BASICS OF ORTHODOXY CLASS BEGINS this week on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm. Topic: Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity. Each class in this introductory series is free and open to the public. Come for one or attend the entire season to learn about Orthodoxy or to refresh your knowledge. See the bulletin board or the January newsletter for the schedule of classes.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM MINISTRY will sponsor two evenings of film, and discussion of other faith traditions. *Addressing the Nones: Evangelism to the Unchurched* will be after Saturday Vespers on January 13 and January 27 at 6:00 pm.

MEN'S DOWNTOWN LUNCH is Tuesday, January 16 at 11:30 am at the Dar Salam - Iraqi Buffet, 320 SW Alder Street Portland. RSVP to cravetruth@yahoo.com or just show up!

THE NEXT MOMS NIGHT OUT is "Taco Tuesday", January 23, 5:30-8:00 pm at Amelia's Mexican Restaurant, 2130 Griffin Oaks St. in Hillsboro.

MOMS' NIGHT OUT is currently seeking four volunteers to host a monthly outing. It can be any activity, potluck at your home, dinner out, dessert or whatever you choose to do with the fellow moms of our parish. To sign up to host or to be added to the invite list for Moms' Night Out, contact Sam at marine.samantha@gmail.com

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM NEEDS YOU! Come and participate in the missions and evangelism ministry this year, so that you can better understand the Faith and outreach to others. See Eli for info about the next meeting.

MISSION TO KENYA: Eleni Goldman and Thomaida Hudanish returned from their OCMC Mission Trip to Nairobi, Kenya. If you would like for your ministry or small group to hear more about their trip, please reach out to them to arrange a discussion or presentation.

IS YOUR TODDLER OLD ENOUGH FOR A.S.A.? Do you have a potty-trained, almost/recently 3 year old at home? January is the perfect time to start in the Montessori Primary Classroom and it secures a spot for the fall. Learn more at www.asapdx.org.

OREGON BOTTLE DROP: Turn those qualifying bottles and cans into cash for Agia Sophia Academy! See Christina Blankenstein for a blue collection bag, fill it with cans/bottles, and drop them at any Bottle Drop center (or bring it to us). Thank you for supporting our school!

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP at St. Nicholas Ranch - Session III, July 22-28 for ages 8-18 . Fr. Matthew will take a van from St. John and stay at camp for the week! (We hope to visit the relics of St. John of San Francisco.) Secure your spot with a $100 deposit, then pay the balance over the next six months: http://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp/. Don't let cost be a hindrance - see Fr. Matthew.

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/Chosvig **G:** Becker **Altar Servers Team C:** Stathi, Levi, Aiden, Thomas, Petros, Gabriel
Clean up Team 4: Buckley, Gebreeyesus, Gonzales, Blankenstein, Clary

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

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

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

January 7, 2018

Synaxis of the Prophet and Forerunner, Saint John the Baptist

In the Orthodox Christian Church it is customary, on the day following a great feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So on the day following the Theophany of the Lord the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Jesus Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior and Creator of the Universe. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught that St. John the Baptist was the greatest man ever born of a woman. He was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb, and was called by God to be a holy prophet, forming a bridge between the Old Testament promises of a Messiah and their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. ("Christ" is title for Jesus, not His last name, and it comes from the Greek, meaning "The Anointed One," spoken of in the Old Testament.) From his youth, St. John lived in the wilderness, eating only locusts and wild honey and wore a rough, scratchy garment made of camel's hair against his skin. Through these austere ascetical practices and constant prayer, St. John was able to be fully open to the Holy Spirit and His purifying grace. Each of St. John's senses were open to the will of God, and the eyes of his spiritual heart were filled with the awareness that God is everywhere present and in all things. After twenty or so years of preparation, God called him out of the desert to preach repentance to the house of Israel and prepare the way for the Anointed One, the Messiah. Many thought that St. John was the Messiah or Elijah raised from the dead; but in his humility he refused these titles and insisted that One greater than he was coming, who would introduce the Kingdom of God and baptize not with water but with the Holy Spirit. Through St. John, God opened the hearts of many, including some of the Apostles, so that they would be able to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. After baptizing Jesus in the Jordan, St. John was arrested by Herod, the king. Because Herod was wicked and strived to please men more than God, he was deceived by his sister-in-law, Herodias, into beheading St. John. We remember the beheading of St. John the Baptist on August 29. It was a tragic end to a righteous man's earthly life, yet it was also joyful, for it was his victorious entrance into the eternal bliss of God's heavenly Kingdom.

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

Special Second Antiphon
Save us, O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan, we sing to You, Alleluia.

Hymn of Theophany (First Mode)
When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

En Iordáni vaptizoménou Sou, Kyrie, i tis Triádos efaneróthi proskínisis, tou gar Yennítoros i foní prosemartíri si, agapitón se I-ion onomázousa, ke to Pnevma en ídi peristerás, evevéou tou logou to asfalés. O epifanís Christe o Theos, ke ton kosmon fotísas dóxa si.

Resurrectional Hymn for this Sunday (Plagal Second Mode)
When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary, seeking Your pure and sacred Body then You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch You came unto the Virgin, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Repeat the Hymn of Theophany.

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 Theophany (Fourth Mode)
On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou light unapproachable.

EPISTLE READING

Acts 19: 1-8 (Of the Forerunner)
In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

GOSPEL READING

John 1: 29-34 (Of the Forerunner)
At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 7
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
and Artoklasia
No Sunday School/Theology 101
Outdoor Blessing of the Waters 12:30 PM
at the Willamette River

Monday, January 8
JOY volunteering at 7:00 PM
NW Children's Outreach
Missions and Evangelism Meeting 7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 9
Bible Study - Gospel of Luke 10:00 AM

Wednesday, January 10
Men's Morning Study 6:00 AM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM
Basics of Orthodoxy: 7:00 PM
Jesus Christ in the Holy Trinity

Friday, January 12
Moms 'n' Tots Bible Study 10:30 AM

Saturday, January 13
Great Vespers 5:00 PM
Addressing the Nones: Evangelism 6:00 PM
to the Unchurched (M&E Ministry)

Sunday, January 14
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM
Sr. GOYA Winter Retreat at the
Jungwirth Cabin on Mt. Hood
Young Professionals Dinner 6:30 PM
at the Goldman's