LENTEN SERVICES: As we journey through Great Lent, please make some of these weekday services a part of your weekly routine! 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. Kalí Sarakostí ~ Blessed Lent!

ARCADE GAMES ANYONE? Today JOY (3rd-5th Graders) is going to Wunderland in Beaverton at 1:30 pm. Chaperones are welcome!

MARRIAGE RETREAT: If you are married or engaged (or would like to be someday), you won't want to miss this blessed opportunity for enrichment—*"Philotimo as Sacramental to Marriage."* This day-long retreat will be presented by our own Fr. Timothy Pavlatos this Saturday, March 10, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. Individuals and couples are welcome to attend. Coffee, refreshments, and lunch will be provided.

GOYA FIRESIDE CHAT: This Saturday, March 10 after Vespers. Contact Deacon Innocent for more information.

MOMS NIGHT OUT: Please join us for "Dinner and a Movie" at the Marine home on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm. All moms are invited.

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.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARISH-WIDE CLEAN-UP: All hands on deck! Please help to keep our church home in good repair and looking its best. Join us on Saturday, March 17, 9:00 am to noon. Please talk to a PC member for more info. (Beer will be included!)

LOST & FOUND @ LOGOS BOOKSTORE
A lost and found area for "spiritual things" like prayer ropes, icons, little crosses, spiritual books, etc., is located in Logos Bookstore. Bring any of these things you find to us. Or if you're missing one of these items, come see us.

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/Chosvig/Dale **Altar Servers Team B:** Christos, Nicholas, Nathan, Kyle, Makarios, Nicolas
G: Hudanish/Goldman **Clean up Team 2:** Gebrehiwot, Weick, Dale, Carper B

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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March 4, 2018

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas • St. Gerasimos the Righteous of the Jordan

Saint Gregory was born in 1296 in Constantinople. At the age of twenty he become a monk and left for Mt. Athos, where he remained until around 1325, when he was forced to leave Mt. Athos because of Turkish raids and poor health. St. Gregory went to Thessaloniki, and was ordained to the priesthood. For the next five years, he lived as a hesychast, devoting himself to the uninterrupted Jesus Prayer during the week and to worship services on weekends. He returned to Mt. Athos and became the abbot of Esphigmenou monastery, but was drawn into the arena of theological controversy, which would dominate the rest of his life. St. Gregory was introduced to the teachings of Barlaam, an Italian philosopher in Constantinople, who argued that God could only be known intellectually, through human wisdom and knowledge. Barlaam believed that the faculty of knowledge was the greatest power of the soul, and that through education, all evils in the soul could be dispelled and man could be led to knowledge about God - not direct communion, but the illumined knowledge of creation and God's creatures. While both St. Gregory and Barlaam understood that God is unknowable in His divine essence, St. Gregory made a distinction between the essence of God, which is unknowable, and the energies of God, which, although fully divine and uncreated, are revealed directly to a person who has purified his heart (*nous*) and received grace. St. Gregory said that the heart is the life-center of the soul. This direct experience of God, sometimes revealed as an "uncreated light," is not derived from natural knowledge or intellectual striving, but by virtue of a purified heart and the grace of God that brings the saints into union with Him. St. Gregory was elected archbishop of Thessaloniki in 1347. At the Fifth Council of Constantinople, Barlaam was exiled and his teachings rejected, while St. Gregory's teachings were upheld as Orthodox.

Saint Gerasimos, who was from Lycia in Asia Minor, lived there for many years as a hermit, and then went to Palestine. There he built the great Lavra by the Jordan River, where a lion served him with great obedience and devotion. When St. Gerasimos fell asleep, the lion came looking for him. His disciples led him to the saint's grave, where the lion fell, after roaring with grief, and died. Saint Gerasimos reposed in 475.

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 (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. For You did vanquish Hades, and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Angelike thinamis epi to mnima Su, ke i filassontes apenekrothisan. ke istato Maria en to tafo zitusa to achranton Su soma. Eskilefsas ton Athin me pirasthis ip aftu ipindisas ti Partheno, thorumenos tin zoin o Anastas ek ton nekron, Kirie thoxa Si.

Hymn of St. Gregory Palamas (Plagal Fourth Mode)
Light of Orthodoxy, pillar and teacher of the Church, adornment of monastics, invincible champion of theologians, O Gregory thou wonderworker, boast of Thessalonica, herald of grace: ever pray that our souls be saved.

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 Theotokos (Plagal Fourth Mode)
To thee, the Champion Leader we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3 (St. Gregory Palamas)
"In the beginning, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end." But to what angel has He ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 2:1-12 (Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas)
At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And He rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 4
Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM
JOY trip to Wunderland 1:30 PM

Monday, March 5
Great Compline 6:30 PM
Basics of Orthodoxy Class: 7:30 PM
Church History I

Tuesday, March 6
Bible Study - Gospel of St. Luke 10:00 AM

Wednesday, March 7
Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 PM
Lenten Potluck 8:00 PM

Friday, March 9
Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 AM
Philoptochos Board Meeting 12:00 PM
Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 10
Marriage Retreat: 10:00 AM
Philotomo as Sacramental to Marriage
Great Vespers 5:00 PM
Choir Practice 6:00 PM
GOYA Fireside Chat 6:00 PM

Sunday, March 11
Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM