CHRISTMAS SERVICES: For the Nativity, we will celebrate with 9:00 pm Festal Vigil (Great Compline & Orthros—NOT Vespers) and 9:00 am Liturgy (with Pre-Communion prayers before). In addition, on Christmas Eve morning, we will have 7:15 am Royal Hours and 9:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.

NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES: As we prepare for our Lord's Nativity, we have a season of increased fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Please come to as many morning services as you can, and take part in the sacrament of Confession.

ST. NICHOLAS PARTY: is planned for Saturday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. for the whole family! In an effort to include everyone we will not be serving food and masks will be required.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: Come have fellowship with your brothers in Christ! On Tuesday, December 7, 7:30-9:00 pm, we will gather at church to have some social time, as well as a spiritual discussion. No RSVP needed. Bring a drink or snack to share, if you'd like.

DECEMBER YOUTH MEETINGS: GOYA (9th-12th) will meet on Saturday, December 11 at 3:00 pm. JR GOYA (6th-8th) meets on Saturday, December 18 at 3:00 pm.

HOSTING FELLOWSHIP: Show love and hospitality to the parish community by providing the food for a Sunday fellowship. The parish can reimburse up to $150 of expenses. Please contact Beth S. to pick a date.

"ACCEPT, O LORD, THESE GIFTS": We are expanding our circle of prosfora bakers. Prosfora ("offering bread") are the loaves of bread used in the preparation of the Holy Gifts for the Divine Liturgy. ***No bread baking experience is necessary!*** Please join us in offering this blessed service to our parish. Contact Kathleen Ketrenos (kathleen_sjb@ketrenos.com) if you would like to learn, or if you have questions.

BENEVOLENCE FUND CHRISTMAS CARDS: Beautiful hand-crafted cards can be "purchased" by giving a donation (of any amount) to the Benevolence Fund. These cards are available during fellowship today through December 19.

TASSO THE TURKEY: has made $2517 to help families in our parish during the holiday season. Thank you for your donations.

THE BREAD MINISTRY: In order to continue the bread ministry, we need hands to do the work on Mondays, 3:15-4:00 pm. Volunteers wrap and store beautiful breads and pastries. Please sign up through the link in the weekly email. During the nativity fast all pastries will be donated to the Union Gospel Mission's Women's Life Change. Bread will still be available for St. John parishioners.

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK: December 19-25 We will provide cooked meals and Christmas gifts for a family of 7 members living in the Beaverton Day House. See the weekly email to sign-up and for other donation options.

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:
Jon and Michael A.

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

November 28, 2021

St. Stephen the New Martyr

The righteous Stephen was born in Constantinople in 715 to pious parents named John and Anna. His mother had prayed often to the most holy Theotokos in her church at Blachernae to be granted a son, and one day received a revelation from our Lady that she would conceive the son she desired. When Anna had conceived, she asked the newly-elected Patriarch Germanos to bless the babe in her womb. He said, "May God bless him through the prayers of the holy First Martyr Stephen." At that moment Anna saw a flame of fire issue from the mouth of the holy Patriarch. When the child was born, she named him Stephen, according to the prophecy of St. Germanos. Stephen struggled in asceticism from his youth in Bithynia at the Monastery of St. Auxentios, which was located at a lofty place called Mount Auxentios Because of his extreme labors and great goodness, he was chosen by the hermits of Mount Auxentios to be their leader. The fame of his spiritual struggles reached the ears of all, and the fragrance of his virtue drew many to himself. During the reign of Constantine V (741-775), Stephen showed his love of Orthodoxy in contending for the Faith. Constantine, who was called Copronymos, that is, "namesake of dung," because while being baptized he had soiled the waters , giving a fitting token of what manner of impiety he would later embrace. , Constantine was a fierce Iconoclast and began a ruthless persecution of monasticism. He held a council in 754 that anathematized the holy icons. Because St. Stephen rejected this council, the Emperor framed false accusations against him and exiled him. But while in exile St. Stephen performed healings with holy icons and turned many away from Iconoclasm. When he was brought before the Emperor again, he showed him a coin and asked whose image the coin bore. "Mine," said the tyrant. "If any man trample upon thine image, is he liable to punishment?" asked the saint. When they that stood by answered yes, the saint said if they thought dishonoring the image of a corruptible king worthy of punishment, what torment would they receive who trampled upon the image of the Master Christ and of the Mother of God? Then he threw the coin to the ground and trampled on it. He was condemned to 11 months in bonds and imprisonment. He was dragged over the earth and stoned, like Stephen the First Martyr; so he is called Stephen the New. Finally, he was struck with a wooden club and his head was shattered. He gave up his spirit in the year 767.

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 (Plagal Second Mode)
When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary, seeking Your pure and sacred body, then You did vanquish Hades, and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Angeliké Dthinámis epí to mníma Su, ke i filássondes apenekróthisan, ke ístato María en to táfo, zitúsa to áhrandon Su sóma. Eskílefsas ton Ádthin, mi pirasthís ip aftú, ipíndisas ti Parthéno, dthorúmenos tis zoín. O anastás ek ton nekrón, Kýrie, dthóxa si.

Hymn of Martyr Stephen the New (Fourth Mode/*You who were lifted*):
When you had trained ascetically on the mountain, wearing the armor of the Cross, blessed Father, you then destroyed the spiritual armies of the foe. Afterwards you manfully stripped yourself for the contest and you slew Copronymos with the sword of the true Faith. For both these vict'ries you were crowned by God, monastic Martyr Saint Stephen, extolled by all.

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 Forefeast of Nativity (Third Mode / *On this day the Virgin*)
On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on *s a young Child Who before the ages is God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:4-10 (Thirteenth Sunday of Luke)
Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18: 18-27 (Thirteenth Sunday of Luke)
At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 28
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Churching of Kristina Lubliner & Konstantin** 9:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship 11:45 am

Monday, November 29
- **Liturgy & Pre-Communion Prayers** 5:45 am

Tuesday, November 30
St. Andrew the First Called
- **Orthros** 7:30 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:30 am

Wednesday, December 1
- **Liturgy & Pre-Communion Prayers** 5:45 am
- Bible Study 10:00 am
- **Paraklesis to St. Nikiforos the Leper** 6:00 pm
- *Fullness of the Faith* Class 7:00 pm
- Choir Practice 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 2
St. Porphyrios of Kafsokalyvia
- **Orthros** 8:30 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 9:30 am

Friday, December 3
- **Liturgy & Pre-Communion Prayers** 5:45 am

Saturday, December 4
St. Barbara the Great Martyr & St. John of Damascus
- **Orthros** 8:30 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 9:30 am
- Children's St. Nicholas Party 4:00 pm
- **Memorial for Elder Ephraim, Ted Deming & Fran Williams (2 years)** 5:00 pm
- **Great Vespers** 5:00 pm

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