FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***The Berinde 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.

PROGRESS ON THE PROPERTY! This Sunday the Site Committee and Parish Council will meet this Sunday to approve the purchase agreement for 10080 NE Walker Road, Hillsboro. If you haven't read about the property yet, look in the monthly newsletter for information. Once the PC approves the purchase agreement, it goes to the parish general assembly, which will be scheduled sometime in the week of July 17.

FR. MATTHEW'S ABSENCES IN JULY: Fr. Matthew 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.

PANAGIA PICNIC NEEDS YOUR HELP! Thank you to Norm G. for volunteering to organize the picnic honoring the Most Holy Theotokos. But he can't do it alone! Would you consider volunteering your time? See the weekly email or the July newsletter for ways to help. Contact Norm at norm@goldmaninc.com to offer your assistance.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS POTLUCK PICNIC: Join us at Annunciation Orthodox Church in Milwaukee for a pan-Orthodox dinner on Tuesday, July 11 at 6:00 pm. Bring your chairs and any lawn games.

UPCOMING PARKING LOT WORK PARTIES: On Saturday, July 15 and July 29, from 8:00 am to around noon, we are having a parking lot work party. 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.. Please contact Erik at pcpresident@stjohngoc.org for any questions.

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: Sebastian (open) and Daniels (close) Greeter: Lisa
Clean up Team 3: Cherry, Contreras, Daniels, Efird, Eyassu, Feyler

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 9, 2023

Hieromartyr Pancratios of Taormina • New Martyr Michael the Gardener

The Hieromartyr Pancratios, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ lived on the earth. His parents were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, his father took him to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples , especially with the Apostle Peter. When Pancratios' parents of fell asleep in the Lord, he left behind his inheritance, went to Pontos, and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer. St. Peter visited Pancratios at Pontos. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily. There he was made Bishop of Taormina. St. Pancratios toiled zealously for the enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith. St. Pancratios governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint and stoned him. Thus, the saint ended his life as a martyr.

Michael Paknanas was born to poor but pious parents in Athens in 1753. He was a farmer and did not go to school. During the harvest season Michael would load his donkey with produce and peddle them in the villages surrounding Athens. One day, when he was 18 years old, as he was returning from such a journey, he was falsely accused of transporting gunpowder to rebel Greeks. The Muslims beat him up and brought him before the Muslim leader who put him in jail. A pious Christian named George, who found out about Michael, was able to visit him in prison and give him much needed support. After thirty days of incarceration, he was returned to the Muslim leader who began to flatter Michael and promised to spare his life and to reward him if he would embrace Islam. However Michael refused, so he was sentenced to death. On the way to his execution, Michael asked forgiveness from all the Christians he encountered. The site of his execution was the Temple of Zeus. At the site of his execution Michael knelt and bent his head, being tied to one of the pillars of the Temple. The executioner, to frighten and cause him to weaken at the last minute, hit him with the blunt edge of the sword asking the martyr to reconsider. But Michael, full of the Holy Spirit, shouted with courage: "Strike for the Faith!" Michael was executed by the sword on July 9, 1771.

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 (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.

To fedthrón tis anastáseos kírigma, ek tu anggélu mathúse e tu Kyríu mathítrie, ke tin progonikín apófasin aporrípsase, tis Apostólis kafhómene élegon: Eskílefte o thánatos, iyérthi Christós o Theós, dthorúmenos to kósmo to méga éleos.

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 10:1-10 (Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the Law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the Law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1 (Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have You to do with us, O Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 9

Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship follows Liturgy	
Site Committee Meeting	12:00 pm
Parish Council Meeting	12:15 pm

Tuesday, July 11

Fr. Matthew at Project Mexico through July 17	
Philoptochos Board Meeting	6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 12

Wednesday Coffee Hour	10:00 am
Paraklesis to St. Paisios the Athonite	6:00 pm

Thursday, July 13

Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children	9:00 am

Saturday, July 15

Parking Lot Work Party	8:00 am
Great Vespers	6:30 pm

Sunday, July 16

Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship follows Liturgy	