St. John The Baptist
Greek Orthodox Church
14485 SW Walker Road
Beaverton OR 97006

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Outdoor Blessing of the Waters

Sun, Jan 15th, 12:30pm at the Portland Waterfront
For more information please see: http://tinyurl.com/stjohn-obw

We hope to have both Holy Trinity Cathedral and
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church join us this year!

Please make every effort to attend this beautiful service.

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

January 2017
VOL. XX NO. 1

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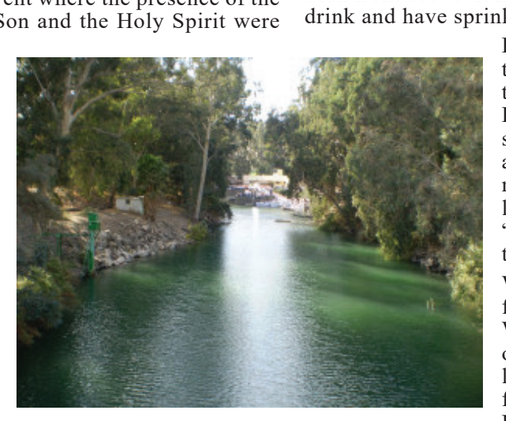
BLESSINGS TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

At the beginning of each calendar year, the Orthodox Church observes an historical event that impacted all of creation for all time, the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. After thirty years of life, and just prior to His public ministry, Jesus descended into the Jordan river to sanctify it, and, by extension, all of creation. Unlike all of humanity, which needed to be born from above through the waters of baptism, Jesus had no need to be cleansed and sanctified. He is life and sanctification. All that He touches becomes sanctified. He is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29).

Theophany, the manifestation of God, is celebrated in the Greek Orthodox Church on January 6th. The event of Jesus' baptism, in addition to being the starting point of His sacred mission on earth, is also an event where the presence of the Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were made manifest. As we hear in the hymn of the feast, "When You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest." This celebration is also known as the Feast of Lights. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, "filled with the Holy Spirit", said in anticipation, "whereby the Dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79).



This Feast also brings the Blessing of the Waters Service. The faithful both drink of this water as well as have their homes blessed with it. We invite the blessings of God into our dwellings, in a tangible way through the sprinkling of the sanctified water throughout our homes. We also bring the blessings of the Lord into our homes through prayer, or when we follow the teachings of Christ in relation to others, and when we extend hospitality in our homes.

The Feast of Theophany, however, is not simply an historical event. Nor is the blessing of water simply a common act of commemoration. "The recurrent celebration of Theophany has great spiritual significance . . . in the Christian faith everything is present, here and now, for our Lord Jesus Christ is with us here and now, our inseparable Companion and Comforter" (Rev. George Mastrantonis, GOA website: The Feast of Epiphany). Jesus Christ is not contained by time in history or in specific events. He is present in all things at all time. Just as He is fully present in the Eucharist, so too, is He present as we celebrate His baptism in the Jordan River. At the blessing of the waters, He is present and we bear witness to His baptism.

The same Holy Spirit that descends from Heaven to change ordinary bread and wine into the very Body and Blood of Christ during the Divine Liturgy also descends into the bowl of water and sanctifies it. It is this water that a catechumen enters into and then emerges out of as one born from above. It is this same water that the faithful both drink and have sprinkled in their homes.

During the feast of Theophany, we the faithful have the opportunity to think about our Lord's condescension, His Incarnation, His humility, His servitude, as well as our own baptism and what that means for us. We are members of the Body of Christ, our life is not our own, but has been "bought with a price" (I Cor. 6:20), the price of death on the Cross.

We must also not isolate this sacred feast from all the others of our Lord. We must tie them all together into one big tapestry and see within it the love, compassion and mercy of God for us. All that our Lord did, all that He accomplished, He did for us; He did nothing for Himself. He was the beneficiary of none of it; we the beneficiary of all of it. This is the kenosis, the complete self-emptying of our Lord for His creation.

As we look at our Lord standing in the Jordan River as it's depicted in the icon, notice the humble God-man Jesus Christ who did everything for us, Who sacrificed His life so that we might have eternal life! Who suffered for us so that we might have a life of eternity where there is neither pain nor suffering! Who gave everything so that we might gain everything! ✣

Wishing all of you a very blessed New Year,
Fr. Timothy

MANY YEARS! XPONIA POLLA! MANY YEARS!

