OUR LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS THIS WEEK … with the following services:

Monday, March 18
Great Compline, Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 19
Presanctified Liturgy for the Holy Fathers Slain at St. Savvas Monastery 7:30 AM
Great Compline, Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 20
Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten Potluck 6:30 PM

Thursday, March 21
Great Compline, Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 PM

Friday, March 22
Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 AM
Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 23
Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Koliva Prayer 8:30 AM

Kalí Sarakostí ~ Blessed Lent!

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, in the weekly email, or through this QR code:

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!

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!

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.

FLOWER BASKET FUNDRAISER FOR ASA! Order your beautiful flower basket this month. Baskets will be delivered to the church on Saturday, May 11. Questions? Contact Rachel at racheldaniels503@gmail.com

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

Jr. GOYANS COOKING UP SOMETHING GOOD: All Jr. GOYAns (6th-8th) are invited to learn to cook delicious Lenten food on Saturday, March 30, 2:30 pm-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: Psiropoulos (open) and Blankenstein (close) Greeter: Jacob
Clean up Team 1: Anderson, Dressler, Galan, Hudanish, 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

March 17, 2024

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

This Sunday is **Cheesefare Sunday**, it is the last day that we eat dairy products until Holy Pascha. Tomorrow begins the Great Lenten Fast. It is important for each of us who are in good health and old enough to understand the purpose of fasting and to be obedient to the guidelines our Church gives to us. Fasting is necessary if we desire to be pure and truly become followers of Christ. We must learn to direct our appetites toward God and not seek always to immediately satisfy ourselves; thus we may be healed and experience freedom from our sins and passions.

Today is also **Forgiveness Sunday**. A basic truth of Christ's teaching is that access to Him is closed if we are not willing to forgive our neighbor. Today's Gospel reading makes this clear: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." With this in mind, the Church seeks to remind us to begin our Lenten Journey by not only seeking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Confession, but also by seeking and forgiving one another. This is why our Church offers a **Forgiveness Vespers today at 12:30 pm.**

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

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 Fourth 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. 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 Adam's Exile from Paradise (Plagal Second Mode)
O guide unto wisdom, bestower of prudence, instructor of the foolish, and defender of the poor, establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master. Grant me speech, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto You, "Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who have fallen."

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 (Sunday of Forgiveness)
Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:14-21 (Sunday of Forgiveness)
The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The Lord who created me took dust from earth and He formed me; then with His life-giving breath, He made me a living soul, animating me, honoring me to rule visible creation and to share in the angelic life. But Satan the crafty one used the serpent as his own instrument, and tricking with forbidden fruit, separated me from the glory of God. Thus he has returned me to earth by death in regions dark and deep. O Master, being compassionate, call me back again, I pray.

~Stichera Hymn of Vespers

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

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

Tuesday, March 19
Presanctified Liturgy 7:30 am
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 20
Holy Fathers Slain at St. Savvas Monastery
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm
Lenten Potluck 8:00 pm

Thursday, March 21
Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children 9:00 am
Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 pm

Friday, March 22
Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 am
Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30 pm
GOYA Meeting 7:30 pm
Growing in the Faith Class: "The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 23
St. Theodore the Recruit & Koliva Miracle
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, followed by Prayer for the Blessing of Koliva 8:30 am
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Parish Family Night 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 24
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Churching of Elizabeth Miller & Evangelos
Procession with Icons 12:00 pm
Fellowship, Sunday School, and Theology 101 follow Liturgy
Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Holy Trinity 5:00 pm