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.

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.

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***.

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!

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 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***.

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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503.644.7444 Fax: 503.296.2507 * churchoffice@stjohngoc.org

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 After the Nativity
Joseph the Betrothed, The Prophet David & James the Brother of the Lord
The Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen
December 27, 2015

Plagal 1st Mode / 8th Morning Gospel

First-Martyr Stephen

St. Stephen was a kinsman of the Apostle Paul and one of those Jews who lived in the Hellenic provinces. Stephen was the first of the seven deacons whom the holy apostles ordained and appointed to the service of assisting the poor in Jerusalem. By the power of his faith, Stephen worked great miracles among the people. The wicked Jews disputed with him, but they were always defeated by his wisdom and the power of the Spirit, Who acted through him. Then the shameful Jews, incited the people and the elders of the people against the innocent Stephen, slandering him as though he had blasphemed against God and against Moses. False witnesses were quickly found who confirmed this. Stephen then stood before the people, and all saw his face as it had been the face of an angel (Acts 6:15), that is, his face was illumined with the light of grace as was once the face of Moses when he spoke with God. Stephen opened his mouth and enumerated the many good works and miracles that God had performed in the past for the people of Israel, as well as the many crimes and opposition to God on the part of this people. He especially rebuked them for the killing of Christ the Lord, calling them betrayers and murderers (Acts 7:52). And while they gnashed their teeth, Stephen beheld and saw the heavens open and the glory of God. That which he saw, he declared to the Jews: Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God! (Acts 7:56). Then the malicious men took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Among his persecutors was his kinsman Saul, later the Apostle Paul. At that time, the Most-holy Theotokos, standing on a rock at a distance with St. John the Theologian, witnessed the martyrdom of this first martyr for the truth of her Son and God, and she prayed to God for Stephen. This occurred one year after the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Gamaliel, a prince of the Jews and a secret Christian, took St. Stephen's body and buried it on his own estate.

PC: Lindgren/Vansickle G: Reiter Altar Boys Team C: Tobias, Kyle, Levi, Aiden, Thomas, Petros, Gabriel
Clean up Team 10: Wilson, Blankenstein, Hudanish P & J, Hills, Braden, Perlmutter N & D, Stovea, Breen

Small Entrance Hymns

Hymn of the Nativity (4th Mode):
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (Plagal 1st Mode):
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure, and He raised the dead unto life, through His glorious resurrection.

Hymn of the Holy Fathers of God, Joseph, David & James (2nd Mode):
O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Hymn of the Protomartyr Stephen (4th Mode/Be quick to anticipate):
The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest * Christ thy Saviour standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray to Him for us, that He would 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 Nativity - (3rd Mode/*Original Melody*):
On this day the Virgin bears the Transcendent in essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth offers a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young child, * He that existed * before the ages as God.

EPISTLE READING: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60: (Of the Protomartyr):
IN THOSE DAYS, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. "But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?' "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13-23: (Sunday after the Nativity of Christ):
When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Parish Activities For the Week of December 27th

Sunday, December 27th	**Sunday After the Nativity**	
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
	NO Sunday School/Theology 101	
	Parish Christmas Party	5:00 PM
Tuesday, December 29th	No Bible Study	
Wednesday, December 30th	No Choir Practice	
Friday, January 1st	**St. Basil the Great**	
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy with Vasilopita	9:00 AM
	No Moms & Tots Bible Study	
Saturday, January 2nd	Great Vespers	5:00 PM
Sunday, January 3rd	**Sunday before Theophany**	
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:45 AM
	Swearing-in of Parish Council Members *following Liturgy*	
	Sunday School/Theology 101	12:15 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.

Parish Christmas Party! will be TODAY at 5:00 PM. Pajama party for the kids, dinner, caroling and a Christmas Movie. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!