TASSO UPDATE: We have collected $612 so far, and we have only **two** more Sundays left to raise money for families in need. Last year we were able to give more than $2,600 for through Tasso, our only outreach to families within our parish.

DUCKS VS. BEAVERS: It's neck and neck and the race for the Oregon Food Bank is soon coming to a close. Please remember those in need!

NATIVITY LITURGIES: Please make the weekday Liturgies a part of your Nativity Fast! On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Liturgy starts at 6:00 am, with pre-communion prayers 30 minutes before. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Liturgy starts at 7:30 am, preceded by pre-communion prayers or Orthros (if a feast day).

2018 STEWARDSHIP CARDS: Please look for your pledge card in the mail this week. Prayerfully fill it out and bring it to be blessed on Sunday, December 3, or return it to: the box in the narthex, the offering basket, or the church office.

CROSSROADS MINISTRY LUNCHEON: You are invited to a Lenten potluck luncheon tomorrow, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the church hall. Dr. Laurel Soot will present, "Medicare 101: Understanding Medicare and Your Options."

ESTONIAN ORTHODOX MUSIC THIS AFTERNOON! Cappella Romana presents "Arctic Light II: Northern Exposure," featuring music by an Orthodox composer from Estonia, as well as sacred works from Scandinavia - 3:00 pm today at St. Anne's Chapel, Marylhurst University, in Lake Oswego. Tickets at the door or online.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS ... will be accepted through Sunday, November 26 to Andy Contes (andrew.n.contes@intel.com), Lois Russo or Joe Muzik. The candidate must accept the nomination, then fill out a form and have a picture taken at church for the ballot. The election will take place on December 10.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING: Please join Sts. Mary & Martha Philoptochos for the gathering on Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm. We will decorate the hall for the annual Christmas caroling party, hear about new philanthropic opportunities, and enjoy warm fellowship with all the women of our parish.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD/BENEVOLENCE FUND FUNDRAISER runs from December 3 to 17. Cards will be available during the fellowship. You will receive beautifully hand-crafted cards for a donation of any amount. Contact Lois Russo for details.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING PARTY, sponsored by Crossroads Ministry, is Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 pm in the parish hall. Potluck Lenten snacks and desserts. Contact Helen Stinman for details.

DO YOU LOVE ORTHODOX MUSIC? Cappella Romana is seeking volunteers for light office work to support its mission of exploring the music of the Christian East and West. Please email Mark Powell at mark@cappellaromana.org.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The mission of St. John the Baptist Church is to reach out and welcome all people to live an Orthodox Christian life, grow spiritually, and become disciples of Jesus Christ through serving others.

PC: Keese/Crosby/Chiprout **G:** Goldman/Poulos **Altar Servers Team B: Christos, Nicholas, Nathan, Kyle, Makarios, Nicolas**
Clean up Team 11: Stinman, Taylor, Tesfamicael, Trumpower, Wood

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla
Rev. Father Timothy Pavlatos
Deacon Innocent Duchow-Pressley

14485 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton, OR 97006
503.644.7444 • www.stjohngoc.org
churchoffice@stjohngoc.org

November 19, 2017

Obadiah the Prophet and Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea and Heliodorus

The Holy Prophet Obadiah lived during the Ninth Century B.C. He was from the village of Betharam, near Sichem, and he served as steward of the impious Israelite King Ahab. In those days, all of Israel had turned away from the true God and instead offered sacrifice to Baal; but Obadiah faithfully served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in secret. When King Ahab's wife, the impious and dissolute Jezebel, hunted down all the prophets of the Lord - because of her quarrel with the Prophet Elias, Obadiah gave them shelter and food (3/1 Kings 18:3). Ahab's successor King Ahaziah sent three detachments of soldiers to arrest the holy Prophet Elias. One of these detachments was headed by Obadiah. Through the prayer of Saint Elias, two of the detachments were consumed by heavenly fire, but Saint Obadiah and his detachment were spared by the Lord (4/2 Kgs 1). From that moment Obadiah resigned from military service and became a follower of the Prophet Elias. Afterwards, he himself received the gift of prophecy. The God-inspired work of the Prophet Obadiah is the fourth of the Books of the Twelve Minor Prophets in the Bible, and contains predictions about the New Testament Church. The holy Prophet Obadiah was buried in Samaria.

