PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 30
Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, and Theology 101 following Liturgy

Wednesday, May 3
Bible Study—Gospel of St. Matthew 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 4
Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am

Friday, May 5
Sts. Irene & Ephraim of Nea Makri
Orthros 7:30 am
Divine Liturgy 8:30 am
Women's Monastery Retreat thru May 6

Saturday, May 6
Great Vespers 5:00 pm

Sunday May 7
Sunday of the Paralytic
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship following Liturgy
NO Sunday School/Theology 101
Spring General Assembly 12:30 pm

Wednesday, May 10
Mid-Pentecost (Feast of Agia Sophia Academy)
Orthros 7:30 am
Divine Liturgy 8:30 am
ASA Feast Day Fellowship

THANK YOU … for donations at the Palm Sunday luncheon. We collected $5,700 for St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale!

PREPARING FOR SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY: It is your responsibility, as the governing body of the parish, to ***prepare for the GA by reading the documents in advance and sending questions*** to bookkeeper@stjohngoc.org—so that the GA can run smoothly, with answers given by the PC at the GA. Thank you for being good stewards of the parish! (If you're not yet a steward, contact Barbara.)

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***The Eyassu-Woldegebriel & Beyene Families!*** . 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.) Sign up on the sheet by the kitchen door or through this QR code or the link in the weekly email!

DEACON'S PROJECT MEXICO TOMATO FUNDRAISER! Please bring in your pots and order your tomato plants now to help our Project Mexico team—email pdxdps@gmail.com. Mature tomato plants will be available mid-May, $10 ea.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES SURVEY: We also invite everyone to fill out an anonymous survey to gather data to share with Ioan.

PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD ELECTIONS TODAY: All Philoptochos members, please stop by the table to vote today!

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: Agrawal (open) and Chosvig(close) Greeter: Athena
Clean up Team 5: Harmon, Hatch, Jungwirth, Jordan, Kemper, Ketrenos

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

April 30, 2023

Sunday of the Myrrhbearers, St. Joseph of Arimathea • St. James the Apostle

This third Sunday of Pascha we commemorate the holy myrrhbearing women, St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemos. We remember the women because they were the first to bear witness to the Resurrection. Joseph and Nicodemos are commemorated today because they, with the myrrh-bearing women, reverently buried our Lord after His Crucifixion. Since Jesus died on the day before the Passover, they had to bury him hurriedly before that holy day. They buried him in Joseph's own tomb and anointed him with some aloes and myrrh. However it was not done in the usual custom, due to the rush to finish before the Passover. So the women went on the third day to the tomb with expensive myrrh-oils and spices to properly anoint Christ's body. Going to the tomb, they found it open and the angel said to them, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him." They proclaimed this to the Apostles, therefore becoming the apostles to the apostles. There were eight myrrh-bearing women: The Theotokos, Mary Magdalene, Salome, the wife of Zebedee, Joanna, the wife of Chouza, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazaros, Mary, the wife of Cleopas, and Susanna.

The noble Joseph, a wealthy man, member of the Sanhedrin, and secretly a follower of Christ. Because of the honor he showed Christ by burying Him in his own tomb, he was thrown into prison. The resurrected Lord appeared to him and convinced him of His resurrection. After that, the Jews released him from prison and banished him. He went throughout the world, preach the Holy Gospel brought the good news to England, where he reposed in the Lord.

James was one of the 12, like his brother John (celebrated on Sept. 26), whom the Lord called "Sons of Thunder," because they became great preachers. It was the Saint's boldness in preaching the Gospel that Herod Agrippa, the grandson of Herod the Great, could not endure, and so he took him into custody during Passover, and slew him with the sword (Acts 12: 1-2); and thus he drank the cup of which the Savior had spoken to him prophetically (Matt. 20:23). As for Herod, the following year he went down to Caesarea, and, as is recorded in Acts: "Upon a set day, Herod, spoke blasphemy. And immediately an Angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory." He was eaten of worms and gave up the spirit" (Acts 12:21-23)

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 canonically 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.

HYMNS OF THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Hymn for Pascha (Plagal 1st Mode)
Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Christós anésti ek nekrón, thanáto thánaton patísas, ke tis en tis mnímasi zo-ín harisámenos.

Entrance Hymn of Pascha (2nd Mode)
Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Resurrectional Hymn (2nd Mode)
When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life Immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out, "O Life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory."

Hymn for St. Joseph of Arimathea (2nd Mode)
When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day You arose, O Lord, and granted the world Your great mercy.

Hymn of Myrrh-Bearing Women (2nd Mode)
The Angel standing at the sepulcher cried out and said to the Myrrh-bearing women, "Ointments are appropriate for mortal men, but Christ has been shown to be a stranger to decay. Now go proclaim that the Lord has risen and granted the world His great mercy."

Hymn of St. John the Baptist (2nd 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 Pascha (Plagal 4th Mode)
Though You descended to the tomb, O Immortal One, You then completely tore the strength of Hades down, and You rose up, as One Who conquers all, Christ our God, calling out to the myrrh-bearing women, "Rejoice." And You gave Your divine peace to all Your Apostles too, You Who have granted the fallen to rise again.

EPISTLE READING

Acts 6:1-7 (Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women)
In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient **to** the faith.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 15:43; 16:1(Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers)
At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Instead of "It is Truly Right" (1st Mode)
The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again I say, rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice, rejoice, O ye people. Shine, shine, shine, O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, exult, and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the Resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn of Pascha
Partake of the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality.

Sóma Christú metalávete; piyís athanátu yéfsasthe.

Instead of "We Have Seen the True Light": Repeat "Christ is risen"

Χριστός Ανέστη!

Christos Anesti!

Christ is Risen!