PARAKLESIS TO THE THEOTOKOS: The season of the Panagia is here! On almost every weekday evening during the Dormition fast we will chant the service of the **Paraklesis to the Theotokos at 6:30 pm,** alternating between the Small Paraklesis and the Great Paraklesis.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION: On Tuesday, August 6 we will celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor with Orthros at 7:30 am and Liturgy at 8:30 am. Please bring grapes to be blessed after Liturgy!

THE DORMITION FAST CONTINUES: This is a strict fast, with wine and oil on weekend and fish on the feast of the Transfiguration.

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP on Saturday, August 10, after Vespers, from 6:00pm-8:00pm will now be held at the church! A Lenten meal will be provided. You may bring wine or a dish if you like, but it's not necessary! Come and share in this wonderful fellowship with Father Matthew and your sisters in Christ!

HELP WITH NEW ALTAR CLOTHS FOR OUR NEW ALTAR: Next Sunday, August 11, the fellowship will be sponsored to raise funds for new altar cloths. We now have a white set to use during the Paschal season, purple for Lent, and a green set for Pentecost. However during the rest of the year, a maroon altar cloth is traditional. Our parish has never had such a set, so your donation will help our parish acquire fabrics toward this set, and toward the new white set.

VIGIL FOR THE PANAGIA—WITH AN EPITAPHIOS! Through the generous donations from within our parish, we will now have an epitaphios (woven cloth icon) of the Panagia—to mirror the epitaphios of Christ which we use on Holy Friday. Also new this year is a Vigil for the Dormition of the Theotokos on Wednesday, August 14 at 7:00 pm. The Vigil is a composite service which will include Vespers, Artoklasia, Orthros, and the Lamentations to the Theotokos. On the morning of the Dormition, we will celebrate Liturgy at 8:00 am. ***Please make every effort to come to some or all of these services, to celebrate one of the greatest feasts of the Church!***

POTLUCK PICNIC FOR THE PANAGIA: Mark your calendar! We will celebrate the Dormition of the Theotokos with a parish-wide potluck picnic and field games on Sunday, August 18 after Liturgy, here at St. John. Hamburgers & hotdogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share and a beverage of your choice. Contact Sandy D-P to volunteer: (503) 329-2494.

FR. MATTHEW AUGUST SCHEDULE: Fr. Matthew will take vacation between Monday, August 19 and Saturday, August 24.

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: Weick/Perlmutter Altar Servers Team D: Pavlos, Zacharias, Thomas, Nathan, Nicholas, John
G: Hudanish J. & Souza Clean-Up Team 12: VanSickle, Wilson, Whitton, Sorenson

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

August 4, 2019

The Seven Youths of Ephesus • The Transfiguration of the Lord

The 7 Youths hid themselves in a certain cave near Ephesus in the year 250, to escape the persecution of Decius. By divine grace, a sleep lasting 184 years overcame them, until the reign of St. Theodosius the Younger, when the doctrine of the resurrection was being assailed by heretics. They then awoke in the sight of all the bodily resurrection; and again after a short time, by divine command, they fell asleep in the year 434.

The Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) occurred at a time when Jesus's disciples were having difficulty grasping His identity, approximately 40 days before the Crucifixion. Many said He was a prophet, or the Messiah, or Elijah, or even a man possessed by demons. Jesus knew it was important for His disciples to accept His identity, especially in preparation for His Passion. So, He took His 3 closest disciples, Peter, James and John, up to Mt. Tabor where He was transfigured, revealing His divinity as uncreated light brighter than the sun. Moses & Elijah appeared on either side of Him. The meaning of the event is 3-fold. First, the light is Jesus' own divinity shining through the power of the Holy Spirit. He has this uncreated light with Him always, but is allowing His disciples to experience it so they will know that He is indeed God. Later in Church history, the Holy Fathers described this light of Christ's divinity as uncreated, because it is part of His divine energies. The Fathers made a distinction between God's essence and His energies. Both are fully divine and uncreated, but the essence of God is unknowable to everything created, while the energies are revealed to us by God's grace. The experience of the apostles has been repeated in the lives of various Saints who have reached an advanced state of sanctity. Second, the voice of His Father in heaven is heard, "Behold, this is My beloved Son, listen to Him." By seeing Jesus filled with light by the power of the Holy Spirit and hearing the voice of the Father, the Transfiguration became a revelation of the Holy Trinity. The presence of both the Prophet Elijah & Moses, holy men of the Old Testament, show in an even more dramatic manner that Jesus is the Messiah. Elijah & Moses are symbols of Old Testament prophecy regarding the Messiah, and the Law. It was important for the 3 to see the uncreated light of His divinity, to see the witness of Moses the Law-giver & Elijah the Prophet, and to hear the voice of the Father. Later this encouraged them and strengthened their faith.

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, 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.

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

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 Transfiguration (Second Mode)
On the mount Thou wast transfigured, and Thy disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; that when they should see Thee crucified, they would know Thy Passion to be willing, and would preach to the world that Thou in truth art the Effulgence of the Father.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 15: 1-7 (Seventh Sunday of Matthew)
Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on Me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:27-35 (Seventh Sunday of Matthew)
At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed Him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

"*Worldly stress is the result of worldly happiness, of worldly pleasures and self-indulgence. Educated externally and being full of anxiety, hundreds of people (even young children) are driven to psychoanalysis and psychiatrists. New psychiatric hospitals are being built and young psychiatrists go on for post-graduate studies. Many of them do not even believe in God or accept the existence of the soul. How can these people help the human soul when they themselves are full of anxiety? How can one feel truly comforted if he does not believe in God and in the true and eternal life after death? When man grasps the deeper meaning of this true life, stress goes away, divine consolation comes and he is healed...The answer to our anxiety is not drugs, alcohol, tranquilizers or psychiatric treatment. It will not be cured by Yoga or some new age or eastern meditation practice. The problem is that we have lost God as the center of our lives. Once we make our love of God the primary focus of our lives and allow His grace to work through us, then no matter what circumstance we encounter in life we will be comforted and embraced in His love. All anxiety disappears. This is the aim of the Orthodox way of life--To put God first and seek the Holy Spirit. The anxieties of modern life are only symptoms or our separation from God.*"

~ St. Paisios of Mt . Athos

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 4
Dormition Fast continues through August 14
Orthros 8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Monday, August 5
Great Vespers for the Transfiguration of the Lord 6:30 PM

Tuesday, August 6
Orthros 7:30 AM
Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration of the Lord 8:30 AM
Blessing of the Grapes 9:45 PM
Motherhood Ministry Coffee Hour 10:00 AM
Great Paraklesis 6:30 PM

Wednesday, August 7
Small Paraklesis 6:30 PM

Thursday, August 8
Great Paraklesis 6:30 PM

Friday, August 9
ASA Playdate in the Park at Pirate Park 10:00 AM
Small Paraklesis 6:30 PM
Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Vision & Growth) Meeting 7:30 PM

Saturday, August 10
Choir Practice 4:00 PM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM
Women's Fellowship Dinner at the Church 6:00 PM

Sunday, August 11
Orthros 8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM