PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 14
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School/Theology 101 following Liturgy

Tuesday, May 16
Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 17
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist 6:00 pm
Choir Practice 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 18
Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am
Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 20
HOPE (K-2nd), JOY (3rd-5th) & Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) Meetings 3:00 pm
Great Vespers 5:00 pm

Sunday, May 21
Sunday of the Blind Man
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Catechumen Prayers 11:15 am
Fellowship following Liturgy
NO Theology 101
Sunday School Showcase 12:00 pm
Marriage of Elizabeth Hatch and Kurtis Miller 4:00 pm
Reception by invitation only

PROJECT MEXICO TOMATO PLANTS ARE READY! Available the next two Sundays. There are still plenty of beautiful plants. God is so good. $10 each plant. Thank you for supporting our homebuilding mission trip.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***Alanis G.!*** 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!

MEN'S MINISTRY MEN'S NIGHT OUT on Monday, May 22, at 6:00 pm. Come join us! No RSVP needed, just show up when you can. Where: Loyal Legion 4500 SW Watson Ave, Beaverton, OR 97005

MONASTERY WORK PARTY will be Friday, June 2 at the Monastery in Goldendale, WA. Come help the sisters to maintain the monastery grounds. Spend the night on Friday or drive up on Saturday morning. RSVP to Brandon by Tuesday, May 30 at cravetruth@yahoo.com

HATCH/MILLER WEDDING - Everyone is welcome to the wedding service on Sunday, May 21 at 4:00 pm. Please join us in prayer as we receive the great blessing of Christian marriage! The reception is by invitation only, to ensure there is enough space for the many friends and family coming from out of town, many of whom we haven't seen for far too long. In Christ, Kurtis and Elizabeth.

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: Schwartz (open) and Jordan (close) Greeter: Lisa
Clean up Team 7: Marnul, Moffitt, Moore, Nordling

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

May 14, 2023

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Joshua of Navi. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the 19th Century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well. Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and presently it is Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here Joshua addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost 300 years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king. In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Five Books of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples "Samaritans," since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all. Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations. When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat, and He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed. After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photini, and her feast is kept on February 26.

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 First 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 (Second 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 (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.

Hymn for Mid-Pentecost (Plagal Fourth Mode)

At the midpoint of the Feast, O Savior, water my thirsty soul with streams of true devotion; for You cried out to all, “Any who thirst, let them come to Me and let them drink!” O source of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

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 Pascha (Plagal Fourth 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 unto all Your apostles, too, You who have granted the fallen to rise again.

EPISTLE READING

Acts 11:19-30(Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

In those days, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42 (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with His journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of Me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."