

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.

The **Spring General Assembly** will take place on Saturday, May 14th after Great Vespers. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important gathering.

Janitor Needed: Agia Sophia Academy is seeking a part-time Janitor. Schedule is approximately 2.5 hours per day on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with possible flexibility, plus summer and major holidays off. Compensation is between \$11-13 an hour, depending on experience. Learn more at <http://www.asapdx.org/about-us/employment> or by contacting ASA at 503.641.4600.

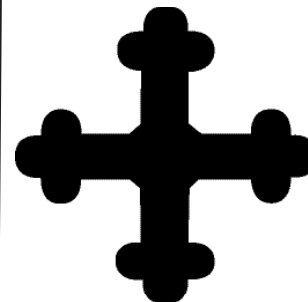
We are seeking a qualified person to fill the vacant Parish Administrator position. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them contact John Davis at John@Vista-RE.com or 503-709-7550 for more information or to apply. During this transition period, parishioners may call Fr. Theodore's cell phone to schedule appointments. Messages on the office phone will also be responded to regularly.

Volunteers are needed to make Grab and Give bags! For about \$3 a piece, bags can be assembled for fellow parishioners to hand out to the needy in the community. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jillian Walsh at jilliankehr3@gmail.com.

Women's Monastery Trip - Philotochos will be visiting St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA April 8th-10th. Stay tuned for more details. **Women's E-mail List** - To make sure that you are on the Philotochos e-mail list, please see Vicki Horton or Presvytera Stacey. Thank you!

Please attend the Pan-Orthodox Evening for IOCC - Holy Trinity will host the event on Sunday, April 17th at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children 6-12 years of age. Children under 5 are free. Featured speaker is IOCC Gift Officer, Nick Kasemeotes. 92% of all funds raised go directly toward relief for Syria's besieged families in Greece, Lebanon, Serbia and Syria. Info and tickets available online at iocc.org/portland. Please RSVP by April 10th.

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

CHEESEFARE - FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

THE EXILE OF ADAM FROM PARADISE

REMOVAL OF THE RELICS OF NICEPHORUS OF CONSTANTINOPE

MARCH 13, 2016

Plagal of the 4th Mode / 8th Morning Gospel

This Sunday is called **Cheese-Fare Sunday**, because it is the last day that we may eat dairy products. Tomorrow we begin the Great Lenten Fast, which lasts until after the Paschal Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday night. It is important for each of us who are in good health and old enough to understand the purpose of fasting to be obedient to the guidelines our Church gives to us. Fasting is a necessary ingredient to the Christian life if we desire to be pure and truly become followers of Jesus Christ. Unless we learn to direct our appetites toward God and not seek always to immediately satisfy ourselves, we cannot be healed and experience freedom from our sins and passions.

Today is also referred to as **Forgiveness Sunday**. A basic truth of Christ's teaching is that access to Him is closed if we are not willing to forgive our neighbor. Today's Gospel Reading makes this clear: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." With this in mind, the Church seeks to remind us to begin our Lenten Journey by not only seeking God's forgiveness through the sacrament of Holy Confession, but also by seeking and forgiving our brothers and sisters. This is why our Church traditionally offers a Forgiveness Vespers on the eve of the first day of Great Lent, "Clean Monday."

Another theme of this day is "**The Expulsion of Adam from the Paradise of Bliss.**" This title, given to this last Sunday before Lent, summarizes the entire Lenten preparation. Our sin has deprived us of the bliss of paradise in its fullness, and our existence on earth in this light can be considered "exile." But God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, has opened the door of paradise to everyone who follows Him. The Church, by revealing to us the beauty of the Kingdom, makes our life a pilgrimage toward our heavenly home. This is the meaning and purpose of the Lenten Journey: a return from exile back through the gates of paradise and into communion with God. May God grant us courage, endurance and strength!

PC: Keese/Walsh G: Goldman Altar Boys Team D: Demetrius, Constantine, Athanasios, Basil, Wade, Owen, Simon
Clean up Team 1: Becker, Armstrong, Benson, Lowe, Whitton, Marine, Leslie, Mirras

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection (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 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 Forgiveness Sunday (Plagal 2nd Mode):

O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor: establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master. Grant me speech, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto Thee: Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who have fallen.

EPISTLE READING: Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4 (Forgiveness Sunday):

Brethren, you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:14-21 (Forgiveness Sunday):

The Lord said: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 13TH

Sunday, March 13th	**Daylight Savings Time Begins** Cheesefare Sunday/Forgiveness Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers <i>immediately after Liturgy</i> NO Sunday School/Theology 101	8:45 AM
Monday, March 14th	Clean Monday - Strict Fast Great Compline with Canon Philoptochos Board Meeting	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
Tuesday, March 15th	Clean Tuesday - Strict Fast Bible Study Great Compline with Canon Parish Council Meeting	9:30 AM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM
Wednesday, March 16th	Clean Wednesday - Strict Fast Presanctified Liturgy w/ Lenten Potluck	6:30 PM
Thursday, March 17th	Clean Thursday - Strict Fast Great Compline with Canon	6:00 PM
Friday, March 18th	Clean Friday - Strict Fast Presanctified Liturgy (ASA attends) Moms & Tots Bible Study First Salutations	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 6:30 PM
Saturday, March 19th	Saturday of the Miracle of the Kolyva Orthros & Divine Liturgy Strategic Plan Workshop Missions & Evangelism Meeting Great Vespers	8:30 AM 12:00 PM 3:45 PM 5:00 PM
Sunday, March 20th	Sunday of Orthodoxy (Services at St. John) Orthros & Divine Liturgy Procession with Icons <i>immediately after Liturgy</i> NO Sunday School/Theology 101	8:45 AM

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

Basics of Orthodoxy Class will be held on Mondays, beginning March 28th at 7:00 PM after Great Compline Service. We will finish the Basics Series before Holy Week.

Apply now for the 2016-17 ASA enrollment pool! It looks like our Montessori Preschool (ages 3-6) will soon be full for next year with a waiting list; apply by February 29th for 1st round consideration. Visit www.asapdx.org for an application today!