FORGIVENESS VESPERS: We will begin Great Lent with Forgiveness Vespers tonight at 5:00 pm. The customary exchange is: "My brother/sister in Christ, forgive me, a sinner." "May God forgive us all!"

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS THIS WEEK … with the following services:

Monday, March 7	
Compline & Canon of St. Andrew	6:30 PM
Tuesday, March 8	
Compline & Canon of St. Andrew	6:30 PM
Wednesday, March 9	
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	6:30 PM
Thursday, March 10	
Compline & Canon of St. Andrew	6:30 PM
Friday, March 11	
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	8:30 AM
Salutations to the Theotokos	6:30 PM
Saturday, March 12	
Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM

Kalí Sarakostí ~ Blessed Lent!

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL will take place on Sunday, March 13 at 1:00 pm. Students in grades 7-12 have the opportunity to research, write and present a speech to our parish, drawing on the topics selected by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Please stay after fellowship and support our youth.

ST. NEKTARIOS "MAN OF GOD" FILM: Purchase tickets for this one-time showing, now on two dates: Monday, March 21 & 28 at 7:00 pm. On March 21, services will be at 5:30 pm to accommodate. See the weekly email for the link.

TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP IS HOSTED BY: *The Kinonia Ministry* How can you help?

- You can join the Kinonia Ministry, serving occasionally during Sunday fellowship. Contact Beth Smith to join.
- You can sign up to host a Sunday fellowship, offering a simple snack or a home-cooked meal. Signups are by the kitchen door, and up to $150 of your expenses can be reimbursed by the church.

DONUTS FOR SALE THIS SUNDAY $2 each. Proceeds benefit Project Mexico's Homebuilding Trip in June. Home Builders: Owen, Peter, Petros, Thomas, Vasi, Fr. Matthew, Fr. Steve, Deacon & Parents

LEARN THE BEAUTIFUL ART OF DECORATING ICONS WITH FLOWERS! On March 12 at 6:00 pm, we will have an *Icon Frames 101* class led by Lauri C. All are welcome, but our youth are especially invited to learn this simple and beautiful way to honor our Lord and His saints! Refreshments provided. All you need to bring is yourselves and a pair of scissors or shears. This is easy and everyone can do it! Come have some fun with flowers and fellowship!

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS! Our membership drive is ON. Philoptochos facilitates opportunities for our spiritual growth in service, almsgiving, and outreach, to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. To join or to find out more, stop by our table during fellowship, or go to our website or 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:
Kathleen and Erik

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

March 6, 2022

Forgiveness Sunday • Cheesefare Sunday • 42 Martyrs of Amorion in Phrygia

This Sunday is **Cheesefare Sunday**, it is the last day that we eat dairy products until Holy Pascha. Tomorrow begins the Great Lenten Fast. It is important for each of us who are in good health and old enough to understand the purpose of fasting and to be obedient to the guidelines our Church gives to us. Fasting is necessary if we desire to be pure and truly become followers of Christ. We must learn to direct our appetites toward God and not seek always to immediately satisfy ourselves; thus we may be healed and experience freedom from our sins and passions.

Today is also **Forgiveness Sunday**. A basic truth of Christ's teaching is that access to Him is closed if we are not willing to forgive our neighbor. Today's Gospel reading makes this clear: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." With this in mind, the Church seeks to remind us to begin our Lenten Journey by not only seeking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Confession, but also by seeking and forgiving one another. This is why our Church offers a Forgiveness Vespers today at 5:00 pm.

These Martyrs, men of high rank in the Roman (Byzantine) army, were taken captive when the city of Amorion in Phrygia fell to the Muslim Arabs in 838, during the reign of Theophilos the Iconoclast. Among them were Aetios and Melissenos, the generals; Theodore, the chief of the imperial ceremonial bodyguard; Crateros, the eunuch; Callistos, Constantine, Bassoes, and Theophilios, who were military officials; and certain others who held important positions. Because of their experience in war and their virtue, the Muslims did not slay them, but tried by all means to convert them to Islam and have them to fight in their own campaigns. They kept the holy Martyrs shut up in a dark dungeon in the city of Samarra in Syria, threatening and abusing them, making promises of glorious rank and magnificent riches, keeping them in hunger, oppression, and darkness, not for a few weeks, or a few months, but for seven full years. Finally, unable to break the courage and faith of their captives, they beheaded them in the year 845.

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 (Fourth 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 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 Forgiveness Sunday (Plagal Second Mode)
O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You give me a word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 (Forgiveness Sunday)
Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6: 14-21 (Forgiveness Sunday)
The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Kalí Sarakostí ~ Blessed Lent!

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 6
Forgiveness Sunday & Cheesefare
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship 11:45 am
Forgiveness Vespers 5:00 pm

Monday, March 7
Clean Monday—First Day of Great Lent
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 6:30 pm
Choir Practice 8:00 pm

Tuesday, March 8
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 9
Bible Study 10:00 am
Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm
Lenten Potluck Dinner 8:00 pm

Thursday, March 10
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 6:30 pm

Friday, March 11
Presanctified Liturgy 8:30 am
Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 12
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Memorial for the Departed 10:45 am
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Icon Framing 101 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 13
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Procession with Icons 10:45 am
Fellowship 11:45 am
Oratorical Festival 1:00 pm
Pan Orthodox Vespers at Holy Trinity Cathedral 5:00 pm