**A TIME FOR ALL TO SERVE—THE PARISH WORK DAY THIS SATURDAY:** Lend a hand and join your brothers and sisters in Christ in caring for your church home on Saturday, November 4, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Food will be provided!

**THE KENYA ICON PROJECT ...** is only $400 short of meeting its fundraising goal. A parishioner has graciously offered to match a donation up to $1000. Give donations to Eleni G.

**GOYA GOLDENDALE OVERNIGHT RETREAT**: Take a break from school stress at St. John the Forerunner Monastery November 3-4. Enjoy quality time with your friends, work with the nuns, and take time to deepen your relationship with Christ. Please RSVP to Ioan by October 31: ioan@stjohngoc.org, (971) 448-3530

**GOYA & JR. GOYA ROCK CLIMBING**: Join your friends on Saturday, November 11, 6:00-9:00 pm for an evening at the coolest gym in town! Meet at St. John's for Vespers and a meal, then we'll head to Stoneworks Climbing Gym. Bring $15.

**CHESS AT ST. JOHN'S ...** is Friday, November 10 at 7:00 PM. Don't know how to play chess? Come and learn! All are welcome, adults and kids. If you plan to drop your children off, please RSVP to Ioan to ensure adequate supervision: ioan@stjohngoc.org or (971)448-3530.

**MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST** and spiritual discussion is on Saturday, November 11 after Liturgy at 11:00 am. No need to RSVP, just show up! Bring $5 to help cover costs.

**LADIES ARTS AND CRAFTS NIGHT ...** on Saturday, November 4, 6:00-8:00 pm at church. We hope to see you there! Bring a snack or drink to share and whatever art/craft you are working on. Questions? Contact Lori S. or Leslie M.

**PREPARING FOR FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The GA documents have been emailed to parish stewards. (Any Orthodox Christians can become stewards by contacting the church office.) It is your responsibility, as the governing body of the parish, to prepare for the GA by reading through the documents ***in advance*** and sending questions ***in advance by November 2*** to bookkeeper@stjohngoc.org—so that the GA can run smoothly, with answers given by the PC at the GA. Thank you for being good stewards of the parish!

**FELLOWSHIP:** All families are invited to host fellowship, offering your *philoxenia* "love for strangers" through a snack or a meal. Sign up on the sheet by the kitchen door or this QR code:

**TASSO THE TURKEY:** Starting next Sunday through November 26, Tasso needs feathers to keep him warm this winter! With every donation, a feather is given—to dress our Tasso! Funds collected will benefit families (in our parish) facing financial need. Watch Tasso's coat of feathers grow with your generosity and love!

**AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE:** Are you looking for a great school for your kids? Come see ASA, a pan-Orthodox classical Christian school—Thursday, November 9 , 5:00-7:00 pm.

**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: -Daniels (open) and Nordling (close) Greeter: Lisa**
**Clean up Team 7: Marnul, Moffitt, Moore, Nordling**

# 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 29, 2023

***St. Anastasia the Virgin Martyr • Ss. Abramios and his niece Mary***

Saint Anastasia lived in Rome in the third century. She was young and beautiful and had all the good things of life, but she gave up all of these to embrace the angelic life in a small monastery. Anastasia's refusal to worship the pagan gods of the imperial religion was reported to the Governor. He sent soldiers to seize her from her monastery. He attempted flattery to make her deny Christ and said, "Why waste your youth, deprived of pleasure? What is there to gain by enduring tortures and death for the Crucified? Worship our gods, marry a handsome husband, and live in glory and honor." Despite his threats of torture and death, Anastasia boldly confessed Christ by saying, "My spouse, my riches, my life and my happiness are my Lord Jesus Christ, and you will not turn me away from Him by your deceit!" She was filled with joy at the prospect of being completely united with Christ God through these tortures. Anastasia underwent many torments before giving her soul up to God in thanksgiving. Her relics are now venerated at the Monastery of Grigoriou on Mount Athos.

Saint Abramios was born into a noble, Christian family at the end of the third century. He was inspired by God to live the ascetic life in a small cell. After 50 years of living in that small cell, Abramios was begged by the local clergy to come out, accept the priesthood and guide the people of that region away from idolatry to Christ. With tears, he obeyed and labored thus for three years before retreating once more to his hermitage. Then his brother died, leaving his seven-year-old daughter, Mary, as an orphan. Abramios took Mary in and gave her a cell next to his, instructing her in the angelic life until she was twenty. One day Mary fell into sin. Instead of immediately repenting, she despaired and fled from her uncle's hermitage and became a harlot. He prayed fervently for his niece, not knowing where she was. After two years he was finally told of her situation. He dressed himself as a soldier and went to find her. When Abramios was alone with Mary, he revealed who he was and gently reminded her of the beautiful ascetic life and God's infinite mercy. Mary returned to the hermitage with her uncle and repented with zeal and tears for her sins, so that God forgave her and gave her the power of working miracles. St. Abramios fell asleep in the Lord in 366 and St. Mary in 371.

**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 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 (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

**Galatians 2:16-20 (21st Sunday after Pentecost)**

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the Law, because by works of the Law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 8: 41 - 56 (Seventh Sunday of Luke)**

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with Him said, "Master, the multitudes surround You and press upon You!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched Me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from Me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before Him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While He was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when He came to the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but He said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at Him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand He called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and He directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday, October 29**

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| **Orthros** | 8:45 am |
| **Divine Liturgy** | 10:00 am |
| Luncheon in honor of Fr. Matthew's 10 years of Holy Priesthood | 12:00 pm |
| NO Sunday School or Theology 101 | |

**Wednesday, November 1**
**Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damien**

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| **Orthros** | 7:15 am |
| **Divine Liturgy** | 8:15 am |
| Wednesday Coffee Hour | 9:30 am |
| Bible Study (*Later Time)* | 10:30 am |
| **Paraklesis to the Theotokos** | 6:00 pm |
| Fullness of the Faith Class - *The Church in the 1st Millenium* | 7:00 pm |
| Choir Practice | 7:00 pm |

**Thursday, November 2**

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

**Friday, November 3**

GOYA Monastery Retreat (through Saturday)

**Saturday, November 4**

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| Parish Work Day | 9:00 am |
| **Baptism of Georgina Peil** | 1:00 pm |
| Reception for Baptism | 2:00 pm |
| **Great Vespers** | 5:00 pm |
| Women's Arts and Crafts Night | 6:00 pm |

**Sunday, November 5**

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| **Orthros** | 8:45 am |
| **Churching of Pres. Annie & John Anthimos Swehla** | 9:45 am |
| **Divine Liturgy** | 10:00 am |
| Fellowship & Sunday School follows Liturgy | |
| Fall General Assembly | 12:00 pm |
| NO Theology 101 | |