TODAY A MEATFARE POTLUCK & TALENT SHOW! Enjoy your meatfare dishes and a show by St. John's talented parishioners.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone who generously supported the Project Mexico Café. It was an amazing experience. All the kids involved with Project Mexico truly appreciate your kindness, charitableness, and patience. We raised over $1,000 for Project Mexico attendees!

FELLOWSHIP: 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!

GROWING TOGETHER AS FAMILIES IN CHRIST: Everyone is invited to the Parish Family Night on Saturday, March 23 at 6:00 pm! The night will include: dinner; spiritual discussion with Fr. Matthew; art, games, and learning for PreK (age 4) to 5th; hangout time for teens; and socializing and boardgames for everyone else!

MEN'S MONASTERY WORK PARTY is March 29-30. Come help the sisters of St. John the Forerunner Monastery, with a wide variety of tasks to maintain the grounds. Spend the night on Friday or drive up on Saturday morning. RSVP to Brandon by Tuesday, March 26 at cravetruth@yahoo.com to provide a headcount for the sisters and to help consider carpooling.

BECOME A PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBER TODAY! February is membership drive month. Your once-a-year stewardship donation helps support our local and broader Philoptochos ministries. See details in the weekly email.

NATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN BABY SHOWER Collection is through Monday, March 25. Look for the porta-crib display in the south Fellowship Hall! Questions? Call or text Ginny N. (408) 693-9260 Details are in the weekly email.

SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER: Our Summer Camp families are hosting a fellowship fundraiser on Sunday, March 24. We need your help to cover transportation costs to and from Dunlap, CA!

GOYA FIVE FRIDAYS: GOYAns (9th-12th) mark your calendars for the first five Fridays of Great Lent beginning March 22nd. We will have a 1 hr meeting after each Salutations service, with hot cocoa and oreos, a brief spiritual discussion, and Apples to Apples.

COOKING UP SOMETHING GOOD: All Jr. GOYAns (6th-9th) are invited to learn to cook delicious lenten food on Saturday, March 30th (2:30-5:00 PM) at church! Join your friends for a fun, fasting kitchen experience!

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: Harmon (open) and Silva (close) Greeter: Mina
Clean up Team 12: Sorenson, Statler, Stebner, Silva

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

March 10, 2024

Sunday of the Last Judgment • The Expulsion of Adam from the Paradise of Bliss

The two parables of the last two Sundays—especially that of the Prodigal Son—have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed today's commemoration of Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds. It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. In addition, Cheesefare Sunday commemorates Adam's exile from Paradise—which our loving Lord instituted out of His great compassion for our first parents—and Adam's sorrow at having chosen his own will rather than to be in harmony with God's will.

All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.

The Holy Fathers have appointed this day for the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise, on the eve of the holy 40 day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

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 (Grave Mode)
O Lord, by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at Your command: that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Katélisas to Stavró Su ton thánaton, inéoxas to listí ton Parádthison. Ton Mirofóron ton thrínon metévales, ke tis sis Apostólis kiríttin epétaxas: óti anéstis Christé o Theós, paréhon 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 Last Judgment (First Mode)
When You, O God, will come to earth with glory, and all things tremble, and the river of fire flows before the Judgment Seat, and the books are opened and the hidden things made public, then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O most righteous Judge.

EPISTLE READING

I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 (Sunday of the Last Judgment)
Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-46 (Sunday of the Last Judgment)
The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 10
Sunday of the Last Judgment
Meatfare Sunday
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Meatfare Potluck and Talent Show 11:45 am

Tuesday, March 12
Site Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 13
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist 6:00 pm
Growing in the Faith, The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 14
Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children 9:00 am
Philoptochos Board Meeting at the Muzik's 6:30 pm
Young Professionals Meeting at church 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 16
Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy & Trisagion 9:30 am
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Ancient Faith book launch of "The Little Way of a Pilgrim" 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 17
Forgiveness Sunday
Cheesefare Sunday
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows Liturgy
Forgiveness Vespers 12:30 pm

Monday, March 18
Clean Week - Lent Begins
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 pm