2022 PARISH COUNCIL: Your PC members for 2022 are, Sophia Galeev, Barry Ketrenos, Patrice Kuchulis, Matt VanSickle, Shawn Stebner (serving for 1 more year), and Michael Agrawal, Erik Chosvig, Kathleen Ketrenos, Jack McAfee, Michael Psiropoulos, Kurt Schwartz, and Greg Sebastian (starting their 2-year term).

COME CELEBRATE OUR PARISH FEAST DAY! For our beloved St. .John the Baptist, on January 7, following the Divine Liturgy, here will be a parish potluck brunch (fasting, though fish, wine, & oil are permitted). Come and celebrate with your parish family!

RETURN YOUR HOLY WATER BOTTLES … ***washed and dried*** and ready for January 5 & 6!

HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED: It is traditional to have your house (or business) blessed after Theophany. Please contact the church office to schedule a time. All that's needed are an icon and a bowl of water in a central area. (Basil/rosemary sprigs, a candle, and incense are encouraged as well.)

PREPARING THE SANCTUARY FOR SUNDAY SERVICES We are looking for a person to clean and prepare the Narthex and Nave for Sunday Service. If you would like to fill this very special service commitment, please contact the church office or Fr. Matthew.

GOYA (9th-12th) MEETING Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship on Saturday, January 8 at 6:00 pm.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: Come have fellowship with your brothers in Christ! This Thursday, January 13 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.

YOUTH NIGHT for HOPE (K-2nd), JOY, (3rd-5th), and Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) will take place on Saturday, January 15 at 3:00 pm.

THE BREAD MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP: In order to continue the bread ministry, we need hands to do the work on Mondays, 3:15 to 4:00 pm. Volunteers wrap and store beautiful breads and pastries.See the weekly email to signup.

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 C. and Sophia G.

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

January 2, 2021

St. Seraphim of Sarov

St. Seraphim of Sarov was one of the greatest Russian ascetics, discerners and miracle-workers. He lived from 1759 to 1833. Many were drawn to the monastic life by his example. Seraphim was distinguished by great humility. When the entire world praised him, he referred to himself as "the wretched Seraphim." He meekly lived among wild animals, forgave robbers who beat him, and prayed for all who came to see him. One of his disciples, a layman named Motovilov, wrote "On the Acquisition of the Holy Spirit," which gives an account of some of his experience with St. Seraphim, who taught that the goal of the Christian life is to acquire the Holy Spirit. St. Seraphim is also said, "Save yourself and a thousand around you shall be saved."

In the early Church the feasts of the Nativity and the Holy Theophany were celebrated together on the same day, January 6. In the Fourth Century the feasts were separated, and Christmas was transferred to December 25 to replace the pagan celebration of the sun with the Christian celebration of the sun of Righteousness. The twelve days that are now between the feasts of Christmas and Theophany are considered part of the feast. The word 'theophany' means the revelation or manifestation of God. "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory." (1 Tim 3:16) And "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." (Titus 2:11) At Christ's baptism His divinity was revealed to all the people, thus this feast is named Theophany.

The Eve of the Theophany is Wednesday January 5, with the services of Royal Hours at 7:15am and Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil at 9:00 am, followed by Blessing of the Waters at 10:30 am.

The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ, on Thursday, January 6, with the services of Orthros at 7:30 am, the Great Blessing of the Waters at 8:30 am, and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am. That evening we will begin the celebration of our parish feast day with Great Vespers, Artoklasia, and Akathist for St. John the Baptist at 6:30 pm.

On Friday, January 7 we will celebrate St. John with Orthros, Divine Liturgy, and a parish potluck, beginning at 7:30 am.

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 (Third Mode)
Let all things above in heaven rejoice; let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death. And firstborn of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Effrenéstho ta uránia, agalliástho ta epíyia, óti epíise krátos, en vrahíoni aftú o Kýrios. Epátise to thanáto ton thánaton, protótokos ton nekrón eyéneto, ek kilías Ádthu errísato imás, ke parés-hye to kósmo to méga éleos.

Hymn of the Forefeast of Theophany (4th Mode / "Joseph was amazed")
Be ready, Zabulon; prepare yourself, O Naphthali. River Jordan, stay your course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, who comes now to be baptized. O Adam, be glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as you did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He has appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ has appeared, for He truly wills to renew all creation.

Hymn of St. Seraphim (4th Mode):
You loved Christ from your-- youth, O blessed one, and ardently desiring to work for Him alone, you struggled in the wilderness with constant prayer and labor; and having acquired love for Christ with compunction of heart, you proved to be the beloved favorite of the Mother of God. Therefore, we cry to you: Save us by your prayers, O Seraphim, our holy Father.

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 Theophany (Fourth Mode / *"On this day Thou hast appeared"*)
In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all cries to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

EPISTLE READING

II Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday before Theophany)
Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1: 1-8 (Sunday after the Nativity)
The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepaore the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country f Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 2

St. Seraphim of Sarov	
Orthros	8:45 am
Churching of Samantha Starrett & Sophia	9:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Artoklasia	11:45 am
Fellowship	12:00 pm

Monday, January 3
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 4

St. Nikiforos the Leper	
Orthros	7:30 am
Divine Liturgy	8:30 am
Paraklesis to St. Nikiforos	10:00 am

Wednesday, January 5

Eve of the Theophany of our Lord	
Strict Fast	
Royal Hours	7:15 am
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 am
Great Blessing of the Waters	10:30 am
Choir Practice	7:00 pm

Thursday, January 6

Theophany of our Lord	
Orthros	7:30 am
Great Blessing of the Waters	8:30 am
Divine Liturgy	9:00 am
Great Vespers, Artoklasia & Akathist for St. John the Baptist	6:30 pm

Friday, January 7

Parish Feast Day	
Synaxis of St. John the Baptist	
Orthros	7:30 am
Divine Liturgy and Veneration of the Relics	8:30 am
Potluck Fellowship for Parish Feast Day	10:30 am

Saturday, January 8

Great Vespers	5:00 pm
GOYA (9th-12th) Meeting	6:00 pm

Sunday, January 9

Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship	11:45 am