POSTPONING OF NON-LITURGICAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Our parish will continue to postpone all non-liturgical activities. Please see Saturday's parish-wide email for more specific directions regarding the present situation.

FULFILLING STEWARDSHIP DURING THIS TIME: Please continue to offer your stewardship either by mailing a check to the church, or by dropping it off at the church office. If you would like to sign up for an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account, please contact the church office.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS WITHIN ST. JOHN: We are working to create an avenue of communication between parishioners living in the same geographical area. This will give us more connection with other parishioners in our general area. You may be receiving a call from your "neighborhood point person" soon.

STEWARDSHIP STATEMENTS: In an effort to save money on resources, we are cutting back on mailing quarterly stewardship reports. Instead, we will mail updates bi-annually: in early July and early December. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Perlmutter.

SMALL COMPLINE AT "THE ANCIENT CHURCH" READING ROOM: Please join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm during Lent for Small Compline at The Ancient Church, located at 1930 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove 97116.

ASA FLOWER BASKET FUNDRAISER: Order your gorgeous hanging baskets today! These long-lasting hanging baskets come in 12" pots and are only $35! Order by emailing FlowerBaskets@asapdx.org. They will be available for pick up on May 2.

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.

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 22, 2020

Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross •

On the 3rd Sunday of Great Lent, the Church commemorates the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday prepares us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, and also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24), and have mortified ourselves during these days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion—being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory. Just as people who walk on a long and hard journey, bowed down by fatigue, find relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a tree; so do we find comfort and rejuvenation under the life-giving Cross, which the Church has "planted" on this Sunday. And just as, before the arrival of a king, his royal trophies and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade; so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His life-giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore we become ready to welcome our King, who shall triumph over the powers of darkness. The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose undrinkable waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. But when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth it became sweet. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous. Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's sin, as well as the fact that through this Tree condemnation has been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

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

Hymn 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 evlogison tin klironomian su. Nikas tis vasilevsi kata varvaron dthorumenos, ke to son filaton dthia tu Stavru su politevma.

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 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 the Akathist (Plagal 4th Mode)
To thee, the Champion Leader, we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.

In place of the Trisagion Hymn, the following hymn:
We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Ton Stavron su proskinumen, Dthespota, ke tin ayian su Anastasin dthoxazomen.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 4:16-5:6 (Veneration of the Holy Cross)
Brethren, since we have a High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a High Priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten Thee;" as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Veneration 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."

The Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Lent, which means that the megalynarion, "It is truly meet," is replaced with the following hymn:
In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices – both the congregations of angels and the human race. O consecrated temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins, from you was God incarnate and became a child – He, our God, who existed before the ages. For He made your womb a throne and He made you more spacious than the heavens. In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn (Third Mode):
The light of Your countenance, O Lord, has been signed upon us. Alleluia.

Instead of "We have seen the light," repeat the Hymn of the Holy Cross.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 22
Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross
Orthros 8:45 AM
Procession with the Holy Cross 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 AM

Monday, March 23
Great Compline 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 24
Great Vespers for the Annunciation of the Theotokos 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 25
Annunciation of the Theotokos
Orthros 7:30 AM
Divine Liturgy with Artoklasia 8:30 AM

Friday, March 27
Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 AM
Salutations to the Theotokos Fourth Stanza 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 28
Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday, March 29
Sunday of St. John of the Ladder
Orthros 8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 AM