Saint Barlaam, who was from a certain village near Antioch in Syria, was advanced in years and a husbandman by occupation. Because of his confession of Christ, he was brought before the judge, who had him scourged with whips and then scraped with iron claws. Since this could not break his constancy, he was forcibly brought to the idols' temple, and live coals with incense were placed in his right hand. The judge thought that he would cast them down because of the pain, thus seeming to have offered a sacrifice of incense to the idols. But Saint Barlaam stood unmoving until his hand was thoroughly burned by the coals; he fell to the ground, and so gave up his soul into the hands of the Lord. He contested in martyrdom during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). Saint Basil the Great and Saint John Chrysostom both gave homilies in his honor.

The Holy Martyr Heliodorus lived during the reign of the emperor Aurelian (270-275) in the city of Magidum in Pamphylia. The ruler of the city, Aetius, subjected the saint to fierce tortures for his faith in Christ and had him beheaded.

WELCOME VISITORS to the original Christian Church. At St. John the Baptist you will experience the sacred worship of God as it has taken place for 2,000 years. Our community is a dynamic witness of authentic Christianity, and we welcome all people.

Please note that Holy Communion is reserved **only** for baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared—through prayer, fasting and regular Confession—to receive the Sacrament. However everyone may receive blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. If you have any questions about your experience here, please see our visitor's table during fellowship or speak with one of our clergy.

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Mode)

O Lord, by Your sacred cross, You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The myrrhbearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command, that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world ever more.

Katelisas to Stavro Su ton thanaton, i neoxas to listi ton parathison. Ton Miroforon ton thrinon metevales, ke tis Sis Apostolis kirittin epetaxas, oti anestis Christe o Theos, parehon to kosmo to mega eleos.

Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Second 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 Presentation of the Theotokos (Fourth Mode/*Thou Who wast raised up)*

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2: 14-22 (24th Sunday after Pentecost)

Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the Law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in One body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:16-21(9th Sunday of Luke)

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry."' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said these things, He cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

If we seek the things that are perfect, the secondary things will follow. The Lord says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." What sort of person do you think the children will be of such parents who seek this first? What kind of persons are all the others who associate with them? Will they not eventually be the recipients of countless blessings as well? For generally the children acquire the character of their parents, are formed in the mold of their parents' temperament, love the same things their parents love, talk in the same fashion and work for the same ends. If we order our lives in this way and diligently study the Scriptures, we will find lessons to guide us in everything we need.

- St John Chrysostom

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 19
- **Orthros & Divine Liturgy** 8:45 AM
- Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM

Monday, November 20
- **Liturgy and Communion Prayers** 5:30 AM
- Crossroads Potluck Luncheon 11:00 AM

Tuesday, November 21
- **Orthros & Divine Liturgy and Artoklasia for the Presentation of the Theotokos** 6:30 AM
- Bible Study - Epistle of St. James 10:00 AM

Wednesday, November 22
- **Liturgy and Communion Prayers** 5:30 AM
- Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 23
- **Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day** 6:30 AM
- Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24
- **Liturgy and Communion Prayers** 5:30 AM
- Church Office Closed
- No Mom's 'n Tots Bible Study

Saturday, November 25
- **Orthros & Divine Liturgy for St. Katherine the Great Martyr** 6:30 AM
- Memorial for Maria & Lawrence 4:45 PM
- Cherry and Despina & Aristos Cayais
- **Great Vespers** 5:00 PM

Sunday, November 26
- **Orthros & Divine Liturgy** 8:45 AM
- No Sunday School
- No Theology 101