I zoi ke i anastasis imon, Kirie, thoxa Si.

Hymn of the Holy Forefathers (2nd Mode):

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

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 of the Forefeast of the Nativity (3rd Mode/Original Melody):

On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

EPISTLE READING: Colossians 3:4-11 (Of the Forefathers):

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:16-24 (11th Sunday of Luke):

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11TH

Sunday, December 11th	11th Sunday of Luke Sunday of the Forefathers Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM 12:15 PM
	Sunday School/Theology 101 Annual Christmas Tea & Caroling	4:00 PM
Monday, December 12th	PCP & Liturgy	5:30 AM
	Strategic Workshop Planning Meeting	7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 13th	PCP & Liturgy	5:30 AM
	Bible Study Parish Council Meeting	9:30 AM 6:45 PM
Wednesday, December 14th	PCP & Liturgy	5:30 AM
	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
Thursday, December 15th	PCP & Liturgy	5:30 AM
Friday, December 16th	PCP & Liturgy	5:30 AM
	Sts. Mary & Martha Board Meeting Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study	9:00 AM 10:30 AM
Saturday, December 17th	PCP & Liturgy	(Please note: new time) 8:00 AM
	Great Vespers	5:00 PM
Sunday, December 18th	Sunday before the Nativity of Christ Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM 12:15 PM
	Sunday School/Theology 101	



The Benevolence Fund Christmas Card Fundraiser continues 12/11 and 12/18 during coffee hour.

Due to the great response, more cards have been printed and are available to you, upon your free will donation to the Benevolence Fund, but quantities are limited.

If you want some reserved, please contact Lisa Corazza.

Thank you!

Questions? Contact Diane Cherry, Lois Russo or Lisa.

The Strategic Planning Committee met last week to begin reviewing the data from our Parish-wide survey and is starting to develop summaries to educate the committee members and identify key issues for closer examination by the Parish and other topics to be included in the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) workshop in the Spring.

If you are interested in reviewing the formatted final survey results, please contact Nick Poulos.