MATCHING GRANT FOR ORTHODOX MISSION PRIESTS! Today's fellowship is in honor of the Support A Mission Priest (SAMP) program. You can donate to St. John for SAMP, and it will be matched up to $2,400! Also be sure to watch the short presentation on SAMP today.

THE COMMUNITY VASILOPITA (ST. BASIL'S BREAD): Join the parish community as we celebrate the New Year with the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita to commemorate St. Basil on his feast day, and to remember his great example of charity. Who will receive the lucky coin inside? Come to find out—it could be you!

PARISH FEAST DAY DINNER: We will host a pan-Orthodox dinner for our beloved patron, St. John the Baptist, on the eve of his feast day, Monday, January 6 after 6:30 pm Vespers.

THE BLESSING OF ST. JOHN … will be received by those who volunteer on his feast day. If you want to volunteer for our feast day dinner—cooking, serving food, or cleaning up—contact Charity at charityreiter@gmail.com.

RETURN YOUR HOLY WATER BOTTLES … washed and ready for use on January 5 and 6!

CO-ED BOARD GAME NIGHT ... Saturday, January 4 at church, after Vespers. Main course provided. Please bring a side dish, a snack and/or a drink to share along with your favorite board games! All are welcome—bring a friend!

SUPPER FOR SIX: Any pair of two people, sign up on the bulletin board by January 5.

WHAT WILL OUR NEW CHURCH LOOK LIKE? Come to find out and to offer your input at a town hall meeting for Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Vision and Growth) on Saturday, January 11 after Great Vespers.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: On Saturday, January 11 at 8:30 am, we'll have a breakfast and a spiritual discussion. Open to all men. No RSVP—just show up. Please bring $5 to cover the cost of food.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HOSTED FELLOWSHIP IN A WHILE … then make this your New Year's resolution—to show ***Philoxenia*** ("Love for Strangers"). Many dates are open, including January 5, 12, and 19. Pick a day that is special to you or your loved ones. Up to $150 reimbursable.

TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED … (or business), please contact the church office and schedule a time. All that's needed are an icon and a bowl of water in a central area. (Basil/rosemary sprigs and incense are encouraged as well.)

MATCHING GRANT FOR A.S.A.: Your donation to ASA can be worth double! Up to $8,000 of matching donations have been pledge to ASA. Donate at: www.asapdx.org/support-asa/

WOMEN'S RETREAT COORDINATOR NEEDED: If the women of the parish would like to get away together in 2020, we need someone to step up and be our fearless leader! Please contact the church office if you are able to serve in this capacity.

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: Dale/VanSickle/Chiprout Altar Servers Team C: Pavlos, Zacharias, Thomas A., Nathan, Nicholas S., Titus
G: Chosvig & Dale Clean-Up Team 9: Reiter, Rush, Athanasakis, Jordan

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

December 29, 2019

14,000 Holy Innocents Slain by King Herod • Our Righteous Father Marcellu

The infant-slaying King Herod mentioned here is the same one that ruled at the time of Christ's Nativity. In those days, certain Magi, who were wise and noble men, perhaps even kings, set forth from the East, and came to Jerusalem, seeking the King of the Jews, Who had been born; and they said that in the East, where their homeland was, an unusual and strange star had appeared 2 years before, which, according to an ancient oracle (Num 24:17), was to signify the birth of some great king of the Jews. "For we have seen His star in the east," they said, "and have come to worship Him" (Matt. 2:2). Hearing these things, Herod was troubled. Then, having inquired and been informed by the high priests and scribes of the people that, according to the prophecies, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem, he sent the Magi there and ordered them that, when they would find the Child, to inform him, so that he also might go and worship Him. But the Magi, after they had worshipped, departed by another way to their own country by a divine command. This angered him and he sent men to slay all the infants in Bethlehem and nearby from 2 years and under, thinking that he would certainly slay the King Who had been born. But this vain man who fought against God was mocked, since Jesus, with Mary His Mother, and Joseph, fled into Egypt at the command of an Angel. As for those innocent infants, they became the first Martyrs slain in behalf of Christ.

St. Marcellus, who was from the city of Apamea in Syria, was born of renowned parents. Adorned with virtue and learning, he succeeded St. Alexander to the abbacy of the Monastery of the Unsleeping about the year 460. This monastery was so named because the monks there were divided into 3 ranks, and took turns in succession for the execution of the sacred services both day and night, and thus ceaselessly sent up praise to God, without any lapse. The author of this practice was the aforementioned Alexander. As the biographer of both these Saints writes: "Later, a venerable monastery was established near the mouth of Pontust (the place where the Black Sea tracts into the Bosphorus) and he introduced a rule that, though new, was superior to any found elsewhere; that is, that henceforth they should never be any cessation in the hymnody offered to God, but that through an unbroken succession of those that served in turn, there should be achieved this continuous and unceasing glorification of our Master."

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 born of a Virgin. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of the Nativity of our Lord (4th Mode)
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

I Yénnisis Su, Christé o Theós imón, anétile to kósmo to fos to tis gnóseos; en aftí gar i tis ástris latrévondes, ipó astéros edthidtháskondo, se proskinín, ton Ílion tis dthikeosínis, ke se yinóskin ex ípsus anatolín. Kýrie, dthóxa si.

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 Hymn of the Nativity of our Lord.

Hymn of the Ancestors of God (2nd Mode)
O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

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 Nativity of our Lord (3rd Mode)
On this day the Virgin bears the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth offers a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He that existed before the ages as God.

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday after the Nativity)
Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2: 13-23 (Sunday after the Nativity)
When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 29
- **Orthros** 8:45 AM
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 AM
- **Veneration of Relic of the Holy Innocents Killed by King Herod**
- No Sunday School/Theology 101

Monday, December 30
- Church Office Closed through Jan.1
- Moms' Night Out 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1
- **Orthros** 9:00 AM
- **Divine Liturgy for St. Basil the Great & Circumcision of our Lord** 10:00 AM
- **Cutting of Community Vasilopita** 11:30 AM

Thursday, January 2
- **Orthros** 7:30 AM
- **Divine Liturgy for St. Seraphim of Sarov and Veneration of Relics** 8:30 AM

Friday, January 3
- **Royal Hours for Theophany** 7:00 AM
- Young Professionals Dinner 7:00 PM

Saturday, January 4
- Choir Practice 4:00 PM
- **Memorial for Sarah Ntatsos (1 year)** 5:00 PM
- **Great Vespers** 5:00 PM
- Co-Ed Board Game Night 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 5
- **Orthros** 8:45 AM
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 AM
- **Great Blessing of the Waters** 11:45 AM
- No Sunday School/Theology 101
- **Great Vespers for Theophany** 5:00 PM

Monday, January 6
- **Orthros** 7:30 AM
- **Divine Liturgy for Theophany** 8:30 AM
- **Great Blessing of the Waters** 10:00 AM
- **Great Vespers for St. John the Baptist** 6:30 PM
- Parish Feast Day Dinner 7:30 PM

Tuesday, January 7
- **Orthros** 7:30 AM
- **Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia for St. John the Baptist and Veneration of Relic** 8:30 AM
- Parish Feast Day Fellowship Following