WE WELCOME OUR HIERARCHS: His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, and His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: *The Silvas and the Young Professionals*! All families are invited to host fellowship, offering your *philoxenia* "love for strangers." (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.

FR. MATTHEW ON VACATION ... June 26-30 and July 3-5. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Holy Trinity.

YOUTH CHESS: The first Youth Chess meet-up will be tomorrow at 10:00 am at the church. Bring a chess board and your best strategies! Parents, we need to have adequate adult supervision. If you need to drop off your child, please let us know by contacting Anya at sundayschooldirectorsjb@gmail.com. All are welcome and parents are encouraged to stay.

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!

NEXT SUNDAY ... Welcome our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Ioan Gheorghiu, who will begin his new position on July 1.

POTENTIAL PROPERTY FOUND! The Site Committee will meet this Tuesday at 7:00 pm to learn about a promising new property that was recently found by the Search Subcommittee. Look for details in the July monthly newsletter. We ask you to continue praying for God's will as we go through this process!

FAMILY CAMPOUT: Come enjoy God's beautiful creation and fellowship with other St. John's families for a one-night Family Campout! Everyone is welcome, Friday, June 30 - Saturday, July 1 at the Hailey's property in Forest Grove. RSVP by scanning the QR code. Don't have a tent but still want to join? Just let us know.

PARKING LOT WORK PARTY: On Saturday, July 1, from 8:00 am to around noon, we are having a parking lot work party. Our parking lot needs some love. We will begin at 8:00 am, but if you can't show up until later, that's OK—come anyway! We will be blowing the parking lot and painting lines. If you have a leaf blower, please bring it along. If you have a 4" paint roller with a long handle, please bring it along. There will be coffee and snacks. Please contact Erik if you have any questions at pcpresident@stjohngoc.org

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: Jordan (open) and Ketrenos (close) Greeter: Athena
Clean up Team 1: Galan, 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

June 25, 2023

The Righteous Fevronia

Virgin Martyr Fevronia suffered during the reign of Emperor Diocletian in the 3rd century. She was raised at a monastery in Sivapolis (Assyria). Her aunt was the Abbess. Concerned for her niece's salvation, she assigned her a stricter form of life than the other nuns. News of St. Fevronia's pious life spread throughout the city. The illustrious young widow Hieria, a pagan, began to visit her, and under her guidance and prayers, she accepted Holy Baptism, and brought her family to the faith. The Emperor sent a detachment of soldiers to destroy the convent. When the soldiers approached the convent, the inhabitants hid. Only the Abbess, her helper Thomais and Fevronia remained. The Abbess feared her niece might be defiled by the soldiers. She prayed to preserve her and strengthen her in the confession of Christ. Primos, a soldier sympathetic to Christians suggested they flee. But the nuns stayed and entrusted themselves to the Lord. St. Fevronia was led before the military commander, Selonos, bound and a chained. She was ordered to deny Christ, promising her honors, rewards, and marriage. She fearlessly answered that she had an Immortal Bridegroom, and would not exchange Him for any man. Though subjected to fierce tortures, she prayed, "My Savior, do not abandon me in this terrible hour!" The saint was brutally beaten, tied to a burning tree. The people demanded an end to her sufferings. Selenos continued to mock her, but she would not utter a word. In a rage, he ordered even greater tortures. The people, horrified, left the scene of the torture, cursing Diocletian and his gods. Among the crowd was Thomais and Hieria, who afterwards recorded her martyrdom in detail. Hieria came out of the crowd and reproached Selenos for his cruelty. Due to her standing, he was unable to reproach her but said, Fevronia would receive worse and beheaded her. Selenos left and became a mad man. Looking up to the heavens, he raved and bellowed, then fell down, struck his head and died. The saints remains were returned to the convent. Later, the Abbess gave orders to open the gates, so that all could come and venerate the holy martyr. Two of the soldiers accepted both Baptism and monasticism. Hieria entered the convent and gave her wealth. St. James, of Nisibis, built a church and transferred a portion of Fevronia's relics. Numerous miracles and healings occurred from her relics.

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 (Second 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."

Óte katílthes pros ton thánaton, i Zoí i athánatos, tóte ton Ádthin enékrosas ti astrapí tis Theótitos. Óte dthe ke tus tethneótas ek ton katahthoníon anéstisas, páse e dthinámis ton epuraníon ekrávgazon: Zöodthóta Christé o Theós imón, dthóxa Si.

Hymn of Holy Martyr Fevronia (Fourth Mode)
"Joseph was amazed"

O Lord Jesus, unto You Your lamb did cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, You I love and seeking You, I now contest, and with Your baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Your sake, that I may reign with Your; for Your sake I die, that I may live in You: accept me offered out of longing to You as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since You are great in mercy.

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 Theotokos (Second Mode)

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:1-10 (Third Sunday of Matthew)

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:22-33 (Third Sunday of Matthew)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, June 25
- *Early* Orthros — 7:45 am
- *Early* Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Elpidophoros of America — 9:00 am
- Fellowship following Liturgy

Monday, June 26
- Youth Chess — 10:00 am
- Fr. Matthew on Vacation through June 30

Wednesday, June 28
- Wednesday Coffee Hour — 10:00 am
- **Great Vespers for Sts. Peter and Paul** — 6:30 pm

Thursday, June 29
- **Sts. Peter & Paul, the Holy Apostles**
- **Orthros** — 8:30 am
- **Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia** — 9:30 am

Friday, June 30
- Parish Family Campout at the Hailey's in Forest Grove

Saturday, July 1
- Parking Lot Work Party — 8:00 am
- **Great Vespers** — 6:30 pm

Sunday, July 2
- **St. John Maximovitch**
- **Orthros** — 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy, Artoklasia & Doxology for Independence Day** — 10:00 am
- Fellowship following Liturgy

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