St. John the Baptist
Greek Orthodox Church
14485 SW Walker Rd.
Beaverton, OR 97006

Change Service Requested

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla, Presiding Priest
Deacon Innocent Duchow-Pressley

August 2021 Newsletter

Vol. XXIV No. 8

IMPORTANT SITE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Fr. Matthew, Beth P, and Thomaida H

The Site Committee has been busily moving forward to vet the property at 23700 NW West Union Road and we're excited to share all that's happened with the parish at large! With the approval of the parish at our June 6 general assembly, we signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement, to move towards the next step on the West Union property.

Meanwhile, an Architect Search Sub-Committee was formed to review the work of various Orthodox church designers and architects and offer a recommendation to the Site Committee. We learned that we need our architect on board before we can go through the county zoning application process to determine what can be built on the site.

The Architect Search Sub-Committee interviewed four experienced architects/architectural designers from across the nation, then met to discuss the interviews and narrow the selection down to two. These two presented to the Site Committee on July 1. After this meeting, a poll was taken of the meeting attendees' preferences and any questions or concerns they had.

As a result of the poll, we determined that it is in the parish's best interest to additionally hire a local architect, who understands local construction, local building requirements, etc. The Architect Search Sub-Committee collected the names of local architects with church-building experience, and are in the process of choosing a qualified candidate.

MANY YEARS! CHRONIA POLLA! … for Namedays in August

Aug. 3 - Salome the Myrrh-Bearer
Salome Evangeline Marine

Aug 6 - Holy Transfiguration
Patti (Sotiria) Ross

Aug. 10 – Archdeacon Laurence
Ted (Laurence) Moffitt

Aug 15 - Dormition of the Theotokos
Mia (Maria) Alex
Erin Maria Burger
Diane (Despina) Cherry
Maria Daniels
Sesuna Mary Eyassu
Maria Hafez
Panagiotis Kontopoulos
Ginny (Mary) Nieuwsma
Osceola (Parthenia) Peil
Danica (Despina) Sheean
Suzana (Mary) Solomon
Maria Souza
Mary Lucille Starrett
Maria Katherine Swehla
Colleen (Maria) Van Sickle

August 20 - Prophet Samuel
Samuel Christian
Vishal (Samuel) Christian
Samuel Duchow-Pressley
Samuel Starrett

August 25 - Apostle Titus
Titus Crosby

August 28 - St. Moses the Ethiopian
Clayton (Moses) Dale

August 30 - St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople
Alexander Davis
Alexander Hafez

…and Wedding Anniversaries this Month

August 3	Eyob & Eden Solomon (19 years)
August 4	Steven & Janet Roth (48 years)
August 9	Brian & Shannon Rush (19 years)
August 17	Paul & Arielle Jungwirth (13 years)
August 20	Charles & Helen Stinman (38 years)
	Nathaniel & Kristina Lubliner (5 years)
August 24	Seraphim & Rachel Daniels (18 years)
August 27	Richard & Paraskevi Whitton (43 years)
August 31	Philip & Jill Hudanish (24 years)

MEMORY ETERNAL! AONIA I MNIMI! … for Memorials this Month

August 8	John Wehlitz, Sr. (10 years)
August 23	Ann Davis (14 years)
	Aly Hope Weiser-Lilly (6 years)

On July 22 the Site Committee met again to discuss new information and decide among the two remaining architectural design candidates. By God's grace the process was educational and peaceful and consensus was reached to hire Andrew Gould, an architectural designer based in Charleston, South Carolina. His firm, New World Byzantine, has designed more than two dozen Orthodox churches and received worldwide recognition. We are impressed by Gould's design philosophy, dedication to good acoustics and traditional building materials, as well as his attention to designing an Orthodox church that suits its geographical and neighborhood context.

