PROJECT MEXICO FUNDRAISER TODAY! Fellowship today is hosted by participants in our 23-person Project Mexico team, to raise money for our homebuilding mission trip in July!

LAST PAN-ORTHODOX PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY ... this Wednesday, April 10 at St. George Antiochian Church at 6:00 pm. followed by a Lenten meal hosted by the parish. ***There will be no evening service at St. John on Wednesday.***

WEEKDAY LENTEN SERVICES: As we journey through Great Lent, let us participate in the Lenten services offered by the Church: Great Compline on Monday at 6:30 pm; Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday at 6:30 pm and on Friday at 8:00 am; and Salutations on Friday at 6:30 pm.

COME LISTEN TO OUR YOUTH SPEAK ABOUT THE FAITH: Seven participants from throughout the Pacific Northwest will speak at the district level of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival this Saturday, April 13, 12:00-3:30 pm at St. John's. Lunch and fellowship will be provided afterward. This is a special opportunity to support our young people and learn about the Orthodox Faith!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES: Are you or your child graduating high school or college this year? Did you finish grad school? Let us celebrate with you! Please email Ioan (ioan@stjohngoc.org) with the graduate's first and last name, school graduating from, degree and program of study (if applicable), future plans, and a photo! The deadline to submit graduates is Friday, April 19.

SEEKING ORGANIZER & CANDY FOR PASCHA EGG HUNT: Currently there is ***no one*** planning an egg hunt for the kids on Pascha. If you would like to organize the egg hunt, contact Rebecca Moffitt. Also please donate candy (without peanuts) for the Pascha Picnic and place them in the labeled box in the kitchen.

COME TO THE LAZARUS SATURDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Please plan to stay for a Lenten pancake breakfast and palm tying event following Liturgy on Saturday April, 27. Look for the signup sheet posted on the bulletin board in the SFH this Sunday. Please consider volunteering to help with this special church tradition!

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON TICKETS: The annual luncheon benefitting St. John the Forerunner Monastery is coming soon! Please purchase your tickets in advance, to help with planning: $15 per person; $45 per family. Use this QR code:

GOYA FIVE FRIDAYS: Mark your calendars for the rest of the meetings: April 12, and 19 after service at 7:30 pm We will have a one-hour meeting with Oreos, a brief spiritual discussion on the Mother of God, and a new game.

Jr. GOYA SHOOTS AND LADDERS: On Saturday, April 13 from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm following Great Vespers for the Sunday of Saint John of the Ladder, Jr GOYA (6th-8th) will clean the iconostasis (on ladders) and have a shoots & ladders competition!

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: Nordling (open) and Galeev (close) **Greeter: Maggie**
Clean up Team 4: Davis, Gonzalez, Hailey, Galeev

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

April 7, 2024

Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the third Sunday of Great, the Church commemorates the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday prepares us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, and also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24), and have mortified ourselves during these days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion—being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory. Just as people who walk on a long and hard journey, bowed down by fatigue, find relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a tree; so do we find comfort and rejuvenation under the life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. And just as, before the arrival of a king, his royal trophies and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade; so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His life-giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore we become ready to welcome our King, who shall triumph over the powers of darkness. The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose undrinkable waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. But when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth it became sweet. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous. Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's sin, as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

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

Hymn of the Holy Cross (First Mode)
Save, O Lord, Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your people by the power of Your Cross.

Sóson, Kýrie, ton laón su, ke evló-yison tin klironomían su. Níkas tis Vasiléfsi katá varváron dthorúmenos, ke to son filátton dthiá tu Stavrú su polítevma.

Resurrectional Hymn (Third Mode)
Let all things above in heaven rejoice; let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death. And firstborn of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Repeat the Hymn of the Holy Cross

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 Akathist (Plagal Fourth Mode)
To thee, the Champion Leader, we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us that we may cry to thee, "Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded."

In place of the Trisagion Hymn, the following hymn:
We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Ton Stavron su proskinumen, Dthespota, ke tin ayian su Anastasin dthoxazomen.

Megalynarion for the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Instead of "It Is Truly Right")
In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices – both the congregations of angels and the human race. O consecrated temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins, from you was God incarnate and became a child – He, our God, who existed before the ages. For He made your womb a throne and He made you more spacious than the heavens. In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

Communion Hymn (Third Mode):
The light of Your countenance, O Lord, has been signed upon us. Alleluia.

Instead of "We have Seen the True Light," repeat the Hymn of the Holy Cross

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1 (Sunday of the Holy Cross))
Brethren, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1(Sunday of the Holy Cross)
The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 7
Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross
Orthros 8:30 am
Procession with the Holy Cross 9:45 am
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 am
Fellowship & Sunday School follow Liturgy

Monday, April 8
Great Compline 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 10
No Bible Study until May 15
Wednesday Coffee Hour 10:00 am
Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm
at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lenten Meal follows Liturgy

Thursday, April 11
Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am
Nurturer of Children
Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, April 12
Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 am
Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30 pm
GOYA Meeting at Church 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 13
Baptism of Evangelos John Miller 9:00 am
Baptism Reception 10:00 am
District Oratorical Festival 12:00pm
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) Meeting 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 14
Sunday of St. John Climacos (of the Ladder)
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, and Theology 101 follow Liturgy