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.

Last Day to Purchase Benevolence Fund Christmas Cards: Celebrate friends and family by giving a gift in their name. For your contribution to the Benevolence Fund, you will receive a beautifully hand-crafted card for you to give to your honored recipient. Cards are available for purchase during Coffee Fellowship TODAY.

Parish Christmas Party! will be on Sunday, December 27th at 5:00 PM. Pajama party for the kids, dinner, caroling and a Christmas Movie. Reserve your table after Church TODAY!

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.

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.

Supper for Six Sign-ups during Coffee Hour (for Jan, Feb & Mar): Open and targeted to any couple in the church, Supper for Six is a great way to break bread with other couples in the church. Supper for Six consists of randomly selected, rotating groups of three couples that meet once a month for three months for potluck and fellowship. See Brandon during coffee hour for more information and to sign-up or email at ***cravetruth@yahoo.com***. SIGN-UP DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, 1/3.

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***.

Nativity Cards from India! Please visit Logos Bookstore to find cards featuring the artwork of children from the Theotokos Girls' Orphanage in Kolkata, India. Boxes of six cards are $12 with payment by cash or check. Select single cards are also available. Proceeds from the sale of the cards return to the orphanage. Thank you!

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.

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.stjohngoc.org

Sunday Before the Nativity
Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
The Holy Heiromartyr Ignatios the God-bearer
Our Righteous Father Philogonios of Antioch
December 20, 2015

Fourth Mode / 7th Morning Gospel

Sunday Before Nativity

The Gospel read at the Liturgy traces back the genealogy of Jesus according to the flesh. Each one of these names has particular meaning, if we remind ourselves of the story of the person who bore it. What needs to be clearly understood is that the ancestors of Jesus were not all just and holy people. Amongst them are also sinners; those who have committed incest, adultery, murder; an alien woman; the names of Judas, of Thamar, of David and Ruth are filled with spiritual significance. Jesus wanted to clear a way for Himself through the sins and crimes of men, and link Himself to all fallen humanity that He might clearly show that He came to save all. And so it is the history of each one of us that He takes upon Himself and overcomes. For each one of us has some of the features of those of Jesus' ancestors who are the furthest from holiness. All the same, however, Jesus must be born in us. We must, in ourselves, overcome and go beyond the misdeeds that certain names in the genealogy of Jesus represent. It is necessary for us to live this genealogy, for us to acquire a personal experience of it, so that through falling and starting afresh we shall eventually reach Joseph and Mary. This means recognizing certain elements of this genealogy in the sins we do commit, and of uniting ourselves in spirit to the progressive purification which prepared for the birth of Jesus. Thus the genealogy of Christ will become an integral part of our own lives.

PC: Crosby/Lindgren G: Goldman Altar Boys Team B: Anthony, Christos, Stathi, Nicholas S., Makarios, Nicholas D.
Clean up Team 9: Feyler, Jones/Kuchillis, Lindgren, Rush, Wehlitz, Solomon, Mansager, Crosby, Gebreeyseus

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 Kiriu mathitrie ke tin progonikin apofasin aporripsase tis Apostolis kafhomena elegon eskilefte o thanatos igerthi Christos o Theos thorumenos to kosmo to mega eleos.*

Hymn of the Forefeast (4th Mode/Joseph was amazed):
Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Hymn of the Fathers (2nd Mode):
Great are the achievements of the faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

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 of Nativity - (3rd Mode/*Original Melody*):
On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40: (Sunday before the Nativity):
BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us,that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:1-25: (Sunday before the Nativity):
The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel"(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Parish Activities For the Week of December 20th

Sunday, December 20th	**Sunday Before the Nativity**	
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
	Sunday School/Theology 101	12:15 PM
	Sr. Altar Boy Meeting at the Dorrance Home	5:00 PM
Monday, December 21st	Precommunion Prayers & Liturgy	5:30 AM
Tuesday, December 22nd	Precommunion Prayers & Liturgy	5:30 AM
	Bible Study	9:30 AM
Wednesday, December 23rd	Precommunion Prayers & Liturgy	5:30 AM
	No Choir Practice	
Thursday, December 24th	**Christmas Eve**	
	Royal Hours of Nativity	7:30 AM
	Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	9:00 AM
	Nativity Orthros & Candlelight Divine Liturgy w/Artoklasia followed by fingerfood potluck	11:00 PM
Friday, December 25th	**Nativity of Christ**	
	Christ is Born! Glorify Him!	
	NO Moms & Tots Bible Study	
Saturday, December 26th	Great Vespers	5:00 PM
Sunday, December 27th	**Sunday After the Nativity**	
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
	No Sunday School/Theology 101	
	Parish Christmas Party	5:00 PM

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.