.....to those celebraing their namedays in January:

Jan. 1~ St. Basil, the Great & <u>David, the Prophet</u>
Athena (Vasiliki) Lowe
Basil Contes
Basil Van Sickle
Bill (Basil) Walters
David McAtee
Diakonnissa Sandy (Vasiliki) Duchow-Pressley
Eva (Vasiliki) Walters
Presvytera Vicki (Vasiliki) Pavlatos
Richard (Vasilios) Whitton
Rob (Vasilios) Walters
Vasilia Tussing

Jan. 2~Sts. Seraphim of Sarov & <u>Julianna Lazarevskaya of Lazarevo</u>
Juliana Sumerfield
Lia (Serphima) Chiprout
Lola Seraphima Weick
Robert Seraphim Downs
Steve (Seraphim) Sclimenti
David McAtee

<u>Jan. 6~Holy Theophany</u>
Dimitri (Theophanes) Van Sickle
Giordana Pavlatos
Theophanes Ketrenos

<u>Jan. 7~Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</u>
Jo Anne Finicle
John Davis
John Paul Hafez
John Poulos
Scott Johannes Soot

<u>Jan. 10~St. Theophan, the Recluse</u>
Theophan McKenzie

<u>Jan. 12~Tatiana of Rome</u>
Tatiana Pavlatos

<u>Jan. 14~St. Nina of Georgia</u>
Nina Sumerfield

<u>Jan. 17~St. Anthony, the Great</u>
Anthony Dorrance
Anthony Kuchulis
Anthony Williams
Blake (Anthony) Lowe

<u>Jan. 18~St. Athanasios</u>
Athanasios Poulos
Athanasio Van Sickle
John Athanasios Wehlitz

<u>Jan. 19~St. Makarios the Great</u>
Kyle (Makarios) Roth
Makarios Daniels

<u>Jan. 21~Maximus, the Confessor</u>
Maximus Crosby

<u>Jan. 22~Apostle Timothy of the 70</u>
Paul (Timothy) Jungwirth
Fr. Timothy Pavlatos

<u>Jan. 24~St. Xenia of Petersburg</u>
Katie (Xenia) Tussing
Ksenia Crosby

<u>Jan. 28~Sts. Isaac & Ephraim the Syrians</u>
Brandon (Ephraim) Wilson
Isaac Wilson
Brian (Isaac) Rush

<u>Jan. 30~St. Chrysii</u>
Chrysiis Rigas

<u>Jan. 31~St. Evdoxia</u>
Yocheved-Theodoxia Marine

...to those celebrating Wedding Anniversaries:

Nicholas & Maria Hafez~31 yrs on Jan. 4th
Michael & Kathryn Becker~35 yrs on Jan. 9th
Joshua & Naomi Knight ~ 16 yrs on Jan. 12th
Kalin & Ilyana Stoeva~ 24 yrs on Jan. 23rd
Dimitri & Othonia Mirras ~ 48 yrs on Jan. 26th
Jon & Lisa Corazza ~ 26 yrs on Jan.26th
Demetri & Elaine Kontaxis ~ 62 yrs on Jan. 30th

Memory Eternal:

Edie (Anna) Dorrance ~ 8 years on Jan. 8th
Marilyn Altemus ~ 8 years on Jan. 22nd
Angeliki DeLaurenti ~ 2 year on Jan. 23rd
Linda (Eleni) Contes ~ 25 years on Jan. 27th
Christos Makarounis ~ 10 years on Jan. 30th

***Please notify the church office if your feast or anniversary was not listed.**

Adopt-an-Icon

When we moved into our current location ten years ago, we had an ***"Adopt-an-Icon"*** campaign to choose icons to adorn our church.

We now have space for **<u>three</u>** additional icons in the nave and Young Family Room

To "Adopt-an-Icon" for one of these spaces, contact Rachel Daniels rachelmdaniels@hotmail.com

Each icon is $500; excess proceeds will benefit the **Building Fund**

The choices are listed below.

