WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES! We are truly happy to receive Ioan ("ee-oh-AHN") Gheorghiu into our community. May your journey at St. John's be blessed with all of God's gifts!

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***The Rush Family***! 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. Use the sign-up sheet by the kitchen door, the weekly email link, or this QR code.

DEEPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH: The next "Growing in the Faith" monthly catechism class will be this Saturday, July 8 after Vespers. All are welcome! The next monthly class will take place on August 12. Then the "Fullness of the Faith" weekly class will begin , Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

DID YOU KNOW OUR PARISH HAS AN ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY? If you would like to be included, please email Barbara in the church office. And don't forget to upload a picture of yourself/family!

FR. MATTHEW'S ABSENCES IN JULY: Fr. Matthew will be on vacation, July 3-5; he will join our Project Mexico team, July 11-17; and he will serve at the metropolis summer camp at St. Nicholas Ranch, July 21-29. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Holy Trinity or Fr. John.

THANK YOU, SERVANTS! Our Archbishop's visit was a blessed event. Thank you to all those who decorated and set up, especially Lauri Chosvig; to those who prepared food and cooked, especially Helen Tzakis of Holy Trinity; and to those who organized the meal and the servers, especially Mo Efird and Kristina Lubliner; and to those who cleaned up, especially Sophia Galeev. May God bless you for your service to Him!

YOUTH CHESS: Join us after Liturgy for Prophet Elias on July 20 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Bring your chess boards and play someone new this time! Don't know how to play chess? Come and learn! All are welcome and parents are encouraged to stay and play. If you plan to drop your child(ren) off, please RSVP to Anya sundayschooldirectorsjb@gmail.com to ensure adequate adult supervision.

MEN'S BBQ: Come join the Men's Ministry for food and fellowship at William's home! He's planning to BBQ but bring your own side dish and/or drinks to share. Saturday, July 22, at 3:00 pm. RSVPs are encouraged by Friday, July 21, or just show up. Look for an email invitation from the Men's Ministry soon. If you don't receive Men's Ministry emails but would like to be added to the list. Contact: cravetruth@yahoo.com

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: Galeev (open) and Schwartz (close) Greeter: Lauri
Clean up Team 2: Bourquin, Braden, Brunson, Burger, Galeev, Chosvig

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

July 2, 2023

The Deposition of the Robe of the Theotokos at Blachernae – St. John Maximovitch of San Francisco

During the reign of Leo the Great (457-474) two patricians on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land lodged with an old widow, a Christian of Jewish descent. Seeing the many miracles wrought at a small shrine in her house, they pressed her until she revealed to them that she had the robe of the Most Holy Theotokos. Our Lady had had two virgins in her lifetime who attended upon her; before her holy Dormition, she gave each of them one of her divine garments as a blessing. This old widow descended of one of those women, and it had been handed down to her. With God's permission, that this holy relic be had for the profit of many, the two men took the garment and brought it to Blachernae near Constantinople, built a church in honor of the Sts. Peter & Mark, and secretly enshrined the garment. Because of the many of miracles that were worked, it became known to the Emperor, and a magnificent church was built. It was since burned at rebuilt twice, and it remained a small house of prayer together with the Life-Giving Spring. In this church John Catacuzene was crowned in 1345; also, the Council against Acindynos, the follower of Barlaam, was convoked here.

The Holy Hierarch John Maximovitch was born in the Kharkov region in 1896, and reposed in Seattle in 1966. During the Russian Civil War, his family fled to Belgrade, joining the ranks of Russian exiles in Serbia, there he became a monk and was ordained priest. In 1934 he was made Bishop of Shanghai, where he served until the Communism began. After, he ministered in Europe, serving as Bishop in Paris and Brussels, until he became Archbishop of San Francisco in 1962. He was revered as a strict ascetic, a devoted man of prayer, and an unmercenary healer of all manner of afflictions. He served the Divine Liturgy daily, slept little more than an hour a day, and kept a strict fast. It is doubtful that any one man gave so much protection and comfort as he to the Russian Orthodox people in exile after the Revolution of 1917; he was a tireless shepherd of his sheep in China, the Philippines, Europe, and America. Through his missionary labors he also brought many into the Church. Since his repose in 1966, he has been especially glorified by God through signs and miracles, and his body has remained incorrupt.

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

Resurrectional Hymn (3rd 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 Theotokos for the Deposition of the Robe of the Theotokos at Blacharnae (4th Mode)

O Ever-Virgin Theotokos, shelter of mankind, you have bestowed upon your people a mighty investure, even your immaculate body's raiment and sash, which by your seedless childbirth have remained incorrupt; for in your nature and time are made new. Wherefore, we implore you to grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

Hymn of St. John the Wonderworker of Shanghai & San Francisco (Mode Pl. 1)

Lo! Your care of your flock in its sojourn prefigured the supplication which you ever offer up for the whole world. Thus do we believe, having come to know your love, O holy hierarch and wonderworker John. Wholly sanctified by God through the ministry of the all pure Mysteries, and yourself ever strengthened thereby, you hastened to the suffering, O most gladsome healer; hasten now also to the aid of us who honor you with all our heart.

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 for the Feast (4th Mode, *Thou Who wast raised up)*

O Godly shelter that covers all mankind, the sacred robe that covered your sacred body have you bestowed on all the faithful graciously, O pure Virgin, as a robe of divine incorruption. As we celebrate with love its august deposition, we cry to you with faith, O graced of God: Rejoice, O Lady, you boast of the Christian race.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 9:1-7 (Sunday of the Theotokos)

Brethren, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8: 5-13 (Fourth Sunday of Matthew)

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to Him, beseeching Him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And He said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered Him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, He marveled, and said to those who followed Him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 2
- **St. John the Wonderworker of Shanghai & San Francisco**
- **Deposition of the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae**
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy, Artoklasia** 10:00 am
- **& Doxology for Independence Day**
- Fellowship following Liturgy

Monday, July 3
- Fr. Matthew on Vacation through July 5

Tuesday, July 4
- Church Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5
- Wednesday Coffee Hour 10:00 am
- **Paraklesis to the Theotokos** 6:00 pm

Thursday, July 6
- **Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children** 9:00 am

Saturday, July 8
- **Great Vespers** 6:30 pm

Sunday, July 9
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship follows Liturgy