

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.

Holiday Church Office Closure - the Church office will be closed December 26th-January 2nd.

Stewardship Cards - 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.

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!

Our annual **Basics of Orthodoxy Classes** begin Wednesday, Jan. 11th at 7:00 p.m. Check the full schedule on the bulletin board and online. Each class in this 14-part introductory series is free and open to the public. Come for one or attend an entire season to learn about Orthodoxy for the first time or refresh your knowledge.

How to Present the Orthodox Faith: a free seminar sponsored by the Missions & Evangelism Committee. Jan 26, 27 (7pm), Jan 28 (9am, 12:30pm). An experienced missionary Priest – Fr. Russell Radoicich, pastor of Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte, Montana – will be our speaker. Fr. Russell will teach us how he has been successful in bringing many to Orthodoxy through his efforts in Montana.

Each lecture is a “building block” for the whole picture, so, you won’t want to miss any of them.

Topics: Eastern vs Western Mindset, The Theotokos, The Scriptures, and Morality and Spirituality.
Questions? See Patrick or Eli.

Portland Walk for Life 2017, Sunday Jan. 15th – You’re invited to peacefully rally for life and against abortion with Portland-area Orthodox Christians. The Walk for Life will take place after the 12:30 p.m. Pan Orthodox Blessing of the Willamette River. Meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center (777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd) and look for the “Orthodox Christians for Life” banner.

The 2017 Chili Cook-Off is Sunday, Feb. 12th. Save the date, review guidelines and register as a contestant at stjohnnoc.org. Deadline to register as a contestant is Feb. 1st. \$15/person and \$50/family. Tickets available online or at the door.



Our Adopt-an-Icon campaign is underway!

Sts. Menas, Stephen, Mary Magdalene, and John of Damascus have been adopted.

We have 2 spots left.

Please see Rachel Daniels (rachelmdaniels@hotmail.com), 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

THE HOLY NATIVITY OF CHRIST

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI AND THE SHEPHERDS THAT BEHELD THE LORD

FESTAL MORNING GOSPEL

DECEMBER 25, 2016

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son (Galatians 4:4) to save the human race. And when nine months were fulfilled from the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel had appeared to the Most-holy Virgin in Nazareth, saying, Rejoice, thou that art highly favored... behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son (Luke 1:28, 31), at that time there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the people of the Roman Empire should be taxed. In accordance with this decree, everyone had to go to his own town and be registered. That is why the righteous Joseph came with the Most-holy Virgin to Bethlehem, the city of David, for they were both of the royal lineage of David. Since many people descended on this small town for the census, Joseph and Mary were unable to find lodging in any house, and they sought shelter in a cave. In this cave-on the night between Saturday and Sunday, the Most-holy Virgin gave birth to the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Giving birth to Him without pain just as He was conceived without sin by the Holy Spirit and not by man, she herself wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, worshiped Him as God, and laid Him in a manger. Then the righteous Joseph drew near and worshiped Him as the Divine Fruit of the Virgin’s womb. Then the shepherds came in from the fields, directed by an angel of God, and worshiped Him as the Messiah and Savior. The shepherds heard a multitude of God’s angels singing: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Luke 2:14). Later, three wise men arrived from the east, led by a wondrous star, bearing their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They worshiped Him as the King of kings, and offered Him their gifts (Matthew 2). Thus entered the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when Herod, a foreigner, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind, which could not be performed by His servants. To Him be eternal glory and praise! Amen.

PC: Crosby/Chosvig G: Reiter Altar Servers Team E: Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Basil, Wade, Owen, Simon

All Parish Clean-Up Today.

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Hymn of Nativity (4th Mode):

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Entrance Hymn:

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten you. The Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, who was born of a virgin, we sing to You: Alleluia.

Repeat Hymn of Nativity after Entrance

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He that existed * before the ages as God.

Today we sing “As many as have been baptized...” instead of the Trisagion Hymn.

EPISTLE READING: Galatians 4:4-7 (Holy Nativity):

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-20 (Holy Nativity):

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25TH

Sunday, December 25th **The Holy Nativity of Christ**

Christ is Born! ~ Glorify Him!
Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 8:45 AM
No Sunday School/Theology 101 -- All Parish Clean-up

Monday, December 26th

Church Office Closed thru January 1, 2017

Saturday, December 31st

Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 1st

The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ
St. Basil the Great
Orthros & Divine Liturgy & Vasilopita 8:45 AM
No Sunday School/Theology 101 -- All Parish Clean-up

Monday, January 2nd

Church Office is CLOSED

Tuesday, January 3rd

Church Office is OPEN

Observing the Feast - Remember, there is no fasting December 25th through January 4th in observance of the Nativity of Christ! January 5th, however, is a strict fast day in preparation for Theophany.

Parish Feast Day! Our Parish Feast Day has changed from August 29th to January 7th by the wish of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. This year we will have Great Vespers for our patronal feast on Friday, January 6th at 7 pm with an Artoklasia and a light reception. On Saturday, January 7th, we will have Orthros, Divine Liturgy and a Luncheon starting at 9:00 am. Please make every effort to honor our beloved patron Saint John the Baptist through your presence and participation.

Please bring your **Holy Water Bottles** back to Church. Take them to the Church office or leave them in the appointed place in the Narthex. They will be washed, filled with water, blessed at the Great Blessing of the Waters and re-distributed at Theophany and during house blessing season.

BLESSING OF THE HOMES

After January 6th, the Feast of Theophany, Fr. Theodore and Fr. Timothy will begin blessing the homes of our Parishioners as well as businesses.

What should you expect in terms of the House Blessing? Father offers a short prayer service at your home altar and then proceeds through the home sprinkling it with holy water, while chanting the Dismissal Hymn of Theophany.

What should you have ready? Have your home altar/icon corner ready and accessible, a bowl of water, a bunch of fresh basil tied at the stem for Father to use in sprinkling Holy water, a candle, charcoal and incense (if you have an incense burner). If you have new Holy water bottle at Church, please have that handy too. Father will pick up Holy water bottles from years past.

- Blessings will begin after our Feast Day, and will continue until the beginning of Great Lent.
- Please do not offer the Priests any money. They will not accept it. House blessings are part of our membership in the Church.
- We will make an effort to schedule several house blessings in one area or neighborhood on the same day - so we will contact you when we know what day we will be in each neighborhood. You may also contact the Church office at 503-644-7444, for questions about scheduling your house blessing.