NEWCOMER WELCOME SUNDAY: Today, everyone is new! We will have nametags for you to fill out when you go into the fellowship hall after Liturgy, and there will be activities to help us all get to know a little more about each other.

FR. MATTHEW ON A 3-WEEK LEAVE … in anticipation of the arrival of their son, through mid-October. ***He will continue to be available for pastoral needs and emergencies, and liturgical services.***

BARBARA ON VACATION… through October 10. For urgent administrative/facility needs contact Sophia G: (630) 400-9165, sgaleev1968@gmail.com.

MONASTERY MEN'S WORK PARTY: On Friday-Saturday, October 13-14, come help the sisters of St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA, with a wide variety of tasks to maintain the monastery grounds. Spend the night on Friday or drive up on Saturday morning. RSVP to Brandon at cravetruth@yahoo.com by Tuesday, October 10 to provide a headcount for the sisters and to help consider carpooling.

FULLNESS OF THE FAITH CLASS & BIBLE STUDY WILL TAKE A BREAK: Classes will resume on October 18.

COME TO WEDNESDAY COFFEE HOUR! Enjoy midweek fellowship while Bible study takes a break. Join your brother and sisters in Christ, each Wednesday at 10:00 am.

GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL: Enjoy the philoxenia of our sister parish, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Friday-Sunday, October 6-8.

GROWING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY IN CHRIST—WITH PARISH FAMILY NIGHT: A new and exciting event is happening on Saturday, October 28 at 6:00 pm: our first Parish Family Night! We will have a meal, activities and learning for kids (PreK-8th), a parenting discussion with Fr. Matthew, and fellowship for all!

JR GOYA & GOYA CORN MAZE: Find your way through the "Corn Maize" at Sauvie Island, hang out at a campfire, and enjoy a meal with your friends on Saturday, October 14 7:00-9:00 pm. All middle and high school students are welcome! Please let Ioan know if you can go: ioan@stjohngoc.org (971) 448-3530.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***The Efird 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. Sign up on the sheet by the kitchen door or through this QR code or the link in the weekly email!

A.S.A. SEEKS NEW SCHOOL SECRETARY: Agia Sophia Academy is hiring an Administrative Assistant/School Secretary. Please visit the school website for more info: asapdx.org/employment.

"THE SACRAMENT OF LISTENING" RETREAT: Listen to the audio recording by scanning the QR code. (If you have trouble listening to the audio, you can ***download*** the audio file to your phone/PC and listen.)

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: Psiropoulos (open) and Daniele (close) Greeter: Dennis and Noelle
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

October 1, 2023

St. Ananias, Apostle of the 70 • St. Romanos the Melodist

The Holy Apostle Ananias of the 70 was the first Bishop of Damascus. The Lord ordered him to restore the sight of Saul, the former persecutor of Christians, then baptize him (Acts 9:10-19, 22:12). Saul became the great preacher and Apostle Paul. St. Ananias boldly and openly confessed Christianity before the Jews and the pagans, despite the danger. From Damascus he went to preach at Eleutheropolis, where he healed many of their infirmities. Lucian, the prefect of the city, tried to persuade the holy one to offer sacrifice to idols. Because of Ananias' staunch and solid confession of Christ, Lucian ordered that he be tortured. Harsh torments did not sway him. Then the torturers stoned him. He prayed for those who put him to death. His relics were transferred to Constantinople.

Saint Romanos the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city. Saint Romanos was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanos, which devastated him. On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gifts of understanding, of composition, and of hymnography. That evening at the all-night Vigil Saint Romanos sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: "Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One..." All the hymns of Saint Romanos became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin's scroll. Saint Romanos was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, "oikos"). For his zealous service Saint Romanos was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the Hierodeacon Romanos the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.

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 4th Mode)
From on high did You descend, O Merciful Lord. For us did You endure three days in the tomb that we may be released from passions in this world. You who are our resurrection and our life, glory unto You, O Lord.

Ex ípsus katílthes, o éfsplanghnos, tafín katedthéxo tri-ímeron, ína imás eleftherósis ton pathón. I zoí ke i Anástasis imón, Kýrie, dthóxa si.

Hymn of St. Ananias of the Seventy (3rd Mode)
O Holy Apostle Ananias, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offences.

Hymn of St. Romanos the Melodist (Plagal 4th Mode)
In you the image was preserved with exactness, O Father; for taking up your cross, you followed Christ, and by your deeds you taught us to overlook the flesh, for it passes away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. Therefore, O righteous Romanos, your spirit rejoices with the Angels.

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 you, O Forerunner; for you have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the stream Him Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, having contested for the truth, you rejoiced to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God has appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting to us great mercy.

Kontakion of the Theotokos (2nd 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

II Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1 (17th Sunday after Pentecost)
Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:31-36 (Second Sunday of Luke)
The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

In sacred songs inspired by God you have elucidated Christ's divine and ineffable dispensation, O blessed St. Romanos; you have honored all the saints with divine hymns; and you have joyously extolled the all-pure Virgin Mother of God and true Theotokos, O devout most wise Father. Now standing near the Trinity with her, commemorate us.

~ Exapostilarion Hymn for St. Romanos

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Fr. Matthew on leave through October 14
Barbara on vacation through October 10
Ioan out of office October 5– 7

Sunday, October 1
Newcomer Welcome Sunday
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows Liturgy
Sunday School 12:00 pm

Tuesday, October 3
Site Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, October 4
No Bible Study or Fullness of the Faith Class
Wednesday Coffee Hour 10:00 am
Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm
Choir Practice 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 5
Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children 9:00 am
Evening **Orthros for St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Innocent of Alaska** 5:30 pm
Evening **Divine Liturgy** 6:30 pm
Potluck following Liturgy

Friday, October 6
St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Innocent of Alaska
Greek Festival at Holy Trinity all day

Saturday, October 7
Greek Festival at Holy Trinity all day
Great Vespers 5:00 am

Sunday, October 8
Orthros 8:45 am
Churching of Kristina Bourquin & Esther Jane 9:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows Liturgy
Sunday School 12:00 pm
Theology 101 Presentation: *Project Kenya*
Greek Festival at Holy Trinity all day