PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY: All stewards of the church are encouraged to vote today after Liturgy.

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***The Berinde & Leahu Families!*** Offer your *philoxenia* "love for strangers" through a snack or meal. (Up to $150 can be reimbursed.) Sign up on the sheet by the kitchen door or through this QR code:

CAROLING FOR SENIORS (JR. GOYA & GOYA OUTING): Come spread the holy joy of Christ's Nativity to our beloved seniors on Friday, December 22, 6:00-9:00 pm. We will meet at church, drive to seniors' homes to sing Christmas carols, and return to church for apple cider, hot chocolate, and cookies.

JR GOYANS ONLY: Have you wanted a meeting just for middle schoolers? Well, our first monthly Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) meeting will be Saturday, December 16, 3:00-5:00pm) at church. Join your friends in cooking for a family in need!

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS DINNER and white elephant gift exchange is Saturday, December 16 at 6:30 pm at the church.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK It's time for all of us to stop and reflect on how we are using our time, talent and treasure—all gifts from God. We will be mailing out the 2024 Pledge Cards soon.

CONFESSIONS: The Advent fast is a time when the faithful are encouraged to prepare for our Lord's Nativity by having confession. Please call the church office to schedule your confession.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT TIME: Join your fellow parishioners for fellowship and crafting time on Monday, December 18 from 10 am - 12 noon. All ages and levels are welcome, but the focus will be on Christmas-themed arts and crafts suitable for school -aged kids. If you plan to attend and/or would like to prep a craft (Christmas card, ornament, etc.) to share with others, please let Anya Seidel know via this QR code above.

PREPARING FOR THE NATIVITY: If you would like to read Nativity hymns of the Church during this Advent season, look at the services of December 20-31 (especially Vespers and Matins) at the archdiocese website via this QR code:

PLEASE SUBMIT REIMBURSEMENTS: 2023 is coming to a close, so please submit any reimbursement requests you may have as soon as possible. Forms are available in the church office, by online fillable form, or ask Kathleen K.

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 Ketrenos (close) Greeter: Dennis and Noelle
Clean up Team 1: Anderson, Hudanish, Anderson, 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

December 10, 2023

The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Evgraphos

Saints Menas and Hermogenes were born in Athens, but lived in Constantinople. They were in favor with the Emperor and the people. St. Menas was known for his great learning and was a Christian by conviction, but behaved outwardly as a pagan. St. Hermogenes was Eparch of Constantinople and a pagan, but he was a merciful man and performed good deeds. When conflict arose between the pagans and the Christians in Alexandria, Emperor Maximian sent Menas to restore order and drive the Christians out of the city. St. Menas went and restored peace. He was distinguished for his gift of eloquence and openly began preaching the Christian faith. He declared himself a Christian and brought many pagans to the true faith by both his words and his miracles. Learning of this, Maximian sent St. Hermogenes to Alexandria to place the saints on trial. Moreover, he gave orders to purge the city of Christians and to punish the saint. St. Hermogenes brought St. Menas to trial and cut off his feet and tongue, gouged out his eyes and threw him into prison. The Lord Jesus appeared to the saint to console and heal him. St. Hermogenes was struck by the endurance of St. Menas under torture and by his miraculous healing after the cruel torments, he also came to believe in Christ, repented, was baptized and began to preach the Faith of Christ, becoming bishop of Alexandria. Then the Emperor Maximian himself came to Alexandria to torture both Sts. Menas and Hermogenes. Witnessing their courageous endurance for the love of Christ, St. Menas' secretary, Evgraphos went to the Emperor and shouted, "I too am a Christian!" The enraged Emperor, drew his sword and beheaded him at that moment. Neither the astonishing stoic endurance of Sts. Menas and Hermogenes under torture, nor even the miracles manifested by God in this city, mollified the emperor. Instead, they vexed him all the more. He then ordered Menas and Hermogenes to be beheaded. The relics of the holy martyrs, cast into the sea in an iron chest, were afterwards found and transferred to Constantinople in the 9th century. The emperor Justinian built a church in the name of the holy Martyr Menas of Alexandria. Saint Joseph the Hymnographer composed a canon in honor of these holy martyrs.

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 epuranían ekrávgazon: Zöodthóta Christé o Theós imón, dthóxa Si.

Hymn of Saint Menas and Companions (Plagal Fourth Mode / *When the bodiless one):*
Since they had slain through their abstinence and struggles the fiery ragings and fierce motions of the passions, the staunch martyrs of Christ God laid hold on the graces to drive off the pains and illnesses of the sick and work wonders both while living and after death. Strange indeed is the miracle! That these bare bones should pour forth such overflowing streams of cures. Glory be to our only God.

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 Forefeast of Nativity (Third Mode / *On this day the Virgin)*
On this day the Virgin * comes to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 6:10-17 (27th Sunday after Pentecost)
Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil of the day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:10-17 (10th Sunday of Luke)
At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As He said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 10
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship and Sunday School after Liturgy
- Parish Council Elections 11:45 am
- St. John Artisans Fair 12:00 pm

Monday, December 11
- **Liturgy (w/ Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am

Tuesday, December 12
- **St. Spyridon the Wonderworker**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am

Wednesday, December 13
- **St. Herman of Alaska & St. Lucia of Syracuse**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am
- Wednesday Coffee Hour 9:30 am
- Bible Study (***Later Time***) 10:30 am
- **Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist** 6:00 pm
- Fullness of the Faith Class - The Spiritual Life, Part I 7:00 pm
- Choir Practice 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 14
- **Liturgy (w/ Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am
- Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am
- Crossroads Ministry Luncheon 11:30 am
- Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, December 15
- **St. Eleftherios the Hieromartyr**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am

Saturday, December 16
- **Liturgy (w/ Pre-Communion Prayers)** 9:00 am
- Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) Family Promise Meal 3:00 pm
- **Great Vespers** 5:00 pm
- Young Professionals White Elephant 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 17
Stewardship Sunday
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship Sunday School, and Theology 101: Project Mexico presentation follow Liturgy