St. Matthew
St. Mark
St. Luke
St. Vlasios
St. Gregory Palamas
St. Dionysios of Zachynthos
St. Eleutherios
St. Euthymios
St. Theodosios
St. Theodore of Tyre
St. Therapon
St. Thomas
~~St. John of Damascus~~
St. Kosmas Aitolos
~~St. Minas~~
St. Sabbas
St. Spyridon
~~St. Stephen~~
St. Symeon the Stylite
St. Tryphon
St. Romanos the Melodist
Srs. Athanasios and Cyril
The Prophet Elijah
St. Irene
St. Eugenia
St. Euphemia
St. Kyriaki
~~St. Mary Magdalene~~
St. Marina
St. Solomone

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore L. Dorrance, Priest
Rev. Fr. Timothy Pavlatos, Priest
Fr. Innocent Duchow-Pressley, Deacon

2016 Parish Council
John Davis, *President*
Kent Taylor, *Vice President*
Gregory Walsh, *Secretary*
Karen Keese, *Treasurer*
Niko Poulos, *Stewardship Chair*
Erik Chosvig
Robert Crosby
Arthur "Ted" Deming
Mark Lindgren
Demetri Mirras
Steve Roth
Joe Weick

Sunday School
Jessie Crosby

Logos Bookstore
Agape Ketrenos - Director
Paraskevi Whitton - Co-Director

Philoptochos
Eleni Goldman - *President*
Sandy Duchow-Pressley - *Vice President*
Colleen Van Sickle - *Treasurer*
Pres. Stacey Dorrance - *Membership*

Hospitality
Stephanie Makarounis
Patricia Poulos

Moms & Tots
Athena Gonzales
Kendall Muzik

Church Music
Presvytera Stacey Dorrance

Altar Boys
Tobias Armstrong
Demetrius Van Sickle
Barry Ketrenos
Dn. Innocent Duchow-Pressley

Bookkeeping
Kathleen Ketrenos

Parish Administrator
Barbara Coert

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Articles & Announcements
Due by the 2nd Friday of every month

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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, and thank you to all the candidates and voters! May we pray for them so they can guide our parish!
The new members will be sworn in after services on January 15th, at the end of Liturgy, prior to the Blessing of the Waters .

In Christ, The 2016 Parish Council Election Committee

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." Written by: **Kyle Hummel**

OUR NEXT PARISH SERVICE NIGHT

We have 25 spots reserved at the
Oregon Food Bank on
Thursday, January 12th 6-8:30pm.

REFLECTIONS

Being a Friend of God
by Lazarus Chiprout

God is the creator of the entire universe and of us all, by Christ, who is the Word of God (Eph. 3:19, John 1:1). The relationship of the created to the Creator, as was known throughout the ancient world before Christ, was one of awe, respect, worship, fear and submission. If one looks at the way gods were portrayed in the ancient world, we see mainly gods manipulating humans to the liking of the gods, as in the Iliad by the Greek poet Homer. We may see the gods bestowing favor to humans or even, in rare instance, inviting a human (or half-human and half-god) to their dinner banquet, as is the case of Tentalus, in the Greek myths. To my knowledge, we do not see a god leave heaven and condescend to be with man in order to be in intimate friendship with him. This only fully happened in the religious accounts of man in the gospels of the New Testament.

We get a premonition of this direction in Genesis in the Garden of Eden where God is described to be "walking in the garden in the cool of the day" (Gen. 3:8), or when Abraham meets and hosts three angels in human form and one of the them turns out the be "the Lord" (Gen. 18-19). Jesus Christ did that in a timeless way, and this message was a surprise to the Greek world. The question that was asked by the Greeks is: "why would a god leave the comforts of their heavenly abode to be with man walking in the dirt of the earth and suffering the daily grind of life". This was so puzzling that it seemed to lack wisdom to the Greeks. St. Paul pointed this out by writing "we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness…" (I Cor. 1:23). Christ showed unfathomable humility to do this: "But [Christ] made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:7).

Therefore it comes as an even greater upset to the understanding of the world of the divine that the Creator of the Universe not only condescended to man to live with him but called on men to become His friend. This was foreshadowed with particular individuals in the Old Testament. First, Abraham was in an intimate relationship with God to the point of haggling with God about how many righteous people could be reduced in a city before God would act to destroy it. Abraham argued God down from 50 to 45 to 40 to 30 to 20 to 10! (Gen. 18:23-32). In that intimacy with God, Abraham was viewed by God as His friend: "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend" (Isaiah 41:8, II Chron. 20:7, James 2:23). Similarly, Moses the great prophet of Israel was considered such: "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaks unto his friend" (Exodus 33:11).

