SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Your presence is needed for our biennial parish meeting. We hope to have every family represented on Saturday, April 28 at 6:00 pm after Vespers. Refreshments (including beer and wine) and snacks will be provided. No babysitting available.

CROSSROADS MINISTRY POTLUCK LUNCHEON, Monday at 11:00 am. The speaker is Jennifer Rich, speaking about how to make letterpress prayer books and prayer cards by hand.

ORTHODOX YOUTH CULTURAL EXCHANGE is Saturday April 28 at 11:00 am. Please join us as children of various Orthodox churches share their ethnic music and dances in a celebration of Orthodox culture. All proceeds benefit ASA. Suggested donation is $5 per person and $20 per family.

ONLY TWO SUNDAYS LEFT TO ORDER HANGING FLOWER BASKETS. These 12" baskets come in 10 different color combos of mixed sun and 4 colors of shade-loving fuschias. $32 for one or $30/each for two or more. Delivery is Saturday, May 5. Proceeds benefit the building fund.

VISIT YOUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST: Some of our parishioners aren't able to get out much; a visit could brighten their day. If you would like to visit someone, please see the "Weekly Visits" sign-up sheet in the church office. A regular commitment is encouraged, but not required. (This initiative is by Philoptochos.)

RSVP FOR "VISION 2020: SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER." Join us for this important parish-wide dinner, when we will begin to form our vision for the future of the parish. The catered dinner will take place on Saturday, May 12 at 6:30 pm. There is no cost. Adults only please. Please stop by the reservation table, after Liturgy, or contact the Church Office.

MEN'S MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS: All men are welcome to these events. Contact Brandon at cravetruth@yahoo.com for more info.
Skeet & Trap Shoot with Dinner: Sunday, April 29 at 1:30 pm, followed by a 4:15 pm dinner at Helvetia Tavern. Contact Paul B or Brandon.
Monastery Work Trip: Friday-Saturday, May 4-5. Sign up with Dn. Innocent or Brandon.
Men's Breakfast: Saturday, May 19 at 8:30 am. Bring $5 for food cost. No RSVP needed.
Mountain Retreat: Wednesday-Saturday, May 30-June 2. Cost is $50 for food and cleaning.

DONATE TO MISSIONS POSSIBLE and help small parishes on the West Coast achieve sustainability. Please consider giving to this worthy cause. We have collected **$6,842** so far toward our goal of $10,000. See Eleni for details.

WOMEN'S MONASTERY RETREAT, MAY 25-26. Come enjoy fellowship, spiritual edification, and the beauty of St John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA! For details or to RSVP contact Rachel at rachelmdaniels@hotmail.com.

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: Keese/Corazza/Souza **Altar Servers Team D:** Alexander, Athanasios, Basil VS., Wade, Owen, Simon
G: Carper/Reiter **Clean-Up Team 9:** Poulos, Perlmutter N&D, Powell, Reiter, Rush

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla — churchoffice@stjohngoc.org
Rev. Father Timothy Pavlatos — 503.644.7444 • www.stjohngoc.org
Deacon Innocent Duchow-Pressley — 14485 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton, OR 97006

April 22, 2018

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemos

This third Sunday of Pascha we commemorate the holy myrrh-bearing women, St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemos. We remember the women because they were the first to bear witness to the Resurrection. Joseph and Nicodemos are commemorated today because they, with the myrrh-bearing women, reverently buried our Lord after His Crucifixion. Since Jesus died on the day before the Passover, they had to bury him hurriedly before that holy day. They buried him in Joseph's own tomb and anointed him with some aloes and myrrh. However it was not done in the usual custom, due to the rush to finish before the Passover. So the women went on the third day to the tomb with expensive myrrh-oils and spices to properly anoint Christ's body. Going to the tomb, they found it open and the angel said to them, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him." They proclaimed this to the Apostles, therefore becoming the apostles to the apostles. There were seven myrrh-bearing women: The Theotokos, Mary Magdalene, Salome, the wife of Zebedee, Joanna, the wife of Chouza, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, Mary, the wife of Cleopas, and Susanna.

The noble Joseph, a wealthy man and member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, was secretly a follower of Christ. Because of the honor he showed Christ by burying him and in his own tomb, he was shackled by the Jews and thrown into prison. But the resurrected Lord appeared to him and convinced him of His resurrection. After that, the Jews released him from prison and banished him from the fatherland. He went throughout the world to preach the Holy Gospel of Christ, bringing the good news to England, where he reposed in the Lord.

Saint Nicodemus was a prominent Pharisee who believed in Christ. The Savior explained to him how man is regenerated through Baptism, but he did not understand how a man could be born again. When the Lord reproved him for his ignorance, he accepted it with humility (John 3:1-21). Nicodemus came back to Christ from time to time, defended Him to the Pharisees (John 7:50-52), and brought spices to anoint His body (John 19:39). After being cast out of the synagogue for his belief in Christ, Saint Nicodemus went to live with St. Gamaliel at his country house, remaining there until his death.

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

Hymn for Pascha (Plagal First Mode)
Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.

Hymns for Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women (Second Mode)
When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life Immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out, "O Life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory."

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

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 Pascha (Plagal Fourth Mode)
Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen

EPISTLE READING

Acts 6:1-7 (Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women)
Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 15:43-16:8 (Myrrh-Bearing Women)
At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the Body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the Body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; - it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Instead of "It Is Truly Right"
The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I shall say, Rejoice! Your Son has resurrected from the grave on the third day. Be illumined, illumined, O New Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy, O Zion, and exult. And you be merry, O pure Theotokos, at the arising of the One you bore.

Communion Hymn
Partake of the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 22
Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM

Monday, April 23
Orthros & Divine Liturgy for St. George the Great Martyr 7:30 AM
Crossroads Ministry Luncheon 11:00 AM

Tuesday , April 24
Bible Study: Gospel of St. Luke 10:00 AM

Wednesday, April 25
Akathist to the Theotokos, Nurturer of Children 9:00 AM
Reception following Akathist 9:30 AM

Friday, April 27
Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 28
Orthodox Youth Cultural Exchange at Holy Trinity Cathedral 11:00AM
Byzantine Chant Class 4:00 PM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM
Spring General Assembly 6:00 PM

Sunday, April 29
Sunday of the Paralytic
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM
Men's Skeet and Trap Shoot at Hillsboro Trap and Skeet Club 1:30 PM