PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 19 - Stewardship Sunday
Family Promise Host Week
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia 10:00 am
Parish Council Elections 12:00 pm
Fellowship & Christmas Caroling 12:00 pm

Monday, December 20
Liturgy and Pre-Communion Prayers 5:45 am
Young Professionals Meeting at Church 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 21
Liturgy and Pre-Communion Prayers 5:45 am
Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 22
Liturgy and 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 23
Liturgy and Pre-Communion Prayers 5:45 am

Friday, December 24
Eve of the Nativity of the Lord
Royal Hours 7:15 am
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 9:00 am
Vigil (Great Compline & Orthros) 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 25
Nativity of the Lord
Pre-Communion Prayers 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
Great Vespers 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 26
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship 11:45 am

TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: We will offer Artoklasia and a prayer of thanksgiving for your offerings.

SING CAROLS TOGETHER! The Crossroads Ministry is hosting fellowship today, and we will sing Christmas carols together afterward. Join us!

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY! All stewards are welcome to vote.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED from December 24 through January 3.

OUR CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER has ended one week early because we have no more Christmas Cards left! Glory to God, $1586 has been donated for the Benevolence fund. Thank you for your generous support!

FAMILY PROMISE THIS WEEK: Thank you for the love and generosity you are showing to Maurico, Marta and their five children! Christmas dinner and their Christmas gifts will be delivered this week as well as home cooked meals and dinner gift cards. We have had over 30 church families plus our GOYAs and their leaders bless this family with their time and treasures. It has indeed been a beautiful parish community effort.

THE BREAD MINISTRY: January volunteer dates are available! We need hands to do the work on Mondays, 3:15-4:00 pm. Volunteers wrap and store beautiful breads and pastries. Pleasesign up through the link 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:
Michael P. and Kathleen K.

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

December 19, 2021

Boniface the Merciful of Tarsus

The Holy Martyr Boniface was the slave of a rich Roman woman named Aglaida and he dwelt with her in cohabitation. But they both wanted to be cleansed of their sin. The Lord granted them the possibility to wash away their sin with their blood and to finish their life in repentance. Aglaida learned that whoever keeps the relics of martyrs in the home and venerates them receives help in gaining salvation, sin is diminished and virtue prevails. She arranged for Boniface to go to the East, during a fierce persecution against Christians, to bring back the relics of a martyr, who would become a guide and protector for them. As he was leaving, Boniface laughed and asked, "If I do not find any relics, and if I myself suffer for Christ, will you accept my body with reverence?" She scolded him, for not being serious. During the whole journey he thought that he was unworthy of touching the martyrs bodies. Arriving at Tarsus in Cilicia, Boniface left his companions at an inn and went to the city square, where torturing of Christians took place. Struck by their torments, he marveled at their courage, embraced them and asked them to pray that he might suffer as well. The judge asked Boniface who he was. He replied, "I am a Christian". They inflicted great torture on him, but by God's power he remained unharmed. The people who witnessed this began to throw stones at the judge, and then they went to the pagan temple, to destroy the idols. The next morning, the judge threw the martyr into a cauldron, but he was unharmed. An angel came down and bedewed him. The tar overflowed burning the torturers. St. Boniface was then sentenced to beheading. His companions, waiting for two days then began searching for him, thinking that he was drunk. At first they couldn't find him, but finally they came across a man who led them to the place where his body lay. They ransomed his remains, and brought them back to Rome. On the eve of their arrival an angel appeared to Aglaida and told her to prepare herself to receive him. She summoned the clergy, and reverently received the holy relics. She built a church on his grave and enshrined his relics, distributed all her wealth to the poor, and became a monastic, where she spent 15 years, then fell asleep in the Lord. She was buried beside St. Boniface. The sins of the one were washed away by his blood, the other was purified by her tears and asceticism. Both were found worthy to appear unsullied before our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray to St. Boniface for deliverance from drunkenness.

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 (First Mode)
The stone had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch o'er Your pure and sacred body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.

Tu líthu sfrayisthéndos ipó ton Iudthéon, ke stratiotón filassóndon to áhrandon su Sóma, anéstis tri-ímeros Sotír, dthorúmenos to kósmo tin zoín; dthiá túto e Dthinámis ton uranón evó-on si zoödthóta. Dthóxa ti Anastási su Christé, dthóxa ti vasilía su, dthóxa ti ikonomía su, móne filánthrope.

Hymn of the Forefeast of Nativity (Fourth Mode / *Joseph was amazed*)
Be ready, Bethlehem, Eden has opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare yourself, for now, behold, the Tree of life has blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb has proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat of it we shall all live and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Hymn of the Fathers (Second Mode)
Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

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 as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

EPISTLE READING

Heb 11:9-10; 32-40 (Sunday before the Nativity)
Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1: 1-25 (Sunday before the Nativity)
he book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His name Jesus.