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.

Our Spring General Assembly is on this 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.

Seniors! Please join us for a brown bag lunch and sing-a-long with our ASA children on Monday, May 16th from 11:00 to 1PM. Brown bag lunches will be provided for seniors , see you there!

Young Adults- Please mark your calendars for Monday, May 16th, at 6:30p.m. We will be having a time of discussion and fellowship with Father Theodore at the Dorrance home. Please bring $5 to help with food costs as dinner will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Beth Carper

LOST AND FOUND IS BRIMMING! Please check the lost and found cupboard for items belonging to you and yours. After such a busy time, it is full of left behind items. Anything remaining after May 22nd will be donated. Thank you!.

Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School 2016 June 27nd-July 1st. Held at Holy Trinity, this will be a week-long day camp filled with an abundance of activities, fun, and fellowship! Go to: www.goholytrinity.org for details and sign ups!

Camp Angelos 2016 "Keep Calm and Pray On!" is July 10th-15th. On line registration is open for youth (ages 9-17) Go to: www.goholytrinity.org for details and sign ups!

Attention Philoptochos Ladies! Sign-up today after church to serve at "Camp Agape," a week of fun and a break from the hospital routine for children with cancer and their families. It will be held at Camp Angelos (on the Sandy River) from July 31st to Aug 4th. You can sign up for a couple hours or a whole day. Everyone who participates will receive much more than is given.

Mochas for Missions Special Drawing - Help us pick up the pace and reach our $4,000 goal. Anyone who gives $20 or more on Saturday, May 14th (when signing in for the General Assembly) through coffee hour on Sunday, May 15th will be entered into a drawing for a special edition red coffee mug with Theotokos design and a bag of Fr. Michael's Roastery coffee. The winner will be announced at the end of coffee hour on Sunday, May 15th! Thanks so much! Thomaida

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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Visit our Parish website at www.stjohngoc.org

Witnessing the Truth of Apostolic Christianity

2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THOMAS
ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
MAY 8, 2016

On this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, we celebrate the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. We also commemorate the appearance of the Lord to His disciples eight days later when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ. It is this occasion that has inspired the title "Doubting Thomas."

Is the apostle Thomas an exception in his desire to have proof of Christ's Resurrection, or is he the rule? Don't we all need some hard, concrete evidence to support our faith? The Lord said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." (Mt.7:7) If He tells us to ask, to seek and to knock, then a little doubt is okay as long as we are not paralyzed by it. St. Thomas' doubt led him to action, an action which increased his faith. After placing his hand in the Lord's side, he cried out, "You are my Lord and my God!" This type of doubt can be positive because it motivates us to ask the right questions and to seek out truthful answers. Many think that our faith should be blind, but in fact, this is the furthest from the truth. We have a rational faith, as the Divine Liturgy says. Therefore, there is support for our faith all around us. When Thomas sought out evidence, the Lord provided him with it. Likewise, when we seek out the Lord with all our might, soul and strength, He will reveal Himself to us and provide us with the evidence we need.

From now on, when we hear about the doubt of St. Thomas, let us not think of him negatively. His was not the doubt of paralysis, but of action, an action that led to his own heroic missionary efforts in India and eventually his own martyrdom. The apostle Thomas is also commemorated on October 6th.

This Sunday is also called the Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

PC: Keese/Lindgren G: Benson Altar Boys Team A: Samuel/Zacharias/Elias/Gavin/Tasso
Clean-up Team 7: Gebrehiwot/Hailey/ Jungwirth/ Deming/ Russo/Walters/Hall I/Stebner/Dale

Small Entrance Hymns

Hymn for Pascha (Plagal 1st Mode):
Christ is risen from the dead, by death He has trampled upon death and on those in the tombs He is bestowing life.

Hymn for Sunday of St. Thomas (Grave Mode):
Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

Hymn for St. John the Evangelist: (2nd Mode):
O Apostle, beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver a defenceless people. He that allowed thee to recline on His breast, receiveth thee bowing in intercession. Implor Him, O Theologian, to dispel the persistent cloud of the heathen, and ask for us His peace and great mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha (Plagal 4th Mode):
Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 1:1-7 (St. John the Evangelist)
That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life--the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us--that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31 (Sunday of St. Thomas)
On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Parish Activities For the Week of May 8th

Sunday, May 8	**Sunday of Thomas** **Apostle and Evangelist John** **Mother's Day**	
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45AM
	Sunday School / Theology 101	12:15 PM
Tuesday, May 10	No Bible Study	
	Philoptochos Dinner and Social at Holy Trinity Cathedral	6:00PM
Wednesday, May 11	No Choir	
Friday, May 13	No Moms N Tots Bible Study	
Saturday, May 14	Memorials for Ekaterini Sardis and Marc Egli	
	Great Vespers	5:00 PM
	Spring General Assembly	6:00 PM
Sunday, May 15	**Sunday of the Myrrhbearers**	
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45AM
	Sunday School / Theology 101	12:15 PM

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Thank you to all parishioners who donated and prepared food for the retreat, potlucks, Palm Sunday and Pascha; who assisted with the Holy Friday retreat; who facilitated the events of the Pascha Picnic; who brought and arranged flowers; who sang, who prayed and who otherwise offered sacrifices unto the Lord this Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha.

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco News

The Metropolis launched a new web and facebook page! Along with it comes a streamlined news section, an expanded events section, and a beautiful Parish Directory,

Go to: http://sanfran.goarch.org/

Monthly Meditations can be found in the news section.
As a masterpiece begins with a single brush stroke and a grand opera begins with a single musical note, the first glimmer of Christ's Resurrection began with a single question:

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Rev. Fr. Michael State