HOSTING HOMELESS FAMILIES IN OUR PARISH: Today a speaker from Family Promise of Beaverton will explain how our parish can help families experiencing homelessness as they transition back into permanent housing. Family Promise is a national non-profit organization dedicated to this cause, which works with hundreds of churches. See the enclosed flyer.

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY! Beginning this fall, we will have a weekly Wednesday evening class, 7:00-8:00 pm, which will explore aspects of our Faith. The first series of classes (through December) will be a broad survey of the Faith: "The Basics of Orthodoxy." Learn about Orthodox spirituality, prayer, theology, iconography and practices and the 2,000 year history of the Church. The evening study will begin this Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm.

PARAKLESIS SERVICE MOVED: Our monthly last-Friday Paraklesis Service to the Theotokos has been moved one week early, due to the men's monastery work party. Please join us to pray for our loved ones this Friday, September 20 at 6:30 pm.

YOUTH NIGHT AT ST. JOHN! Beginning this Saturday, we will have a monthly youth night at St. John, when the HOPE (K-2nd Grade), JOY (3rd–5th Grade), and Jr. GOYA (6th–8th Grade) youth groups will meet after Vespers. HOPE and JOY will meet 6:00-7:30 pm. Jr. GOYA will meet 6:00-8:00 pm.

LAST WEEK TO REGISTER FOR OUR FALL RETREAT! St. John will host a pan-Orthodox fall retreat, *Tune your Hear to God*, with Frederica Mathewes-Green, on October 4-5. Register on the parish website or through the church office by this Friday, September 20.

THE ST. JOHN MONASTERY BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION: On Sunday, October 20 at 5:30 pm in The Dalles, the monastery will hold their 13th annual benefit dinner. This special event usually sells out, so please reserve your seats as soon as possible! Enjoy dinner prepared by the sisters, a guest speaker, a short video, and a silent auction. Visit the information table during fellowship today or on the next two Sundays. If you need a ride, contact Rich Whitton at (971) 228-8082 or whitton.richard@gmail.com.

MEN'S MONASTERY WORK PARTY: Join the men on Friday, September, 27 for an overnight trip to St. John Monastery for some blessed hard work! RSVP to Brandon at cravetruth@yahoo.com by September 24, so that the sisters have an accurate headcount.

MOTHERHOOD MINISTRY COFFEE HOUR: Please join the moms of St. John for our monthly weekday coffee hour after Liturgy on Tuesday, September 24. All are welcome to stay for fellowship.

SERBIAN FESTIVAL: Today, September 15, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at St. Stephen Serbian Orthodox Church.

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/Duchow-Pressley Altar Servers Team E:
G: Lubliner N. & K. & Black Clean-Up Team 5: Hailey, Schwartz, Hudanish P&J, Hudanish T.

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

September 15, 2019

Sunday After the Elevation of the Holy Cross • Great Martyr Nikitas

The Holy Great Martyr Nikitas was a Goth (a Germanic tribe), born of noble rank, who lived on the banks of the Danube River. The Christian Faith was then already widely spread throughout the territory of the Goths. Saint Nikitas believed in Christ and accepted Baptism from the Gothic bishop Theophilus, a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths began to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in strife and persecution. After the victory of Fritigern, a Christian, against the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith began to spread increasingly among the Goths. A Gothic alphabet was created so that Christian works could be translated. Saint Nikitas worked intensely among his fellow Goths at spreading Christianity. By his personal example and inspired words he brought many pagans to the Christian Faith. However the pagan Athanaric, again assembled an army and returned. He continued to hate Christians and persecute them. Saint Nikitas was captured and endured many tortures, and died after being thrown into a fire. His body remained unharmed by the fire and was illumined by a miraculous light. By night, a friend of the martyr, a Christian named Marianus, retrieved the body of Saint Nikitas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterwards, it was transferred to Constantinople. Saint Nikitas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ in the year 372. We pray to Saint Nikitas for the preservation of children from birth defects.

Righteous Philotheos was born in a small village near Nicaea. The local bishop was so impressed by his piety that he ordained him the priesthood. Due to his purity, God granted him the gift to work miracles. He died peacefully and was buried. Later, two priests were transfering his relics to another spot and miraculously Philotheos raised himself and walked three steps to the place where he wanted to be. His relics remain in that spot, which flows with myrrh.

The Holy Martyr Porphyrios the Actor suffered during the reign of Julian the Apostate. On the emperor's birthday , Porphyrios performed a role at the theater, where he was supposed to mock the mystery of holy Baptism. During the play, Porphyrios was immersed in water and said: "The servant of God, Porphyrios, is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Through divine grace, he emerged from the water and confessed himself a Christian. Julian ordered him to be tortured, and after the torments, to be beheaded. This took place in the city of Ephesus in 361.

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

Special Second Antiphon
Save us, O Son of God, Who were crucified in the flesh; we sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of Elevation 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 su, ke evloyison tin klironomian su, nikas tis Vasilefsi kata varvaron dthorumenos, ke to son filaton dthia tu Stavru su politevma.

Resurrectional Hymn (4th Mode)
When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel were proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.

Repeat Hymn of Elevation 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 of Elevation of Holy Cross (4th Mode)
Thou Who wast raised up on the Cross of Thine own will, O Christ our God, do Thou bestow Thy compassions upon this, Thy new commonwealth named after Thee. Gladden with Thy sovereign might our most Orthodox hierarchs, and vouchsafe them victory over every false teaching; and as Thy help in war may they possess the weapon of peace, the trophy invincible.

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross)
Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the Law, because by works of the Law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 (Sunday after the Elevation 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, September 15	
Orthros	8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Parish Presentation by Family Promise of Beaverton	12:00 PM
Monday, September 16	
ASA Greek Open Golf Tournament and Dinner	12:00 PM
Tuesday, September 17	
Orthros	7:15 AM
Divine Liturgy for St. Sophia and Her Daughters	8:15 AM
Bible Study	10:00 AM
Parish Council Meeting	7:00 PM
Wednesday, September 18	
Wednesday Evening Study: Basics of Orthodoxy, Class 1	7:00 PM
Friday, September 20	
Philoptochos Board Meeting	10:30 AM
Paraklesis Service to the Theotokos	6:30 PM
Saturday, September 21	
Baptism of Alexis Joseph and her children, Michael & Kaleigha	11:00 AM
Baptismal Reception (SFH)	12:00 PM
Baptism of Mary Starrett	2:00 PM
Baptismal Reception (NFH)	3:00 PM
Choir Practice	4:00 PM
Great Vespers	5:00 PM
Youth Night at St. John: HOPE, JOY, & Jr. GOYA Events for Kindergarten to 8th Grade	6:00 PM
Young Professionals Dinner at the Reiter's home	6:00 PM
Sunday, September 22	
Orthros	8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Sunday School	12:00 PM
Parish Presentation: Results from the Fireside Meetings	12:00 PM