THE FUTURE OF ST. JOHN: Today during fellowship the results from the strategic plan fireside meetings will be presented. Please plan to attend this important event, at which we will discuss the future of our parish.

REGISTRATION EXTENDED 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 Wednesday, September 25. Bring your friends! This is an evangelistic event.

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.

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.

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.

2019 SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Show your ***Philoxenia*** "Love for Strangers" and host a Sunday fellowship. Pick a day that is special to you or your loved ones, or any day that you would like. Put your name on the fellowship sign-up sheet, posted by the kitchen doorway. Upcoming available Sundays include: September 29, and October 6, 20, and 27.

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.

ST. KOSMAS HOMESCHOOLING CLUB: Our monthly meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 2 at 10:00 am at the church. All moms with school-aged kids or preschoolers are welcome!

CROSSROADS MINISTRY LUNCHEON: Our monthly potluck meal, on Tuesday, October 8 at 11:00 am, will include a presentation by Dn. Innocent and Jennifer Davis on their experiences at Project Mexico.

68TH ANNUNAL GREEK FESTIVAL: Holy Trinity's annual festival runs through Friday-Sunday, October 4-6. Fun for the whole family!

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/VanSickle/Moffitt Altar Servers Team C: Stathi, Petros, Levi, Aiden, Gavin, Titus
G: Carper & Corazza Clean-Up Team 7: Lindgren, Lubliner J&D, Lubliner N, Anderson

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 22, 2019

Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope • Martyr Phocas the Gardener

Hieromartyr Phocas practiced all of the Christian virtues from his youth. He served as bishop in his hometown of Sinope on the shores of the Black Sea. There he strengthened the faith of the believers by his example and divine words and converted many idol-worshipers to the true Faith. This also angered pagans against the holy bishop. Through a vision granted to St. Phocas by the Lord, he foresaw his martyrdom in this way: Phocas saw a white dove fly down from heaven carrying a beautiful wreath of flowers in its beak, lowering the wreath onto his head. Then Phocas heard a voice, saying, "Your cup is full and you should drink it!" From this he realized that he was soon to suffer for Christ. Phocas was not afraid, but with gratitude toward God prepared himself for suffering. Soon after, a certain prince, Africanus, took Phocas for interrogation, and subjected him to harsh tortures, eventually throwing him into boiling water, where this brave soldier of Christ ended his earthly life and settled in the joy of his Lord. Phocas suffered during the reign of Emperor Trajan in the early 2nd century.

Martyr Phocas the Gardener, a contemporary of Hieromartyr Phocas, had a garden in Sinope. He lived modestly, selling what he grew to support himself. He helped the needy and paid for the housing of vagrants. His piety had a great influence on other people. Even pagans deferred to him with deep respect, while some abandoned their error and accepted the Christian Faith. The governor of the district sent soldiers to kill St. Phocas for being a Christian. He happened upon the soldiers and, without revealing his name, he courteously received them, fed them and prepared a place for them to spend the night. At night he went into the garden, then prepared a grave and a place for his burial. He even made arrangements for his possessions to be distributed to the poor after his death. In the morning St. Phocas declared to the strangers that it was he for whom they were searching, and told them to fulfill the duty entrusted to them. The visitors were distressed, not wanting to kill the kindly saint. They felt honor bound to spare Saint Phocas, but he would not hear of it, and humbly bent his head beneath the sword. They buried the holy Martyr Phocas in the grave that he himself had prepared in the garden. The place of his burial was glorified by miracles, and later a church was built there.

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 1st Mode)
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure. And He raised the dead unto life through His glorious resurrection.

Ton sinanarhon Logon Patri ke Pnevmati, ton ek Parthenu tekthenta is sotirian imon. Animnisomen pisti ke proskinisomen, oti ivdthokise sarki anelthin en to stavro ke thanaton ipomine, ke eyire tus tethneotas en ti en dthoxo anastasi Aftu.

Hymn of Hieromartyr Phocas (4th Mode)
As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, thou foundest discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Wherefore, having rightly divided the word of truth, thou didst also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Phocas. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

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 Theotokos (2nd Mode)
A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (1st Sunday of Luke)
Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5:1-11 (1st Sunday of Luke)
At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when He had ceased speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

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

Tuesday, September 24

Orthros	7:15 AM
Divine Liturgy for St. Silouan the Athonite	8:15 AM
Motherhood Ministry Coffee Hour	9:30 AM
Bible Study	10:00 AM

Wednesday, September 25

Wednesday Evening Study: Basics of Orthodoxy	7:00 PM

Friday, September 27

Men's Monastery Overnight Work Trip	

Saturday, September 28

Choir Practice	4:00 PM
Great Vespers	5:00 PM

Sunday, September 29

Orthros	8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Sunday School	12:00 PM
Theology 101: Adult Education Preparing the Gifts—Prosphora	12:00 PM