SERVICES FOR FIRST WEEK OF LENT: Great Lent begins this Monday, February 19. As we enter into this most sacred season, we have more opportunities to pray together. Join us for services each day this week:

Monday at 6:30 pm, Great Compline & Canon
Tuesday at 6:30 pm, Great Compline & Canon
Wednesday at 6:30 pm, Presanctified Liturgy and Potluck
Thursday at 6:30 pm, Great Compline & Canon
Friday at 8:30 am, Presanctified Liturgy
Friday at 6:30 pm, Salutations to the Theotokos
Saturday at 8:00 am, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Memorial for the Saturday of the Souls.
Saturday at 5:00 pm, Great Vespers

CLEAN UP TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED! If you are not currently on a clean-up team for Sunday fellowship, please contact Barbara in the church office. We are short on a few teams and need some volunteers.

BOOK STUDY FOR MEN OF ST. JOHN: Please join us for the Men's Morning Study, Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00 am. We will finish *On the Incarnation*: Sections 41-57 (Pages 93-110). The Men's Evening Study, will be on Thursday, February 22 at 8:00 pm, reading chapters 5 & 6 in *Churchianity vs. Christianity*.

JR. GOYA EVENT: Join us on Saturday, February 24 for a morning Jr. GOYA gathering. We will go to Liturgy at 9:00 am, then have our event afterward. See Shannon Rush for more details.

CROSSROADS LENTEN POTLUCK LUNCHEON Please join us Monday, February 26 from 11:00 am -1 pm . We are honored to have Eleni and Thomaida coming to share about their incredible mission trip to Kenya.

LENTEN SERVICES: During Great Lent we will have the following weekday services: Great Compline on Monday at 6:30 pm; Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday at 6:30 pm and on Friday at 8:00 am; and Salutations/Akathist on Friday at 6:30 pm. Please make some of these services a part of your weekly routine!

ARCADE GAMES ANYONE? The JOY group in planning a trip to Wunderland in Beaverton on Sunday, March 4 at 1:30 pm. **A few volunteer chaperones are needed!** Contact Katherine Braden with questions.

As for trials, love them as the means of obtaining every blessing. Tell me, what is more beautiful than a soul undergoing tribulation, which knows that by enduring it will inherit joy in all things? What is more courageous than "a humble and contrite heart'?" Without difficulty it routs the massed troops of devils and pursues them to their end. What is more glorious than spiritual poverty, which is the means of obtaining the kingdom of heaven? Can anything equal it either now or in the world to come?

– St. Simeon the New Theologian

Kalí Sarakostí! ~ Blessed Lent!

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The mission of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox 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: VanSickle/Souza/Keese **Altar Servers Team E:** Constantine, Yoas, Pavlos, James, Noah, Peter
G: Gebrehiwot/Weick **Clean up Team 12:** VanSickle, Walsh, Wilson, Whitton

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

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

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February 18, 2018

Cheesefare Sunday • St. Leo the Great , Pope Rome

This Sunday is referred to as **Forgiveness Sunday**. A basic truth of Christ's teaching is that access to Him is closed if we are not willing to forgive our neighbor. Today's Gospel reading makes this clear. The Church seeks to remind us to begin our Lenten Journey by not only seeking God's forgiveness through Holy Confession, but also by seeking and forgiving our brothers and sisters. Today the Forgiveness Vespers service will immediately follow the Liturgy.

It is also **Cheesefare Sunday**, the last day that we may eat dairy products, according to the guidelines of the Church. At sunset, the Great Fast (Great Lent) begins. Fasting is a necessary ingredient to the Christian life. We learn to direct our appetites toward God and not to our worldly desires, so that we may be healed of our fallenness and graced with freedom from our sins and passions.

Saint Leo was consecrated to the archiepiscopal throne of Rome in 440. In 448, St. Flavian, Archbishop of Constantinople, summoned Eutyches, a priest-monk in Constantinople, to give account for his heretical teaching that Christ had only one nature after the Incarnation. Eutyches appealed to St. Leo in Rome. After St. Leo had carefully examined Eutyches's teachings, he wrote an epistle, "The Tome of St. Leo," to St. Flavian, setting forth the Orthodox teaching about the person of Christ—that He has two natures, divine and human. He counseled Flavian that, should Eutyches sincerely repent of his error, he should be received back with all good will. In 449 a council was held in Ephesus, which was presided over by Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria. Dioscorus, having military might behind him, did not allow St. Leo's epistle to Flavian to be read, although repeatedly asked to do so. This council was eventually named "The Robber Council," because it was so one-sided. Even before the Robber Council was held, Dioscorus had uncanonically received the unrepentant Eutyches back into communion. In 451 the Fourth Ecumenical Council was convened in Chalcedon, and St. Leo sent four delegates. The Church Fathers at this Council condemned the teachings of Eutyches and his supporters. St. Leo's epistle was read at the Council, and was confirmed by the Holy Fathers as the Orthodox teaching on the incarnate person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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, please see our visitors table during fellowship or speak with one of our clergy.

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth 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 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 Sunday of Forgiveness (Plagal Second Mode)
O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor: establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master. Grant me speech, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto Thee: Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who have fallen.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Cheesefare Sunday)
Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:14-21 (Cheesefare Sunday)
The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

If a man has no care whatever for himself because of love for God and virtuous deeds, knowing that God will take care of him – such hope is true and wise. But if a man takes care of his own affairs and turns with prayer to God only when un-avoidable misfortunes overtake him and he sees no way of averting them by his own power, only then beginning to hope in God's aid – such hope is vain and false. True hope seeks the Kingdom of God alone and is convinced that everything earthly that is necessary for this transitory life will unfailingly be given. The heart cannot have peace until it acquires this hope.

– St. Seraphim of Sarov

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 18
Cheesefare Sunday - Forgiveness Sunday
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Forgiveness Vespers 11:45 AM
No Sunday School

Monday, February 19
Clean Week - Lent begins
President's Day - Church Office is Closed
Great Compline 6:30 PM
with Canon of St. Andrew

Tuesday, February 20
Bible Study - Gospel of St. Luke 10:00 AM
Great Compline 6:30 PM
with Canon of St. Andrew

Wednesday, February 21
Men's Morning Study 6:00 AM
Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 PM
Lenten Potluck 8:00 PM

Thursday, February 22
Great Compline 6:30 PM
with Canon of St. Andrew
Men's Evening Study 8:00 PM

Friday, February 23
Salutations to the Theotokos (1st)
Presanctified Liturgy with ASA 8:30 AM
Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30 PM

Saturday, February 24
Orthros & Divine Liturgy for 8:00 AM
Saturday of Souls &
St. Theodore the Recruit
Memorial for Saturday of Souls 10:00 AM
Jr. GOYA Event 10:30 AM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 25
Sunday of Orthodoxy - No Sunday School
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Procession with Icons 11:45 AM