The friendship to which God calls men to partake is unlike earthly friendships. It requires a deeper relationship with the Creator who made the nature of man: "You are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14). "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (vs. 15). This sets up a strong contrast between this friendship and the opposite ways of the world: "You adulterers and adulteresses, know you not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Let us partake of the friendship that God offers us through obedience to His will, for only in this will we come to know the true nature of friendship with God and man.✣

2017 Theophany Service Schedule

Sunday, January 1st
St. Basil the Great & The Circumcision of Christ
8:45 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
with the cutting of the Vasilopita following Liturgy

Thursday, January 5th ~ Forefeast of Theophany
8:30 a.m. Royal Hours
5:30 p.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
with Blessing of the Waters, followed by Festal potluck

Friday, January 6th ~ Holy Theophany
7:00 p.m. Great Vespers & Artoklasia for St. John the Baptist

Saturday, January 7th ~ Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
Parish Feast Day
9:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy, followed by lunch

LOGOS BOOKSTORE-BOOK REVIEW CORNER

The Field - Cultivating Salvation
The Collected Works of St Ignatius (Brianchaninov)-Vol. I

This book is pure gold. You could use this book in your daily devotions and add solid truth and depth to your heart. St. Ignatius' wisdom is practical in that you can learn and apply what he teaches. Every chapter covers a different topic, and each is relevant to our salvation. For example, he writes about how to battle Satan and our passions with humility, which is our most effective weapon. When I think of battles and overcoming ones adversary, and the characteristics that a warrior needs, humility is very low on my list. Yet, as St Ignatius points out, we cannot battle these things successfully if we do not first have authentic humility. He teaches us that the first thing spiritual warriors need to know and believe, before they go into battle, is that they do not have the strength to win. They must depend wholly upon God; this requires humility, for without God, every Christian is doomed in the unseen warfare against the dark forces of evil.

When I started reading this book, I read the last chapter first. This last chapter is St Ignatius' lament at the end of his life. I wrote this review about his chapter on humility, because his lament showed he lived this humility. The chapter starts out with his confession of failure in this life, and then his lament transforms into a confession of victory in Christ. I would recommend that you read the last chapter first, and remember that he attained the prize and defeated the evil one through his humility.

Overall, this book will bless you. Again, I see it as a great tool for daily devotions, because it has 38 short chapters, with each chapter having about three to five pages each. ✠

by Erik Chosvig

The Life and Teachings of Elder Paisius of Sihla
By Archimandrite Ioanichic (Balan)

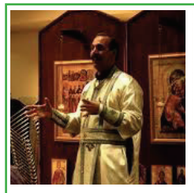
The best way to start this review is with a quote from the introduction: "Bishop Anthony (Plamadeala) said of the elder, 'One cannot say precisely what the specific gift of Fr. Paisius is. He does not work miracles. He doesn't preach: no one has heard him preach in church. Neither is he a good chanter; as a celebrant he is not gifted……And yet, he has something which captivates. He has grace…'"

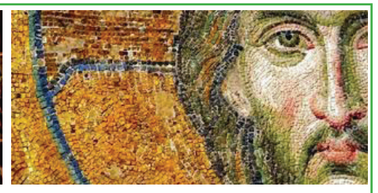
Personally, if I was good at something in the Church, really good, I would think my gift to be of great service to the Church, but Bishop's description above helps me to see that holiness and grace are the greatest gift we can offer the Church. The Elder was not good at the things most people look at, yet his life and his teachings recorded in the book reveal a Saint. Elder Paisius looked at his life with honesty and humor. He points out how he worried about situations and made hasty decisions. After recounting these events he would make a point that always focused on Christ and His Kingdom. Like many of the great monks, he only wanted to serve God quietly and work out his salvation. As often happens to many great monks, he was thrust into places and positions that were not his choosing, and like the introduction points out, Elder Paisius mixed everything in his life with grace.

About half of this book is filled with teachings from Elder Paisius that he gave at the monasteries where he served. His teachings on chastity are seasoned with wisdom and practicality. If you are in a place in your life where the world seems to be seeping into your heart and you need some clarity; this will lighten your load and help illumine your path.

When you take into account that he lived when communist Russia overran the country of Romania, you will see he lived his Christian life amidst danger when great faith, dedication and commitment were necessary for spiritual survival. Everyone who chooses to read this book will be encouraged to fight the good fight. The book, as a whole, is easy to read and easy to follow. I would recommend it for everyone above the 9th grade. ✠

by Erik Chosvig





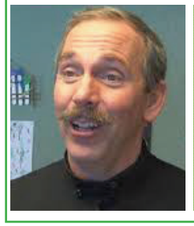
The St. John's Missions & Evangelism Committee Presents:

Seminar: How to Present the Orthodox Faith

Thursday Jan 26 7-9pm – **Part 1: Eastern vs Western Mindset**
Friday Jan 27 7-9pm – **Part 2: The Theotokos**
Saturday Jan 28 9am-11:30pm – **Part 3: The Scriptures**
11:30am-12:30pm – Lunch
12:30pm-3pm – **Part 4: Morality and Spirituality**

Location: *St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church (stjohngoc.org)*

This seminar is FREE and open to all Orthodox Christians. We especially welcome all who would like to participate more in our missions and evangelism efforts at St. John's. Regardless, you will learn and be edified! **Questions?** See Patrick or Eli.



Have you ever wanted to know how to share the Orthodox Faith with the non-Orthodox, especially in a comprehensive way?

Come and learn how to do this from Fr. Russell Radoicich, Priest of Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte, MT. He has been evangelizing in Montana with noteworthy success for many years.

BASICS OF ORTHODOXY CLASSES

Free and open to the public. All classes are 7-8:30 p.m.

Day	Date	Topic
Wed	Jan 11th	Jesus Christ & the Holy Trinity
Wed	Jan 18th	The Human Person
Wed	Jan 25th	The Divine Liturgy
Tues.	Jan 31st	Orthodox Spirituality I
Wed.	Feb 8th	Orthodox Spirituality II
Wed.	Feb. 15th	Orthodox Spirituality III
Wed.	Feb. 22nd	Holy Tradition
Mon.	Mar. 6th	Church History I
Mon.	Mar. 13th	Church History II
Mon.	Mar. 20th	Holy Mysteries I
Mon.	Mar. 27th	Holy Mysteries II
Mon.	April 3rd	Church Architecture and Iconography
Mon.	April 24th	Veneration of the Theotokos & Saints
Mon.	May 1st	Basics of Bible Study

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

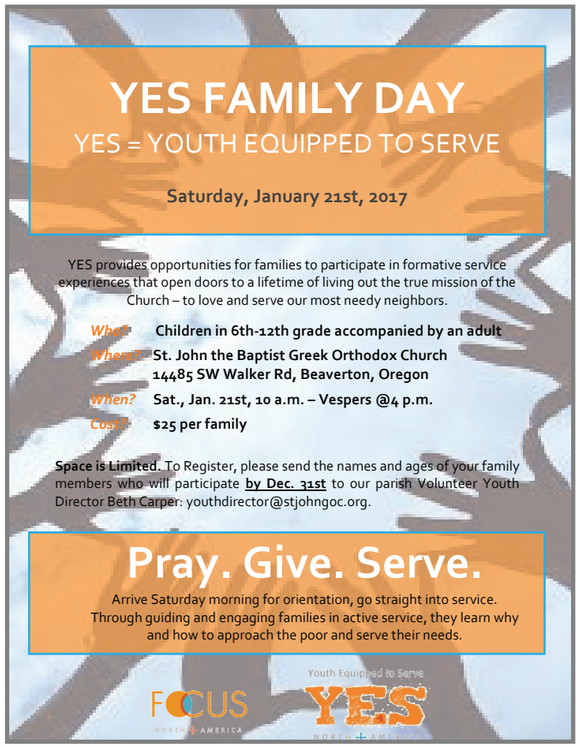
Brianchaninov Orthodox Christianity to the Portland Westside and Beaverton Area

January 2017

Major Feast Days		
January 1	Circumcision of the Lord	
January 6	Feast of the Theophany	
January 7	Synaxis of St. John the Baptist	St. Anthony, the Great
January 17		
January 18	Ss. Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria	St. Gregory, the Theologian
January 25		
January 30	The Three Hierarchs	
February		
February 15		Presentation of the Lord

