CONFESSIONS BEFORE NATIVITY: Please schedule your confession in the next week or so.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY: All parish stewards may vote during fellowship.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Next Sunday, please bring your stewardship pledge card (received in the mail) or fill one out at church. A prayer will be said for the blessing of our offerings.

PLEASE SUBMIT REIMBURSEMENTS: Before the end of the year, submit your requests for reimbursement. Forms are available in the church office and online, or ask Kathleen K.

PRAYER REQUESTS — AND YOU CAN JOIN THE ST. JOHN PRAYER GROUP: We are a small group of parishioners who lift up our parish and its needs in prayer. If you have a prayer request, send it to Diakonissa Sandy Duchow-Pressley at pdxdps@gmail.com. (For an urgent request, text 503-329-2494.) ***All requests are kept confidential.*** If you would like to join the prayer group please contact Sandy or Father Matthew.

POWER OUTAGE & CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE: On December 19 and 20, starting at 8:00 am each day, there will be a planned power outage due to the construction along Walker Rd. ***Liturgies on both days will still take place, but at 5:30 am.***

SUPPORT AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY: Participate in their Christmas Virtual Auction by scanning this QR Code:

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: *The Swehlas.* All families are invited to host fellowship, offering your *philoxenia* "love for strangers" through a snack or a meal. (Up to $150 can be reimbursed.) See the Fellowship Hosting Guide for details. Sign up on the sheet by the kitchen door or through this QR code or the link in the weekly email!

HAND-CRAFTED CHRISTMAS CARDS: Send beautiful Christmas cards to your loved ones—and support the Benevolence Fund at the same time! Purchase on Sundays, November 28 through December 19. Any donation accepted!

MOM'S NIGHT OUT: Come join us for our MNO Christmas Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange, December 29 at 6:00 pm at Rachel's. RSVP to RachelDaniels503@gmail.com.

SPONSOR AN ORTHODOX CHILDREN'S BOOK! Agia Sophia Academy would like to build up their Orthodox Children's book selection in their library. Purchase a book from the bookstore table and donate it to ASA. We will put a bookplate into the front cover of the book with your name on it. Contact Christina B. christina@asapdx.org if you have any questions. May it be blessed!

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: Chosvig (open) and Schwartz (close) Greeter: Joel
Clean-up Team 1: Agrawal, Anderson, Hudanish, Armas, Blankenstein

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 11, 2022

St. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople • St. Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon

This Saint was from the village of Marutha in the region of Samosata in Mesopotamia. He became a monk at the age of twelve. After visiting Saint Symeon the Stylite (see Sept. 1) and receiving his blessing, he was moved with zeal to follow his marvelous way of life. At the age of forty-two, guided by providence, he came to Anaplos in the environs of Constantinople, in the days of the holy Patriarch Anatolios (see July 3), who was also healed by Saint Daniel of very grave malady and sought to have him live near him. Upon coming to Anaplos, Saint Daniel first lived in the church of the Archangel Michael, but after some nine years, Saint Symeon the Stylite appeared to him in a vision, commanding him to imitate his own ascetical struggle upon a pillar. The remaining thirty-three years of his life he stood for varying periods on three pillars, one after another. He stood immovable in all weather, and once his disciples found him covered with ice after a winter storm. He was a counsellor of emperors; the pious emperor Leo the Great fervently loved him and brought his royal guests to meet him. It was at Saint Daniel's word that the holy relics of Saint Symeon the Stylite were brought to Constantinople from Antioch, and it was in his days that the Emperor Leo had the relics of the Three Holy Children brought from Babylon. Saint Daniel also defended the Church against the error of the Eutychians. Having lived through the reigns of the Emperors Leo, Zeno, and Basiliscos, he reposed in 490, at the age of eighty-four.

Saint Luke the New Stylite was a soldier under the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos (912-959). During a war with Bulgaria (917), Saint Luke remained unharmed through the Providence of God. After this he became a monk, and having succeeded in his efforts, was ordained as a presbyter. Striving for an even higher degree of perfection, the monk put chains upon himself and ascended a pillar. After three years standing on the pillar, through divine inspiration, he went to Mount Olympos, and then to Constantinople, and finally to Chalcedon, where he chose a pillar upon which he remained for 45 years, manifesting a gift of wonderworking. He died in about the year 980.

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 Holy Forefathers (Second Mode):
By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our 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

Colossians 3:4-11(Eleventh Sunday of Luke)
Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 14: 16-24 (Eleventh Sunday of Luke)
The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

Extend Your hand, which of old the Egyptians, making battle, and the Hebrews, then embattled, had experienced. Do not forsake us, lest Death, who thirsts after us, and Satan, who hates us, may drink us down. But be near us and spare our souls, as You once spared Your youths in Babylon as they ceaselessly sang Your praises, and were thrown into the furnace for Your sake, and from thence called to You, "Make haste, O Compassionate one, and hurry as the Merciful one, unto our aid, for You can do what You will."

~ Oikos Hymn from Orthros of the Holy Forefathers of Christ

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 11
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship & P.C. Elections	11:45 am
Sunday School & Theology 101	12:00 pm

Monday, December 12
St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
Orthros	7:30 am
Divine Liturgy	8:30 am

Tuesday, December 13
St. Herman of Alaska & St. Lucia of Syracuse
Orthros	7:30 am
Divine Liturgy	8:30 am
Choir Practice	7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 14
Liturgy (Pre-Communion Prayers)	5:30 pm
Bible Study & Coffee Hour	10:00 am
Paraklesis to St. Nicholas of Myra	6:00 pm
Fullness of the Faith: *The Spiritual Life*	7:00 pm

Thursday, December 15
St. Eleftherios the Hieromartyr
Orthros	7:30 am
Divine Liturgy	8:30 am

Friday, December 16
Liturgy (Pre-Communion Prayers)	5:30 pm

Saturday, December 17
Prophet Daniel & St. Dionysios of Zakynthos
Orthros	8:30 am
Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Memorial for James (1 yr.) & Anna (3 yrs.) Sorenson	5:00 pm
Great Vespers	5:00 pm
Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) and GOYA (9th-12th) Meetings	6:00 pm

Sunday, December 18
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship	11:45 am
Sunday School & Theology 101	12:00 pm