HELP WITH NEW ALTAR CLOTHS FOR OUR NEW ALTAR: Today 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.

PARAKLESIS TO THE THEOTOKOS: Come to the final services of the Paraklesis to the Theotokos at 6:30 pm: Small Paraklesis on Monday and Great Paraklesis on Tuesday.

THE DORMITION FAST CONTINUES: This is a strict fast, with wine and oil on weekend.

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 this 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!***

PARISH-WIDE KIDS CLOTHING SWAP: On Saturday, August 17 after Vespers you can give away your children's outgrown clothes and also to get "new-to-you" kids clothing at the swap.

PICNIC FOR THE PANAGIA: Next Sunday, August 18, we will have a potluck picnic for the Panagia. Hamburgers & hotdogs will be provided. So you only need to bring a side dish to share and a beverage of your choice. Also we will have field games at the adjacent school field! Contact Sandy D-P to volunteer: (503) 329-2494.

FR. MATTHEW'S AUGUST SCHEDULE: Fr. Matthew will take vacation Monday-Saturday, August 19-24. Please contact Holy Trinity Cathedral for pastoral emergencies.

FALL RETREAT WITH FREDERICA MATHEWES-GREEN: St. John will host a pan-Orthodox retreat on October 5-6. Look in next week's bulletin for registration information!

ST. GEORGE MIDDLE EAST FESTIVAL: Mark your calendars for the best Middle Eastern food and atmosphere in Portland! St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church will host their festival on Sunday, August 25, 12:00-7:00 pm.

GREEK OPEN—REGISTER NOW: The 24th annual Greek Open Golf Tournament with Brewfest, Dinner & Auction will take place on Monday, September 16 at Langdon Farms Golf Club. As a St. John parishioner, save 20% off the $125 per golfer price by using coupon code "GREEK" at checkout. (Valid through 8/18). Register today at: www.greekopen.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: Duchow-Pressley/Dale Altar Servers Team A: Noah, Athanasios, Basil VS, Peter, Owen
G: Lubliner N. & K. & Black Clean-Up Team 1: Armstrong, Corazza, Barnes, Feyler

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 11, 2019

Holy Martyr Efplos, Archdeacon of Catania

The Holy Dormition of the Theotokos is celebrated on August 15. In her old age, the Theotokos often prayed to the Lord on the Mount of Olives that she would be able to repose and join the Lord as soon as possible. Finally the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that within three days she would find repose. It was the Theotokos' wish to see each of the twelve apostles before her repose. Accordingly they were miraculously transported from the ends of the earth to where she lived in Jerusalem. After blessing each of them, she fell asleep and was buried in a tomb. Then Thomas, who had not arrived with the others, came and, wishing to see her face one last time, he requested that the tomb be opened. It was opened and they found that her body was no longer there. Our Church teaches that the Most Holy Mother of God fell asleep, rose in bodily form, and was taken to heaven by her Son. This is why we call this feast the Dormition, because after falling asleep, our Lord raised her from the dead, transforming death into sleep. Even in the manner of her death, we see evidence of the holiness of the Theotokos.

The holy martyr Efplos was an archdeacon in Catania, Sicily. The emperor, Diocletian, dispatched Commander Pentagurus to Sicily to exterminate any Christians he found there. Pentagurus did not find a single Christian, for the few that were there, hid and did not reveal themselves. Then someone accused St. Efplos of taking a book to secret Christians and reading to them. They brought him to court, hung that book, the Holy Gospel, around his neck and led him to prison. After a week of imprisonment and hunger he was handed over for torture. While they beat him, Efplos said to the torturing judge: "O ignorant one, do you not see that because of God's help, these tortures are for me as a cobweb? If you can, find other harsher tortures, for all of these are as toys." Then St. Efplos opened the Holy Gospel and read to the people for a long time. Many converted to the Faith of Christ. Finally he was beheaded. This took place in the year 304 AD. His miracle-working relics are kept in a village near Naples called Vico della Batonia, in Italy.

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

Second Antiphon of Transfiguration (2nd Mode)
Save us, O Son of God, who were transfigured on Mt. Tabor. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of the Transfiguration (Grave Mode)
You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your glory to Your disciples as much as they could bear. Shine your everlasting light upon us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of Light, glory to You.

Metemorfóthis en to óri, Christé o Theós, dthíxas tis Mathités su tin dthóxan su, kathós idthinanto. Lámpson ke imín tis amartolís, to fos su to aïdthion, presvíes tis Theotóku. Fotodthóta, dthóxa Si.

Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Mode)
O Lord, by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at Your command, that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Repeat the Hymn of the Transfiguration.

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 of the Transfiguration (Grave Mode)
On the mount You were transfigured, and Your disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Your glory, O Christ our God; that when they should see You crucified, they would know Your passion to be willing, and would preach to the world that You, in truth, are the Effulgence of the Father.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (8th Sunday of Matthew)
Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:14-22 (8th Sunday of Matthew)
At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Kalí Panagía! • Blessed Dormition!

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 11	
Orthros	8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Monday, August 12	
Small Paraklesis	6:30 PM
Tuesday, August 13	
No Bible Study	
Great Paraklesis	6:30 PM
Wednesday, August 14	
Vigil for the Dormition of the Theotokos (Vespers, Artoklasia, Orthros & Lamentations)	7:00 PM
Thursday, August 15	
Divine Liturgy for the Dormition	8:00 AM
Logos Bookstore Closed	
Saturday, August 17	
Baptism of Diana Nakidde	11:00 AM
Baptism Reception	12:00 PM
Choir Practice	4:00 PM
Great Vespers	5:00 AM
Parish-Wide Kids Clothing Swap	6:00 PM
Sunday, August 18	
Orthros	8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Parish Picnic for the Panagia	12:00 PM