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 January	2 New Year's Day (observed)	3	4	5 Strict Fast	6	7
8:45a Orthros & Divine Liturgy with Vasilopita Noon Sunday School Christmas Party	Church Office Closed	9:30a Bible Study 7p Strategic Planning Meeting	7:30a Orthros & Divine Liturgy with 2nd Hour 7p Circle Practice	Forefeast of the Theophany 8:30a Royal Hours 5:30p Orthros & Divine Liturgy with Blessing of the Waters. To be served by Fr. Stephen	10:30a Monthly Tea Bible Study 7p Great Vespers with Anointing and Ladies Tea 2nd light dessert	9a Orthros & Divine Liturgy - followed by Luncheon 5p Great Vespers
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:45a Orthros & Divine Liturgy 12:15p Sunday School Lesson 101 1p Holy Basics Planning Meeting	6:30p Ste. Mary & Martha Service Schedule to be Decided Food Aids	9:30a Bible Study	7p Circle Practice 7p Basics of Orthodoxy-1 7p Sch Workshop St. Cosmas Bay	9a Ste. Mary & Martha Service Schedule 10:30a Monthly Tea Bible Study	9a Parakletos Planning Session 5p Great Vespers 6p JOY 6p Jr. GOYA Lenten Gath.	9a Parakletos Planning Session 5p Great Vespers 6p JOY 6p Jr. GOYA Lenten Gath.
15	16 Martin Luther King Day	17	18	19	20	21
Sr. GOYA Winter Retreat 8:45a Orthros & Divine Liturgy Noon Sunday School Theology 101 12:30p Outdoor Blessing of the Waters at Portland Women's Crisis Line	Church Office Closed 5:30p Orthros & Divine Liturgy followed by Festal Meal	9:30a Bible Study 6:15p Parish Council Meeting	7:30a Orthros & Divine Liturgy with 2nd Hour 7p Circle Practice 7p Basics of Orthodoxy-2	10:30a Monthly Tea Bible Study	10:30a Monthly Tea Bible Study	11a YPs Lean Meals Ministry 5p Great Vespers
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:45a Orthros & Divine Liturgy 12:15p Sunday School Theology 101 1p Choir Practice & Planning Meeting	10a ASK Special Outreach Day 7p M/W Men's Prayer Group	9:30a Bible Study 7p Annual Church Meeting Elect Parish Council Officers Fr. Russell Radoicich 7p Adjourning Meeting	8:30a Orthros & Divine Liturgy 7p Circle Practice 7p Basics of Orthodoxy-3	8:30a Orthros & Divine Liturgy 7p Circle Practice 7p Basics of Orthodoxy-4	9a How to Present the Orthodox Faith-Part 3: The Old Testament 12:30p Part 4: Morality & Spirituality 5p Great Vespers	9a How to Present the Orthodox Faith-Part 3: The Old Testament 12:30p Part 4: Morality & Spirituality 5p Great Vespers
29	30	31	1 February	2	3	4
8:45a Orthros & Divine Liturgy 12:15p Sunday School Theology 101	8:30a Orthros & Divine Liturgy	9:30a Bible Study 7p Parish Council Meeting-1	5:30p Orthros & Divine Liturgy - followed by Potluck with Pancake Day 7p Circle Practice	10:30a Monthly Tea Bible Study	5p Great Vespers	

***Please Note:** The calendar is subject to change without notice.*



YOUTH NEWS

Spiritual Growth

by Beth Carper

As we head into the new year, we tend to make all sorts of resolutions. These valiant efforts can, at times be overwhelming and have trouble sticking. One big resolutionthat many parents in our parish contemplate is their children's spirituality and how to awaken/reawaken their children's passion for God. We are bombarded with many options for our children: try this program, read this book, make sure your children do this, make sure they act this way, correct them at all costs, etc. While all these solutions and advice can be edifying and sometimes helpful, they can also, at times, leave us exhausted and frustrated. To truly re-energize our children's spiritual lives, we must first take a look at ourselves. I, of course, speak not as a parent, but as a youth worker, and I would like to remind you all that your children are incredibly observant. They are constantly watching and observing every move all the adults in their lives are making, especially you, their parents. They know what your Christian life looks like. St. Porphyrios explains it much better than I can.

