GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESULTS : We will go forward with signing the purchase agreement at 10080 (10050) NE Walker Rd.

FR. MATTHEW'S ABSENCES IN JULY: Fr. Matthew is serving at the metropolis summer camp at St. Nicholas Ranch through July 29. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Holy Trinity.

UPDATED GOULD CHURCH DESIGN: On July 30 after Liturgy the Design Review Committee will present an updated architectural design incorporating a wider nave and young family spaces. Come see the new design!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY: On Sunday, July 30, a special collection will be made for the benefit of OCPM, a ministry of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops. Please bring your donation next week.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS DINNER will be Sunday, July 30 at 6:30 pm at the Corazza's home. Hope to see you there!

PARAKLESIS DURING DORMITION FAST: We will have the beloved services of the Small and Great Paraklesis at 6:30 pm on most nights during the fast, beginning on Tuesday, August 1. See the church calendar for specific dates.

THE FAST FOR DORMITION BEGINS AUGUST 1: We will prepare for the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos by observing a strict fast (with wine and oil on the weekends and fish on Transfiguration). May God grant us a more joyful celebration of Panagia's feast by preparing with the fast!

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***The Mamalakis and Seidel 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.) 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!

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION: We will celebrate the great feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor with the following services: Saturday, August 5 with Great Vespers at 6:30 pm and on Sunday, August 6 with Orthros at 8:45 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am. Please bring grapes to be blessed after Liturgy!

PARISH-WIDE PICNIC FOR PANAGIA: Join your parish community in celebrating the feast of Panagia, with a picnic at Cedar Hills Park, 1:00-6:00 pm on Saturday, August 19. Chicken, hamburgers & hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There's volleyball, bocce, a playground, and a splash pad!

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION If you have wanted to say thank you to someone at St Johns, we have just made it easier. In the Narthex you will find a box of thank you cards and envelopes. Use them to write a note of appreciation to someone you would like to say "thanks" too. In the South Fellowship Hall will be a basket on the table by the doors to the Nave. Drop the card in the basket. You should check the basket to see if you have a card.

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 Moffitt (close) Greeter: Mina
Clean up Team 5: Harmon, Miller, 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

July 23, 2023

Hieromartyr Phocas of Sinope • Ezekiel the Prophet

St. Phocas was born in the city of Sinope on the coast of the Black Sea. From youth he led a virtuous Christian life, and in his adult years he became Bishop of Sinope. He converted many pagans to faith in Christ, both by his inspired words and supernatural wonders. He was perfected in martyrdom during a time of a persecution against Christians under the emperor Trajan (98-117). Bishop Phocas was brought before the Governor Africanos and was questioned by him, and he in turn theologized and boldly taught him the faith in Christ. Because Africanos dared to blaspheme Christ and torture him, a great earthquake took place, which struck the governor and his soldiers dead. But the saint raised him from the dead, by the pleadings of his wife. After this, the saint was brought before Emperor Trajan. Because Phocas preached Christ, the emperor had him flayed. He continued to confess Christ, and was finally placed in an overheated bath where he bravely handed his soul into the hands of God. After his death, the saint continued to work miracles for those who called upon him. The translation of his sacred relics to Constantinople is celebrated on July 23, an occasion upon which St. John Chrysostom gave a homily in his honor. A monastery in Constantinople was dedicated to his honor. His sacred skull is located in Xenophontos Monastery on Mount Athos. The Hieromartyr Phocas is especially venerated as a defender against fires, and also as a helper of the drowning.

The Prophet Ezekiel ("God is strong") was the son of Buzi and a priest by rank. He was taken captive and brought to Babylon during the reign of Jechonias. In the fifth year of this captivity, about 594 or 593 B.C., he began to prophesy. Having prophesied for about twenty-eight years, he was murdered, it is said, by the tribe of Gad, because he reproached them for their idolatry. His book of prophecy, divided into forty-eight chapters, is ranked third among the greater Prophets. It is richly filled with mystical imagery and marvelous prophetic visions and allegories, of which the dread Chariot of Cherubim described in the first Chapter is the most famous; in the "gate that was shut," through which the Lord alone entered, he darkly foretold of the Word's Incarnation from the Virgin (44:1-3); through the "dry bones" that came to life again (37:1-14), he prophesied both of the restoration of captive Israel, and the general resurrection of our race.

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 (Plagal Second Mode)
When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary, seeking Your pure and sacred body, then You did vanquish Hades, and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Angeliké Dthinámis epí to mníma Su, ke i filássondes apenekróthisan, ke ístato María en to táfo, zitúsa to áhrandon Su sóma. Eskílefsas ton Ádthin, mi pirasthís ip aftú, ipíndisas ti Parthéno, dthorúmenos tis zoín. O anastás ek ton nekrón, Kýrie, dthóxa si.

Hymn of St. Phocas (Fourth Mode)
As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, you found discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Where, having rightly divided the word of truth, you did also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Phocas. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

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 15:1-7 (Seventh Sunday of Matthew)
Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please Himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on Me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:27-35 (Seventh Sunday of Matthew)
At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed Him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 23
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship follows Liturgy
- Fr. Matthew at Metropolis Summer Camp through July 29

Wednesday, July 26
- **Paraklesis to St. Christina the Great Martyr** 6:00 pm
- Choir Practice 7:00 pm

Thursday, July 27
- **Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children** 9:00 am

Saturday, July 29
- **Great Vespers** 6:30 pm

Sunday, July 30
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Churching - Halli (Elizabeth) & Georgina Peil** 9:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship follows Liturgy
- Design Review Committee Presentation 12:00 pm
- Young Professionals Dinner/Meeting at the Corazza's 6:30 pm

Tuesday, August 1
- **Dormition Fast begins through August 14**
- **Great Paraklesis** 6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 2
- **Small Paraklesis** 6:30 pm
- Choir Practice 7:30 pm