Meanwhile the Site Committee's Steering Committee learned more about the pre-application requirements and retained our parish's previous land use planner, Angelo Planning Group, to lead us through the zoning process. Frank in turn, recommended a transportation engineering firm, Kittleson & Associates. We also decided to retain NW Engineers for the civil engineering, since they had previously worked on this property.

Our Application Core Group—listed with their respective company websites—is as follows:

- Andrew Gould, Orthodox architectural designer
- TBD, local architect
- Angelo Planning Group, land use planner
- NW Engineers, civil engineering firm
- Kittleson & Associates, transportation engineering firm

Next Steps

On July 27, the Steering Committee of the Site Committee met with the newly formed Application Core Group, to prepare to file the pre-application with the county as soon as possible.

We are scheduling a site visit with Andrew Gould for the weekend of September 10-12. This will be the primary opportunity for Andrew to learn about our community and our parish needs going forward ("programming").

Please pray for our parish and process, as well as for the members of the Application Core Group. This is going to be an exciting learning process, which will require a lot of discernment. It is a big investment and we need the whole community to pray. Do you have additional questions or want to know where we are in the process at any given time? During Sunday fellowship, look for our Site Committee representative—wearing a yellow construction helmet—to get up-to-date information!

As always, you're welcome to join the Site Committee!

PC CORNER

Jon C

Greetings all my brothers and sister in Christ. How I have missed you and what a joy it is to finally be seeing more of you and more often! While we are in this time of learning to be comfortable being in the presence of one another, I want to remind you of some things you should know. While we would prefer that everyone be in the nave for worship, we understand everyone has a different level of comfort. In the Nave, we have added some spacing within rows to assist those who feel the need. However, there will continue to be extra seating in the North Hall, for those who desire more space. You may elect to commune in the Nave or in the North Hall.

STS. MARY AND MARTHA PHILOPTOCHOS

Diane C

Sts. Mary and Martha Philoptochos has new board members! Jennifer Davis, Sophia Galeev, Carmen Rusinaru, Lois Russo, and Diane Cherry were all re-elected. They will be joined by new board members Kiersten McAfee and Diana Devine Stebner. Charity Reiter, as out-going president, will act as an advisor to the board. Our plan is to take the month of August for our new board to elect officers and get ourselves organized. And of course, our hosting of Family Promise will take place in August.

We hope to have a full membership meeting in September, giving all members a chance to meet the new board, and each other! We are hoping to provide opportunities for members to be involved throughout the year. As we said in the June newsletter, we want to provide "fellowship with a purpose" and other opportunities for members to reach out in ways they have asked for. We all feel more connected when we have outreach opportunities that allow us to gather and fulfill our mission "*to offer comfort where we see pain, sustenance where we find hunger, and hope where we encounter despair.*"

We are looking forward to a grace-filled year for our Sts. Mary and Martha Philoptochos Chapter!

CROSSROADS MINISTRY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Tuesday, August 17 at 11:30 am

Speaker: TBA

MY JOURNEY TO ORTHODOXY

Sophia G

When I look back, I see that God was guiding me on my path to Orthodoxy - a journey that I continue each day. I grew up Catholic and was drawn to God from an early age. When I was a teen, I started to question some of the history and teachings of the Catholic church and went seeking other faiths. I ended up not attending church at all, but still prayed.

Many years later, a co-worker and I started discussing life and ended up talking about our beliefs. I mentioned that I had been raised Catholic, and he asked why I left. After hearing my views, he told me what the Orthodox church's position on those issues were, as he was Russian Orthodox. He invited me to attend the Greek church (there was no Russian church nearby) with him and his wife. Not long afterwards, I knew that Orthodoxy was where I belonged.

Eventually, a ROCOR mission was started in my godfather's home, and we grew slowly. I married, and moved to the Chicagoland area where we attended a Russian Orthodox cathedral. After my daughter was born and old enough to understand what was being said, I felt it was important for her to hear the liturgy in English. I also struggled with services being in Russian, as I knew very little, and we started attending an OCA church.