"What saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home. The parents need to devote themselves to the love of God. They need to become saints in their relations to their children through their mildness, patience, and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children. And the joy that will come to them, the holiness that will visit them, will shower grace on their children. Generally the parents are to blame for the bad behavior of the children. And their behavior is not improved by reprimands, disciplining, or strictness. If the parents do not pursue a life of holiness and if they don't engage in spiritual struggle, they make great mistakes and transmit the faults they have within them. If the parents do not live a holy life and do not display love towards each other, the devil torments the parents with the reactions of the children. Love, harmony and understanding between parents are what are required for the children. This provides a great sense of security and certainty."— St. Porphyrios

Beginning in 2017, let our new resolution be to strive to be more like saints at all times. We know that our own holy example, as well as our humility and repentance when we fail, is the best way to connect our children to Jesus Christ and His unfathomable love for us. What could be more reinvigorating to everyone's spiritual life than this?✣

Upcoming Events

Date	Group	Event
Jan. 21	6th-12th Grades and Parents	Yes Focus North America Family Day
Feb. 18-19	Jr. GOYA	Monastery Trip
Mar. 11	6th-12th Grades	Oratorical Festival and Potluck
Mar. 17-19	7th-12th Grades	Pan-Orthodox Amazing Youth Retreat

****Youth Volunteers Needed!****

Specifically:
Hosts for Jr. GOYA, and GOYA
Leaders for Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) and HOPE (K-2nd)

For more info. contact Beth (youthdirector@stjohngoc.org).

St. John the Baptist
January Schedule

DATE	PROSFORA BAKERS (Loaves delivered day before)	PARISH COUNCIL	GREETERS	CHURCH FLOWERS	CLEAN-UP	ALTAR BOYS
Sunday, January 1st	Barnes (1)/Blankenstein (2)	Miras/Poulos	Benson	Flower Committee	Team 10	Team A
Thursday, January 5th	Whitton (2)	--	--	--	--	--
Saturday, January 7th	Ketrenos (2)	--	--	--	--	--
Sunday, January 8th	Becker (3)/Whitton (2)	Chasvig/Keese	Blankenstein	Floral Committee	Team 1	Team B
Sunday, January 15th	Hailey (2)	Keese/Chasvig	Becker	Chasvig/Pumpower	Team 2	Team C
Wednesday, January 18th	Davis (2)	--	--	--	--	--
Sunday, January 22nd	Goldman (4)/Blankenstein (2)	Taylor/Davis	Chasvig	Hailey	Team 3	Team D
Sunday, January 29th	Poulos (4)/Whitton (2)	Welch/Miras	Goldman	Flower Cherry	Team 4	Team F

Altar Boys

Team A: Samuel, Zacharias, Josiah, Elias, Kevin, Isaac
Team B: Anthony, Christos, Micah, Miracle, Nikolas, Nicholas
Team C: Tobias, Kyle, Leon, Adam, Thomas, Peter, Gabriel

Clean up Team 1: Becker, Armstrong, Iverson, Lewis, Whitten, Manos, Leslie, Nikolas, Charles
Clean up Team 2: Wood, Evans, Dougal, Powell, Sinnett, Gillespie, Mosik, Poulos, Adam
Clean up Team 3: Davis, Makowski, Clement, Bright, Thomas, Parker, Peter, Isaac
Clean up Team 4: Forrest, Trumpower, Hartley, Williams, Sean-Kerrane, Garfield, Gonzales, Remzi
Clean up Team 5: Welsh, Lorentz, Adams, Keese, Chandler, Wilson, Kolopsky, Gary

Clean up Team 6: Kerrones, A.K. Ludmine, Q & J. Ludmine, R. Gallegos, Thienes, Tesfamicael, Taylor, Hunter
Clean up Team 7: Nelson-Hurst, Hartley, Jones, Hailey, Benson, Mosik, Hailey, Shulman, Eaks
Clean up Team 8: Poulos, Rich, McKenzie, Becker, Bryans, Jameson, Wechter, Heintz
Clean up Team 9: Hopkins, Jones, Hailey, Bush, Gaskill, Solomon, Kennedy, Cooley, Gallagher-Jones
Clean up Team 10: Wilson, Drinkenstein, Hudson, Phillips, Jones, Farquhar, Hall, Slower, Breer

BLESSING OF THE HOMES

After January 6, 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 if you have questions about scheduling your houseblessing.