EXCITING SITE NEWS! On Tuesday, the site committee applied for a "Pre-Application Conference" with Washington County—which will hopefully be scheduled in 3-4 weeks. The pre-application conference gives us an opportunity to discuss with the county the issues that we will need to address when we make our formal zoning application, which will include much more detail.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT SUNDAY AT 12:30 PM ... for a parish wide presentation from our Orthodox architectural designer, ***Andrew Gould.*** Andrew will walk us through some of his previous work, and we will all be able to grow in our understanding of architecture. Please make your best effort to be present. For those who can't join in person, this will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK DINNER: This Tuesday at 7:30 pm, following Great Vespers, please join us for a potluck dinner and spiritual discussion led by Father Matthew. Please bring a dish to share-main, side, dessert. Drinks will be provided. No RSVP.

MEN'S BEACH RETREAT: Don't miss this fellowship opportunity for the men of St. John and friends, Wednesday-Saturday, September 29 to October 2. Cost is $50 per person and covers food and the cleaning fee. ($35 if you're only coming for one night.) Contact Brandon at cravetruth@yahoo.com to RSVP. Space is limited!

THANK YOU ... for supporting Family Promise by your prayers, cards of encouragement, and donations of diapers & wipes and toward food.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP NEEDS HELP! It's easy. The church provides the food and there is training available. Please contact Beth S to help.

FULLNESS OF THE FAITH CLASS: Join Father Matthew for twelve introductory classes on the Orthodox Christian Faith. Learn about Orthodox Spirituality, Iconography, Theology, and Prayer, as well as the 2,000-Year History of the Church. Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm, beginning September 22.

NEW BIBLE STUDY ON EPHESIANS: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am, beginning on September 15, we will study St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. You can purchase your Orthodox Study Bible in the bookstore.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERS DINNER! Sts. Mary and Martha Philoptochos members should have received an evite. Come spend an evening together, Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 pm.

HELPER NEEDED TO PICK UP BREAD IN OCTOBER! Looking for a helper on Mondays at 3:00 pm to pick-up bread donations from Grand Central Bakery at the NW corner of Cornell & Saltzman Roads and deliver them to the church. Please contact Jennifer D. if interested.

NO BREAD IN SEPTEMBER: Due to staffing shortage at Grand Central Bakery, they will be closed on Mondays in September, so our Monday delivery won't take place. They will reopen Mondays in October.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Parish Council:
Robert D. 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

September 5, 2021

Holy Prophet Zacharias & the Righteous Elizabeth Parents of St. John the Forerunner

The Holy Prophet Zacharias and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron. Zacharias, son of Barach, was a priest in the Temple in Jerusalem, and Elizabeth was the sister of St. Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, "walking in all the commandments of the Lord" (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God. Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, Zacharias was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who "will be great in the sight of the Lord" (Luke 1:15) and "will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias" (Luke 1:17). Zacharias doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was made mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name. They asked Zacharias and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord. When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them. Herod knew about John's unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers. In these tragic days Zacharias was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar. (Matt 23:35) Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and St. John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel. Zacharias and Elizabeth are also commemorated on June 24, the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

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 (Second Mode)
When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life Immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out, "O Life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory."

Óte katílthes pros ton thánaton, i Zoí i athánatos, tóte ton Ádthin enékrosas ti astrapí tis Theótitos. Óte dthe ke tus tethneótas ek ton katahthoníon anéstisas, páse e dthinámis ton epuranían ekrávgazon: Zöodthóta Christé o Theós imón, dthóxa Si.

Hymn of the Prophet Zacharias (Fourth Mode/ *Joseph was amazed*)
As a priest according to the Law of God you offered up whole-burnt offerings, and they were most acceptable to Him, dressed in the vestments of the priesthood, O Zacharias. And you became a light, and you beheld mysteries; and clearly you displayed the signs and symbols of grace within yourself. And you, were assassinated by the sword in the Temple of God. O all-wise Prophet of Christ the Savior, join the Forerunner in praying that our souls be saved.

Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Second 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 the Theotokos (Fourth Mode)
Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death, O immaculate one, by your holy Nativity, which your people, redeemed from the guilt of offences, celebrate by crying to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 9: 2-12 (11th Sunday of Matthew)
Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does He not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the Gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:23-35 (11th Sunday of Matthew)
The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 5
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Sunday Fellowship 11:45 am

Monday, September 6
- Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7
- **Vespers for Nativity of the Theotokos** 6:30 pm
- Women's Fellowship Potluck Dinner 7:30 pm

Wednesday, September 8
- **Nativity of the Theotokos**
- **Orthros** 7:30 am
- **Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia** 8:30 am
- **Paraklesis to St. Nikiforos** 6:00 pm

Thursday, September 9
- Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, September 11
- **Great Vespers** 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 12
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Sunday Fellowship 11:45 am
- Architectural Presentation by Andrew Gould 12:30 pm