In August of 2016, we moved to Oregon, and as St John's was near our home, we attended a couple of liturgies. While I had known that Orthodoxy was right for me, I never had experienced a "church family", and did not understand how important that this would become to me. We would attend and then leave immediately. I look back on those days and laugh, because I now understand how important it is to be a part of an Orthodox community.

My journey is ongoing, and I am still learning about Orthodoxy. Sometimes a simple phrase or prayer will blossom unexpectedly, and I am blown away by just how Great and loving God is. He teaches us in His good time, when we are ready to know Him better. I am truly blessed to be here at St. John's, and to be able to continue my journey with you all, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

August

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Dormition Fast** → Parish Anniversary 8:45 am **Orthros** 10:00 am **Divine Liturgy** 11:45 am Philoptochos Oath of Office 12:00 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm **Great Paraklesis**	2 6:30 pm **Small Paraklesis**	3 6:30 pm **Great Paraklesis**	4 6:30 pm **Small Paraklesis**	5 6:30 pm **Great Vespers** 7:30 pm Site Committee Meeting	6 7:30 am **Orthros** 8:30 am **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am Blessing of the Grapes 6:30 pm **Small Paraklesis** 7:30 pm Women's Fellowship Potluck	7 2:00 pm GOYA Ultimate Outdoor Challenge & Dinner 5:00 pm **Great Vespers**
8 **Dormition Fast** → 8:45 am **Orthros** 10:00 am **Divine Liturgy** 11:45 am Fellowship 5:30 pm **Great Paraklesis**	9 6:30 pm **Small Paraklesis**	10 6:30 pm **Great Paraklesis**	11 6:30 pm **Small Paraklesis**	12 6:30 pm **Great Paraklesis**	13 6:30 pm **Small Paraklesis** 7:30 pm Young Professionals Dinner and Discussion	14 1:00 pm JOY (3rd-5th) Meeting at church **NO 5:00 VESPERS** 6:30 pm **Vigil: Vespers, Artoklasia, Orthros, & Lamentation**
15 **Dormition of the Theotokos** **NO ORTHROS** 10:00 am **Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia** 12:00 pm Fellowship	16	17 11:30 am Crossroads Ministry Potluck Luncheon 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting		19 7:00 pm Site Committee Meeting	20	21 9:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast 10:00 am HOPE (K-2nd) Meeting at church 5:00 pm **Memorial for Ann Davis (14 years) & Aly Hope Weiser-Lilly (6 years)** 5:00 pm **Great Vespers**
22 Family Promise Week → 8:45 am **Orthros** 10:00 am **Divine Liturgy** 11:45 am Fellowship	23	24 Fr. Matthew on Vacation →	25	26 Church Office Closed →	27 6:30 pm **Paraklesis to the Theotokos**	28 3:30 pm Jr. GOYA Meeting at the church 5:00 pm **Great Vespers**
29 **Beheading of St. John the Baptist** 8:45 am **Orthros** 10:00 am **Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia** 12:00 pm Fellowship	30 Church Office Closed	31		**Feast Days Celebrated in August:** August 6 Transfiguration of the Lord		

Please check the website calendar (www.stjohngoc.org/calendar) for the latest schedule, as events and services sometimes change.

AUGUST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

FLOWER MINISTRY

August 1	Jill/Kendall
August 8	Agape/Colleen
August 15	Flower Committee
August 22	Cindy/Stephanie
August 29	Katherine/Crystal

PARISH COUNCIL

August 1	Nate/Jon
August 8	Patrice/Michael P.
August 15	Jon/Sophia
August 22	Robert/Matt
August 29	Nate/Shawn

PROSFORA

August 1	Kathleen (2), Christina (2)
August 6	Christina (2)
August 8	Carmen (4)
August 15	Merope (2), Jodi (2)
August 22	Kathleen (2), Jennifer B. (2)
August 29	Carmen (4)

AUDIO VISUAL

August 1	Thomaida
August 8	Kathleen
August 15	Shannon
August 22	Kathleen
August 29	Shannon

MEN'S MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Saturday, August 21 at 9:00 am

Breakfast and a spiritual discussion led by Fr. Matthew. Open to all men. No need to RSVP, just show up. Please bring $5 to cover the cost of food. To be held at church following Liturgy. Contact Brandon W, cravetruth@yahoo.com.

