FASTING NOTES: We begin Great Lent tomorrow (Clean Monday), during which we fast from meat, dairy, fish, and on weekdays, wine & oil.

AKATHIST TO MOTHER OF GOD, NURTURER OF CHILDREN: Agia Sophia Academy invites you to pray together for your loved ones on Tuesday, March 3 at 9:00 am. ASA will host a fellowship following.

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY: During Great Lent, Erik Chosvig will teach about "The Desert Fathers and Mothers" on alternating Wednesday evenings—March 4 & 18 and April 1. The other Wednesday evenings will be pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgies at other Portland area Orthodox churches.

INAUGURAL SITE COMMITTEE MEETING will be on Monday, March 9 after Great Compline. Anyone is welcome to attend.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT ... will be on Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm—dinner at Thai Bloom (3800 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, Beaverton 97005).

YOUTH NIGHT AT THE CHURCH: On Saturday, March 14 after Vespers, all kids, K-8th Grade are invited to a fun evening together: HOPE (K-2nd), JOY (3rd-5th) & Jr. GOYA (6th-8th).

HOSTING FELLOWSHIP IN LENT: There are a few Sundays without fellowship hosts. Please consider offering a simple Lenten meal or snack, as an act of *philoxenia* (hospitality).

YOUTH WORKERS NEEDED: Our Youth Night and youth events are thriving, so we need you! Jobs range from cooking food, cleaning up, participating in games, supporting our leaders, helping with crafts, etc. Please see Beth P. to help.

LENTEN SERVICES: As we journey through Great Lent, please make some of these weekday services a part of your weekly routine! Great Compline on Monday at 6:30 pm; Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday at 6:30 pm and on Friday at 8:00 am; and Salutations/Akathist on Friday at 6:30 pm. Kalí Sarakostí ~ Blessed Lent!

RECEPTION FOR NEWLYWEDS: On Saturday, March 21 at 3:00 pm at the church celebrate Shawn and Diana Stebner's wedding. Please RSVP by text or phone to Sylvia at (503) 399-0428 by Friday, March 13.

VISITING THE HOMEBOUND: Have you been wanting to visit those who could benefit from a a friendly call? Do you know of anyone who would like a visit? Please contact Helen S. at hgstin@yahoo.com or (503) 805-9166.

FLOWER BASKET FUNDRAISER FOR ASA: Order your gorgeous hanging baskets today! These long-lasting hanging baskets come in 12" pots and are only $35! Swing by our table during fellowship to view the wide selection. They will be available for pick up on May 2. Questions? Email: FlowerBaskets@asapdx.org.

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: Perlmutter/Corazza/VanSickle Altar Servers Team C: Pavlos, Zacharias, Thomas A., Nathan, Nicholas S., Titus
G: Hudanish J/Souza Clean-Up Team 6: Ketrenos J&K, Ketrenos B, Knight, Davis

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

March 1, 2020

Sunday of Forgiveness • Cheesefare Sunday • Holy Righteous Martyr Evdokia the Samaritan

This Sunday is **Cheesefare Sunday,** it is the last day that we eat dairy products until Holy Pascha. Tomorrow begins the Great Lenten Fast. It is important for each of us who are in good health and old enough to understand the purpose of fasting and to be obedient to the guidelines our Church gives to us. Fasting is necessary if we desire to be pure and truly become followers of Christ. We must learn to direct our appetites toward God and not seek always to immediately satisfy ourselves; thus we may be healed and experience freedom from our sins and passions.

Today is also **Forgiveness Sunday**. A basic truth of Christ's teaching is that access to Him is closed if we are not willing to forgive our neighbor. Today's Gospel reading makes this clear: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." With this in mind, the Church seeks to remind us to begin our Lenten Journey by not only seeking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Confession, but also by seeking and forgiving one another. This is why our Church offers a Forgiveness Vespers today after Liturgy.

St. Evdokia, from Heliopolis of Phoenicia (in present-day Lebanon), was an idolater and led a licentious life. She had many lovers, and had acquired great riches. Evdokia awoke one night at midnight and heard singing from the house of a Christian woman next to hers. A monk was reading from a book which described the Last Judgment. The grace of God touched Evdokia's heart, and she grieved because of her great wealth and for her sinful life. She was brought to repentance by a monk named Germanus, and baptized by Bishop Theodotus. She distributed to the poor all her ill-gotten gains, and entered a convent, giving herself up completely to the life of asceticism. Her former lovers, enraged at her conversion, her refusal to return to her old ways, and the withering away of her beauty through the severe mortifications she practiced, betrayed her as a Christian to Vincent the Governor, and she was beheaded, according to some, under Trajan, who reigned from 98 to 117, according to others, under Hadrian, who reigned from 117 to 138.

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 (4th Mode)
When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel was 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.

To fedthrón tis anastáseos kírigma ek tu anggélu mathúse e tu Kiríu mathítrie ke tin progonikín apófasin aporrípsase, tis Apostolis kafhómene élegon: Eskílefte o thánatos iyérthi Christós o Theós, dthorúmenos to kósmo to méga éleos.

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 Forgiveness Sunday (Plagal 2nd)
O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor: establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master. Grant me speech, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto Thee: Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who have fallen.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Sunday of Forgiveness)
Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:14-21 (Sunday of Forgiveness)
The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Please make every effort to attend the Vespers of Forgiveness, which will commence at 12:30 pm, after Sunday fellowship. This important service marks the beginning of Clean Week and Great Lent.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday March 1
Forgiveness Sunday - Cheesefare Sunday
Orthros 8:45 AM
Churching of Annemarie McAtee 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Forgiveness Vespers 12:30 PM
No Sunday School/Theology 101

Monday, March 2
Clean Week - Great Lent Begins
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 3
Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children 9:00 AM
Fellowship Hosted by ASA 9:30 AM
Bible Study 10:00 AM
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 4
St. Kosmas Homeschooling Club 10:00 AM
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:30 PM
Lenten Potluck 8:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Study: The Desert Fathers & Mothers 8:30 PM

Thursday, March 5
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 PM

Friday, March 6
Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 AM
Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 7
Orthros 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy and Trisagion for Saturday of the Souls 9:30 AM
Choir Practice 4:00 PM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday March 8
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Orthros 8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 AM
Procession with Icons 12:00 PM
Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Holy Trinity Cathedral 5:00 PM