

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.

Today is the last day to participate in the **Benevolence Fund Christmas Card Fundraiser**. Thanks to your wonderful response thus far, we have less than 30 cards left! Your generous support of the Benevolence Fund is much appreciated! Questions? Contact Diane Cherry, Lois Russo, or Lisa.

Parish Council Election Results. On December 4th, 2016, St. John the Baptist Parishioners elected, in alphabetical order, Eli Chiprout, Robert Crosby, Mark Lindgren, Maria Souza, Matthew Van Sickle and Gregory Walsh. Congratulations to the new members, and thank you to all the candidates and voters! May we pray for them so they can guide our Parish! In Christ, The 2016 Parish Council Election committee

Young Adults- DINNER, DISCUSSION, and PRAYER. Tomorrow Night at 6:30 p.m. Our final discussion on Repentance and Confession by Hieromonk Gregorios, with Fr. Theodore, at the Dorrance home. We will preview our next book for discussions in 2017. Please bring \$5 to help cover food costs and a drink to share. RSVP to Beth Carper (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 to Ranae Rice (ranae@asapdx.org) To find out more information about this position and to download an application visit <http://www.asapdx.org/about-us/employment>.

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.*

Church Directories are in. If you have not already picked up your free copy, be sure to ask any Parish Council member or Barbara in the office. A limited number of additional copies are available for \$10 each.

Stewardship Cards – 58 stewardship cards (2017) have been received--thank you! Please continue to return your 2017 cards by mail, in person, or in the Sunday offering bag by the close of the year. Blank cards can be found in the narthex.



Our Adopt-an-Icon campaign is underway!

So far, St. Menas, St. Stephen, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John of Damascus have been adopted. We have 2 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
14485 SW WALKER ROAD
BEAVERTON, OREGON 97006
503.644.7444 FAX: 503.296.2507
churchoffice@stjohnnoc.org
VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT STJOHNGOC.ORG

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST THE HOLY ANCESTORS OF CHRIST FROM ADAM TO JOSEPH THE BETROTHED THE PROPHET DANIEL AND THE THREE YOUTHS HOLY MARTYR SEBASTIAN AND HIS COMPANIONS FIRST MODE/ FOURTH MORNING GOSPEL DECEMBER 18, 2016

The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Misael: In the years following 600 BC Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians, Solomon's temple was destroyed, and many Israelites were led away into Babylonian captivity. Among them were Daniel and the three youths. The emperor of Babylon, Nebuchadnessar, gave orders to teach them Chaldean wisdom, and to dress them in finery. But they, in cleaving to their faith, refused extravagances and led a strict manner of life; they consumed only vegetables and water. The Lord granted them wisdom, and to Saint Daniel, the gift of perspicacity and the interpretation of dreams. The Holy Prophet Daniel, having preserved sacred faith in the One God and trusting on His almighty help, surpassed all the Chaldean astrologers and sorcerers, and was made a confidant to the emperor Nebuchadnessar. One time Nebuchadnessar had a dream, which scared him, but upon waking he forgot the details of the vision. The Babylonian wise-men were unable to learn what the emperor had dreamt. Only Daniel who gave glory before all to the power of the True God, revealed the content of the dream, and its prophetic significance; which declared about the kingdoms replacing one another and about the great final kingdom – the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, the seventy of weeks tells the world about the signs of the 1st and the 2nd Comings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After this, Daniel was elevated by the emperor to be a lord of the realm of Babylonia. During these times Nebuchadnessar gave orders to erect a statue in his likeness to which it was decreed to accord the honours befitting a god. Ananias, Azarias and Misael refused to do this and were thrust into a burning fiery furnace. The flames shot out, felling the Chaldeans standing about, but the holy lads walked amidst the flames, offering up prayer and psalmody to the Lord. The Angel of the Lord appeared and cooled the flames, and they remained unharmed. The emperor, upon seeing this, commanded them to come out, and was converted to the True God.

Under the emperor Balthasar, St. Daniel foretold the downfall of the Babylonian realm. Under the Persian emperor Darius, he was slandered by his enemies, thrown into a den of hungry lions, and was unharmed. The emperor then in rejoicing over Daniel gave orders throughout all his realm to worship the God of Daniel, "since He is the Living and Ever-Existing God, and His Kingdom is unbounded, and His sovereignty is without end" (Dan. 6: 1-29).

PC: Lindren/WalshG: Goldman Altar Servers Team D: Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Basil, Wade, Owen, Simon
Clean up Team 9: Feyler, Jones/Kuchillis, Lindgren, Rush, Wehlitz, Solomon, Mansager, Crosby, Gebreeyuse

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (1st Mode):

The stone had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch o'er Your pure and sacred body; O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.

Tu lithu sfragisthentos ipo ton Iutheon, ke stratioton filassonton to ahranton Su soma. Anestis trimeros Sotir; thorumenos to kosmo tin zoin, thia tuto e thinamis ton uranon evoon Si zoothota. Thoxa ti Anastasi Su Christe. Thoxa ti vasilia Su. Thoxa ti ikonomia Su, mone Filanthrope.

Hymn of the Holy Fathers (2nd Mode):

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. 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: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 (Sunday Before Nativity):

Brethren, through faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated-of whom the world was not worthy-wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before Nativity):

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the

father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of She-alti-el, and She-alti-el the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18TH

Sunday, December 18th	Sunday before the Nativity of Christ Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM Sunday School/Theology 101/Christmas Carols 12:15 PM
Monday, December 19th	PCP & Divine Liturgy 5:30 AM Young Adults at the Dorrance Home 6:30 PM
Tuesday, December 20th	PCP & Divine Liturgy 5:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM
Wednesday December 21st	PCP & Divine Liturgy 5:30 AM Choir Practice 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 22nd	PCP & Divine Liturgy 5:30 AM Newsletter Assembly-volunteers needed 12:00 PM
Friday, December 23rd	Royal Hours of Nativity 7:30 AM PCP & Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM No Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study
Saturday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:30 AM Candle Light Great Vespers 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 25th	The Nativity of Christ Christ is Born! ~ Glorify Him! Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 8:45 AM
Monday, December 26th	Church Office CLOSED through January 2, 2017