

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.

Feast Day Dinner: St. John will be hosting the Pan-Orthodox community for dinner after Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, January 6th for our Parish Feast Day. Several parishioners have signed up to help set-up and serve, but we will need help with clean-up. Also we need 8 people to make 2 dozen chocolate chip cookies. Questions? Please contact Diane Cherry at dcwlor@gmail.com.

Supper for Six Sign-ups during Coffee Hour (for Jan, Feb & Mar): See Brandon during coffee hour for more information and to sign-up or email at cravetruth@yahoo.com. SIGN-UP DEADLINE IS TODAY.

We are in need of 15-20 volunteers to park off site on Sundays to alleviate congestion in our parking lot. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kristine Patzke-Wiseman at kwiseman@amfam.com.

There is only 1 opening left for January 2016. January is a great time to start your three-year old at ASA. Outside of the educational and social benefits of attending Montessori at this specific age, it is also a terrific way to secure a place for the fall! Learn more at www.asapdx.org.

Support our building fund! Buy take n bake! Only two pans of tyropita left- \$22 per pan. Plus we have filo rolls \$3 per roll. See Christina Blankenstein to purchase.

Council of Ministries Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 PM. If you have been asked to represent a ministry, please plan to attend or find an alternate to give your ministry report.

Basics of Orthodoxy Classes will begin on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 PM and continue on Wednesday nights until March 9th. During Lent, from March 28th - April 18th, class will meet on Monday nights at 7:00 PM after Great Compline. A detailed list of weekly topics will be handed out during the first class.

House Blessings will begin this next week. Each household will be contacted by the church office to schedule a date and time. Several homes in the same neighborhood will be visited in the same day, so your patience and flexibility with scheduling are much appreciated! Thank you for your understanding as we work to ensure each household in our community is blessed.

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

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America * Metropolis of San Francisco*

Rev. Fr. Theodore Dorrance * Rev. Fr. Timothy Pavlatos * Dn. Innocent Duchow-Pressley

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NEW Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Witnessing the Truth of Apostolic Christianity

Visit our Parish website at www.stjohnnoc.org

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY PROPHET MALACHI, MARTYR GORDIOS, THOMAS OF LESBOS, GENEVIEVE OF PARIS

JANUARY 3, 2016

Plagal 2nd Mode / 9th Morning Gospel

Prophet Malachi was born after the return of the Hebrews from the Babylonian Captivity in 538 B.C. He was unusually handsome in countenance. According to legend, the people called him an angel, perhaps because of his external beauty or because of his spiritual purity, or even, perhaps because of his association with an angel of God. On many occasions he spoke face to face with an angel. That which the angel proclaimed, the young Malachi prophesied. Five hundred years before Christ, Malachi clearly prophesied the coming and the mission of John the Baptist: "Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me" (Malachi 3:7). Mainly, he is the prophet of the day of the Dreadful Judgment. "Before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day" (Malachi 3: 23-24). Following him, there were no more prophets in Israel until John the Baptist.

In the early Church the feasts of the Nativity and the **Holy Theophany** were celebrated together on the same day - January 6th. In the fourth century the feasts were separated, and Christmas was transferred to December 25th to replace the pagan celebration of the sun with the Christian celebration of the sun of Righteousness. The twelve days that are now between the feasts of Christmas and Theophany are considered part of the feast. The word 'theophany' comes from the apostolic passage "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory" (1 Tim. 3:16) and relates mostly to Christ's Nativity. The word 'epiphany' comes from the apostolic passage "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Tit. 2:11) and is related mostly to Christ's Baptism, for it was then that people recognized Christ's divinity. **Services for Theophany will be on Tuesday January 5th: 8:00 AM Royal Hours and 5:00 PM Orthros & Divine Liturgy followed by a Great Blessing of the Waters and Festal Potluck.**

PC: Jungwirth/Lindgren G: Benson Altar Boys Team D: Nathaniel, Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Wade, Owen
Clean up Team 1: Nathaniel, Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Wade, Owen

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (Plagal 2nd Mode):

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary, seeking Your pure and sacred Body then You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch You came unto the Virgin, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Angelike thinamis epi to mnima Su, ke i filassontes apenekrothisan. ke istato Maria en to tafo zitusa to achranton Su soma. Eskilefsas ton Athin me pirasthis ip aftu ipindisas ti Partheno, thorumenos tin zoin o Anastas ek ton nekron, Kirie thoxa Si.

Hymn of the Forefeast (4th Mode/Joseph was amazed):

Be thou ready, O Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. * River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive * the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. * O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; * hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. * Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now * to clothe you in the first robe again. * Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 (2nd Mode/Thou soughtest the heights):

Today let us laud * the chorus of the Seventy * disciples of Christ, * ye faithful; and in godliness, * let us keep a feast, for we learned through them to worship the Trinity, * Who is indivisibly one; * for they are the lamps of our most godly Faith.

EPISTLE READING: 2 Timothy 4:5-8: (Sunday Before Theophany):

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8: (Sunday Before Theophany):

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3RD

Sunday, January 3rd	Sunday before Theophany Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM Swearing-In of Parish Council Members <i>after Liturgy</i> Sunday School/Theology 101 12:15 PM
Monday, January 4th	Chili Cook-Off Meeting 7:00 PM
Tuesday, January 5th	Forefeast Of Theophany Royal Hours 8:00 AM No Bible Study Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Holy Theophany 5:00 PM <i>followed by Great Blessing of the Waters & Festal Potluck</i>
Wednesday, January 6th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of St. John 5:30 PM <i>with Artoklasia followed by Parish Feast Day Celebration</i> No Choir Practice
Friday, January 8th	Moms & Tots Bible Study 10:30 AM
Saturday, January 9th	Reiter Baptisms & Marriage Blessing 10:00 AM Great Vespers 5:00 PM Jr. GOYA Fireside Chat 6:00 PM Sr. GOYA Fireside Chat w/ Fr. Theodore 6:00 PM
Sunday, January 10th	Sunday after Theophany Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM Sunday School/Theology 101

Welcome Visitors! Stop by our Visitors' Table near the Logos Bookstore so we can welcome you.

The Church office will be Closed from Thursday, December 24th through Monday, January 4th. In case of emergency, please contact clergy directly.

New Church Office Hours: Beginning in January, the Church Office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

You are Invited: Lloyd & Charity Reiter will become Orthodox and have their marriage blessed on Saturday, January 9th at 10:00 AM. Please join us!! Greek food, wine and dancing will follow the sacraments in the South Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Charity at charityreiter@gmail.com or 631-804-2281 no later than January 2nd.

Bring in your Holy Water bottles to be cleaned before Holy Theophany. Bottles from previous years may be placed in the collection basket in the Narthex.

Great Blessing of the Waters on the Portland Waterfront! Please make plans to gather at a new location this year for the Great Blessing of the Waters on Sunday, Jan. 17th, immediately following Divine Liturgy (no SS or Theology 101). For more information see <http://tinyurl.com/stjohn-gbw>. A bulletin insert is forthcoming. Let's have a great turn-out this year for this special annual event!