

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.

Parish Administrator Vacancy - Please have potential candidates contact John Davis at John@Vista-RE.com or 503-709-7550 for more information or to apply. In the meantime, please call Fr. Theodore's cell phone to schedule appointments. Messages on the office phone will also be checked regularly.

It's Time to Register for Summer Camp! Camp Angelos 2016 "Keep Calm and Pray On!" will be July 10-15th. Online registration is open and can be found at goholytrinity.org on its homepage. For youth ages 9-17, this is a summer camp experience you will not want to miss--Register today! Contact Christine Whitton with questions at christine.n.whitton@gmail.com.

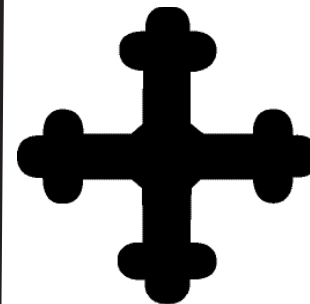
Our Spring General Assembly is on a Saturday - Mark your calendars for this important meeting May 14th after Great Vespers! The agenda packets will be sent out 10 days prior to the meeting.

Support IOCC April 17th - Holy Trinity will host a dinner to benefit International Orthodox Christian Charities, IOCC, 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. The 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. To secure your spot, please RSVP today.

To apply for Agia Sophia Academy's Montessori Preschool enrollment pool or learn about openings in grades 1st - 5th, please contact the school office directly at 503-641-4600 or info@asapdx.org. You may also download the application at: www.asapdx.org.

Pan Orthodox Vacation Church School: Save the date for this year's Vacation Church School! For K-5th grades, this will be a week that you will not want to miss! June 27th-July 1st at Holy Trinity. Registration open soon!

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

*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 OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER THE HOLY MARTYR TERRENCE AND HIS COMPANIONS

APRIL 10, 2016

Fourth Mode / 1st Morning Gospel

Today, we celebrate the icon of the **Ladder of Divine Ascent** and the famous book of the same name, written by **St. John of Sinai**. Both the icon and the book show the Christian life to be a step by step progression away from a world of sin and our own inner world of the passions upward toward union with Christ. Each step on the Ladder of Divine Ascent represents a step closer to God. With each step up the ladder, St. John teaches us that the passions must be submitted to God for healing and transfiguration. This is a struggle characterized by the ascetic life of obedience to Christ's commandments. As we ascend this ladder, we begin to see ourselves as we truly are in relation to Christ, and how much our heavenly Father values us, loves us and wants to set us free from the slavery to sin.

The concept of a ladder ascending into heaven is not unique to this great spiritual work. It has its roots in the Old Testament, with Jacob's vision of a ladder. "And Jacob dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!" (Gen.28:12) Many of the Holy Fathers of the Church interpreted this vision of the ladder to be a type of the Theotokos; she forms the ladder whereby God unites Himself to our nature and bows the heavens to the earth. This Old Testament vision gives us a context to better understand the Ladder of Divine Ascent by St. John of Sinai.

The icon of the Ladder is an icon of life: a life which is dynamic and dangerous. It reminds us of the words of Christ, "Strive to enter in through the narrow gate rather than the wide highway which leads to destruction." As a Christian gradually ascends, the force of spiritual and ascetical labors lifts him on high and places him into closer and closer communion with God. But, if the Christian, like Adam of old, stops ascending the ladder of Christ-likeness by ceasing to focus on God and becomes distracted by the world or becomes prideful and self-sufficient, he will trip and fall off the ladder and his soul will undergo corruption. After a fall it will become much harder to get back on the ladder than it was before. May God give us the grace to ascend towards union with Him.

PC: Crosby/Roth G: Chosvig Altar Boys Team C: Tobias, Kyle, Levi, Alden, Thomas, Petros & Gabriel
Clean up Team 5: Walsh, Daniels, Hudanish T., Keese/Chan, Olson, Ntatsos, Kolpakov, Clary

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (4th Mode):

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world His great mercy.

To fedron tis anastaseos kirigma ek tu anggelu mathuse e tu Kiriou mathitrie ke tin progonikin apofasin aporrripsase tis Apostolis kafhomena elegon eskilefte o thanatos igerthi Christos o Theos thorumenos to kosmo to mega eleos.

Hymn of St. John of the Ladder (Pl. 4th Mode):

With the streams of thy tears, thou didst cultivate the barrenness of the desert; and by thy sighings from the depths, thou didst bear fruit a hundredfold in labors; and thou becamest a luminary, shining with miracles upon the world, O John our righteous Father. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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 for this Sunday (Plagal 4th Mode):

To thee, the Champion Leader we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 6:13-20 (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent):

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:17-31 (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent):

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 10TH

Sunday, April 10th	Sunday of St. John of the Ladder ASA Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Theology 101	8:45 AM
Monday, April 11th	Great Compline Basics of Orthodoxy-Holy Mysteries I Choir Practice	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
Tuesday, April 12th	Bible Study	9:30 AM
Wednesday, April 13th	Great Canon of St. Andrew	6:00 PM
Friday, April 15th	Presanctified Liturgy Moms & Tots Bible Study Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos Jr. GOYA Lock-in	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 6:30 PM 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 16th	Parish Clean-up Great Vespers	9:00 AM 5:00 PM
Sunday, April 17th	Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Orthros & Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Strategic Plan Kick-off IOCC Benefit Dinner	8:45 AM 5:00 PM

Paschal Parish Clean-Up: Come and help shine up our church to make God proud of us - 9 a.m. til noon, Saturday April 16th. Enjoy light lenten treats at the end as a way of thanking you for your help. Please contact any member of the PC to find a place to help or see Robert Crosby with questions.

Holy Friday Youth Retreat is Friday, April 29th from 10:45 am to 2:45 pm. The retreat is for children in Preschool-5th grade and for adult volunteers too! Parents, register you children during coffee hour on April 10th, 17th, and 24th. Registration Deadline: Palm Sunday, April 24th. To help with the retreat stations, please contact Athena Gonzales at athenacontes@hotmail.com or 480-584-9831. We appreciate our volunteers! Thank you!

Fundraising Results - Our first Chili Cook-Off brought in \$2530 for the Building Fund! Along with the Nativity card (\$7400) and the Fall Take n Bake (\$3640), our Fundraising efforts have raised \$13,570 for the Building Fund thus far during this church year. Please check out the Building Fund bulletin board, and please see either Robert Crosby or Kendall Muzik to learn about the next opportunity: a Festival Food Booth.

Kick-Off Meeting for Parish Strategic Plan Project April 17th! Your Strategic Plan Leadership Committee has been busy laying the groundwork for embarking on a project to "build a shared vision for the future" for our parish. A "Kick-Off" session will be held after Liturgy on April 17th, in the time slot normally held for Theology 101. This is a parish-wide effort, so please come and receive a project overview of the purpose and schedule and learn about several ways to have your voice be heard. There will be a question and answer period. Please join us!! "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

Mochas for Missions - Sacrifice a treat and make a donation today in the canister in the fellowship hall. We are 10% of the way to our parish goal of \$4,000 with \$401 total collected so far. Let's reach our goal by Pentecost to support Missions & Evangelism efforts in the Metropolis.

The next Basics of Orthodoxy Class is Monday, April 11th at 7:00 PM after Great Compline.