MEN'S BEACH RETREAT - SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 2
Details to be announced.

MESSAGE FROM AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY

Dear Families of St. John the Baptist,

We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a small but ***precious gem*** within our local Orthodox Christian community. Agia Sophia Academy was founded almost twenty years ago. Our mission is to educate the whole child by providing a rich academic and arts curriculum, grounded in the Orthodox Christian Faith—while fostering love of learning, personal responsibility, and respect for each person.

From the beginning, our Board of Directors has made it a priority to not only educate our children faithfully but also ***to make that education affordable.*** Each year, the board approves $20,000 to $30,000 in need-based scholarships.

Agia Sophia Academy's goals are:

- To offer academic excellence in a safe and nurturing environment
- To teach students "how to learn" as well as "what to learn"
- To cultivate a life-long love of learning in our students
- To act as an extension of the parental role of educating the child
- To further form character in our students so they will become productive and beneficial members of our communities
- To draw families more fully into the life of the Church
- To honor God and educate others in the Faith

We invite you to, "Come and See!" Schedule a tour this summer. Currently there are openings in our 3- to 6-year-old Montessori classroom, our Lower Elementary, and possibly our Upper Elementary. Also if you have any questions, you can contact us at the email addresses below.

May the blessings of our Lord be with you!

In Christ,

Fr. Matthew Swehla, ASA Board Member
frmatthew@stjohngoc.org

Christina Blankenstein, Principal
christina@asapdx.org

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST MINISTRIES

PARISH COUNCIL
Jon Corazza, President
Robert Downs, Vice President
Kathleen Ketrenos, Treasurer
Matt VanSickle Secretary
Mike Psiropoulos, Stewardship
Michael Agrawal
Sophia Galeev
Barry Ketrenos
Patrice Kuchulis
Nathaniel Lubliner
Ted Moffitt
Shawn Stebner

SITE COMMITTEE
Diane Cherry & Nathaniel Lubliner

PHILOPTOCHOS
Diane Cherry
Jennifer Davis
Sophia Galeev
Kiersten McAfee
Carmen Rusinaru
Lois Russo,
Diane Devine Stebner

CHURCH MUSIC
Patrick Barnes & Elizabeth Hatch

ALTAR SERVERS
Deacon Innocent & Barry Ketrenos

PROSFORA BAKERS
Deacon Innocent & Church Office

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM
[——]

LOGOS BOOKSTORE
Agape Ketrenos & Paraskevi Whitton

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
SECOND FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH

WELCOME MINISTRY
Moses (Clayton) Dale

CROSSROADS MINISTRY
Demetri Mirras

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
Fr. Matthew & Beth Perlmutter

MEN'S MINISTRIES
Brandon Wilson & Robert Downs

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Beth Smith

MOTHERHOOD MINISTRY
[——]

MOMS' NIGHT OUT
Sam Marine

ST. KOSMAS HOMESCHOOL CLUB
[——]

YOUTH MINISTRIES
Beth Perlmutter, *Youth Director*

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Kendall Muzik

GOYA (9th-12th Grades)
Deacon Innocent & Beth Perlmutter

JR. GOYA (6th-8th Grades)
Shannon Rush, Chris Perlmutter & Zoya Galeev

JOY (3rd-5th Grades)
Beth Perlmutter, Karen Keese & Anna Corazza

HOPE (K-2nd Grades)
Anna Seidel & Kim Thabit

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