ALL INVITED TO JOIN THE CHOIR! If you are interested in joining, please email Melanie at melanie.elizabeth@hey.com or find her or Patrick at church.

DORMITION FAST: Beginning on August 1, we will prepare for the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos by observing a strict fast (with wine and oil on the weekend and fish on the feast of the Transfiguration). May God grant us a more joyful celebration of the Panagia through this fast!

PARAKLESIS TO THE THEOTOKOS: The season of the Panagia is almost here! On almost every evening during the Dormition Fast we will chant the service of the Paraklesis to the Theotokos, alternating between the Small Paraklesis and the Great Paraklesis.

FR MATTHEW ON VACATION: Father is on vacation from July 28 through July 31. For pastoral emergencies please contact Fr. John Mancantelli through the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ... from July 26 through July 28.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Our upcoming Women's Fellowship potluck dinner will be held at the church on Friday, August 6, after Small Paraklesis.

NEW PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD: Next Sunday after Liturgy, Fr. Matthew will administer the Oath of Office to the new board members: Diane Cherry, Jennifer Davis, Sophia Galeev, Kiersten McAfee, Carmen Rusinaru, Lois Russo, and Diana Devine Stebner. May their good works be blessed!

FAMILY PROMISE: St. John will serve families in need through Family Promise, August 22-28. Our parish will provide seven dinner meals. Details regarding the number of family members, food allergies/restrictions and meal delivery will be provided prior to our week of service. Look for details soon on how you can be a part of the hosting week.

BREAD HELPERS NEEDED: Continue the blessing of Bread Mondays! From 3:15 to 4:00 pm, volunteers wrap and store beautiful breads and pastries. Dates available through October. The link to sign up is in the weekly email.

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.

Parish Council:
Shawn S. and Ted M.

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

July 25, 2021

Dormition of St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos • St. Olympia the Deaconess • St. Efpraxia

St. Anna was the daughter of the priest Matthan and his wife Mary. She was of the tribe of Levi and Aaron's lineage. She died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos. During the reign of St. Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in her honor at Deutera. Emperor Justinian II restored her church, since St. Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. It was at this time that her body and veil were transferred to Constantinople. Portions of her holy relics may be found on Mt. Athos—Stavronikita Monastery (part of her left hand), St. Anna's Skete (part of her incorrupt left foot), Koutloumousiou Monastery (part of her incorrupt right foot)—and at other monasteries, as well as at St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Roseville, CA.

St. Olympia the Deaconess of Constantinople was of noble birth. She was betrothed to a nobleman who died before they were wed. After this Olympia devoted herself entirely to God, giving her inheritance to the Church and to the poor. She served as a deaconess, first under the Patriarch Nektarios, then under St John Chrysostom. When St John was sent into exile, he advised her to remain in Constantinople, and to continue to serve the Church. However she in turn was exiled to Nikomedia, where she reposed in 408. Her relics are a source of great miracles.

St. Efpraxia of Tabenna was a young girl when her widowed mother travelled with her to the Thebaid in Egypt. There they visited a women's monastery which had a strict monastic rule. The life of the inhabitants attracted Efpraxia and she decided to remain at the monastery. Her pious mother did not stand in the way of her daughter's wish. St. Efpraxia, when she reached the age of maturity, intensified her ascetic efforts all the more, eventually eating just once a week. She combined her fasting with the fulfilling of all her monastic obediences, serving the sisters with zeal and love. The evil one brought about much misfortune upon the saint: causing her to fell into the well, to cut herself with an axe while chopping wood, and to fall from a ladder, making a sharp splinter cut her near the eyes. All these woes she endured with patience. The Lord granted St. Efpraxia a gift of wonderworking. She died peacefully at the age of thirty.

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 speak with one of our clergy.

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn (4th Mode)
When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel were 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 Kyríu mathítrie, ke tin progonikín apófasin aporrípsase, tis Apostólis kafhómene élegon: Eskílefte o thánatos, iyérthi Christós o Theós, dthorúmenos to kósmo to méga éleos.

Hymn of the Dormition of St. Anna (4th Mode / *Be quick to anticipate*)
You carried within your womb her who was pregnant with Life, * the Mother of God, O godly-minded Anna; and thus * to heaven were you today * transported with great rejoicing, where those who feast dwell in glory. * You pray for the forgiveness of offenses for the faithful * who honor you with longing, O ever-blessed one.

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 Sts. Joachim & Anna (2nd Mode / *In seeking the heights*)
Today we observe the memory of Christ's forebears, and also we pray that we might receive their aid, so that all of us may be freed from tribulations, as we cry aloud, "Be with us, O Lord our God, who glorified them as You were pleased to do."

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 4:22-27 (Dormition of St. Anna)
Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1 (Fifth Sunday of Matthew)
At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 25
Dormition of St. Anna
Orthros 8:45 am
Churching of Jessie (Catherine) Crosby and Leonidas 9:45 am
Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia 10:00 am
Sunday Fellowship 12:00 pm

Monday, July 26
St. Paraskevi
Orthros 7:30 am
Divine Liturgy 8:30 am
Church Office Closed through July 28

Tuesday, July 27
St. Panteleimon
Orthros 7:30 am
Divine Liturgy 8:30 am

Wednesday, July 28
Fr. Matthew on vacation through July 31
Choir Practice 6:00 pm

Saturday, July 31
Great Vespers 5:00 pm

Sunday, August 1
Dormition Fast begins
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Philoptochos Board Oath of Office 11:45 am
Sunday Fellowship 12:00 pm
Great Paraklesis 5:30 pm