LENTEN SERVICES: As we journey through Great Lent, please make these 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 to the Theotokos at 6:30 pm. Kalí Sarakostí ~ Blessed Lent!

PAN—ORTHODOX PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY THIS WEEK ... at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wednesday at 6:30 pm. ***There will be NO services at St. John on Wednesday.*** The next Pan-Orthodox service will be on April 17 at St. George.

CONFESSIONS: *Now* is the time to schedule your confession if you haven't confessed yet during Lent. Also if you missed last week's Theology 101 class about how to make a good confession, listen to the audio recording on SoundCloud. The link is in your weekly email.

FIRESIDE MEETINGS: Offer your voice for our future. Come to one of the upcoming fireside meetings: Thursday, April 4 or Saturday, April 13. Meetings are 7:00-9:00 pm. Please RSVP.

BASICS OF ORTHODOXY: Topics for the remaining classes: The Spiritual Life, on April 5 at 7:30 pm and April 12 at 8:00 pm; and the Veneration of the Saints on April 19 at 7:00 pm.

SUPPORT PAVLOS BLANKENSTEIN'S EAGLE PROJECT FOR OUR CHURCH: Pavlos will build an "outdoor café" area here at St. John. To raise funds for this project, his family will host fellowship on Sunday, April 7. Please bring your donation or send a check to the church.

GOYA PARENT DINNER ... is planned for Saturday, April 6 after Great Vespers at John and Jennifer Davis' Home.

CROSSROADS POTLUCK LUNCHEON ... will be on ***Tuesday*** (NOT Monday), April 9 at 11:00 am with Fr. Christos Kalaitzis from Holy Trinity. We pray that many of us can be there to enjoy fellowship and listen to Father.

PASCHA TSOUREKIA: Logos Bookstore is once again taking orders for - the traditional Pascha sweet bread baked by the Sisters at St John the Forerunner Monastery. Orders will be available for pick-up during Holy Week.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON & PASCHA PICNIC TICKETS: Please fill out the forms on the tables and give them to the church office or to Charity. Proceeds for the Palm Sunday Luncheon go to our beloved St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, so please be generous!

EFHARISTÓ ... for your donations for the Epistle book cover. We raised more than $2,100!

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: It's a win-win-win: spiritual growth, visit with friends, and you don't have to cook/clean dishes! Saturday April 20 after Vespers, at Beth Smith's home. Dinner and spiritual discussion with Fr. Matthew.

HOLY FRIDAY YOUTH RETREAT: St. John's annual retreat for children, grades K-5, will be on Holy Friday, April 26, 12:30-2:45pm. Please register by April 21 by going to: tinyurl.com/y49xbda2

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: Chosvig/Weick/Moffitt Altar Servers Team B: Christos, Elias, Judah, Makarios, Vanya
G: Chosvig & Dale Clean-up Team 8: Marine, McAtee, Chosvig, Jungwirth, Muzik, Hagan

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla (503) 644-7444 • www.stjohngoc.org
Deacon Innocent Duchow-Pressley 14485 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton, OR 97006

March 31, 2019

Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the third Sunday of Great, the Church commemorates the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday prepares us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, and also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24), and have mortified ourselves during these days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion—being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory. Just as people who walk on a long and hard journey, bowed down by fatigue, find relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a tree; so do we find comfort and rejuvenation under the life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. And just as, before the arrival of a king, his royal trophies and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade; so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His life-giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore we become ready to welcome our King, who shall triumph over the powers of darkness. The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose undrinkable waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. But when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth it became sweet. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous. Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's sin, as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

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 of the Holy Cross (1st Mode)
Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the Faith; and protect Your people by the power of Your Cross.

Soson, Kyrie, ton laon sou, ke evlogison tin klironomian sou. Nikas tis vasilevsi kata varvaron dthoroumenos, ke to son filaton dthia tou Stavrou sou politevma.

Resurrectional Hymn (3rd Mode)
Let all things above in heaven rejoice; let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death. And firstborn of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Repeat the Hymn of the Holy Cross.

Hymn of St. John the Baptist (2nd 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 for this Sunday (Plagal 4th 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.

Trisagion Hymn (2nd Mode):
We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Ton Stavron sou proskinoumen, Dthespota, ke tin agian sou Anastasin dthoxazomen.

The LITURGY OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Lent, which means that the priestly prayers are different, and the megalynarion, "It is truly meet," is replaced with the following hymn:

In you, who are full of grace, all creation rejoices, both the congregations of angels and the human race. O consecrated temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins, from you was God incarnate and became a child—He, our God Who existed before the ages. For He made your womb a throne, and He made you more spacious than the heavens. In you, who are full of grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn (3rd Mode):
The light of Your countenance, O Lord, has been signed upon us. Alleluia.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 4:16-5:6 (Veneration of the Holy Cross)
Brethren, since we have a High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a High Priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten Thee;" as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 (Veneration of the Holy Cross)
The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of Me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 31
Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School 12:00 PM
Theology 101 Adult Education: Fr. Michael Shanbour on Grace 12:00 PM

MONDAY, APRIL 1
Great Compline 6:30 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 2
Akathist to the Theotokos the Nurturer of Children 9:00 AM
Coffee Hour hosted by ASA 9:30 AM
Bible Study 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy and Meal at Holy Trinity 6:30 PM
NO Presanctified Liturgy at St. John

THURSDAY, APRIL 4
Fireside Meeting at the Makarounis Home—Facilitator, Colleen VanSickle 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 5
Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 AM
Salutation to the Theotokos - Fourth Stanza 6:30 PM
Basics of Orthodoxy: Spiritual Life I 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 6
Choir Practice 4:00 PM
Memorial for Demosthenes Kuchulis 5:00 PM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM
GOYA Parent Dinner at the Davis Home 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 7
Sunday of St. John of the Ladder
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School 12:00 PM
Theology 101 Adult Education 12:00 PM