THANK YOU … to Helen S., Lois R., Rebecca M.' Alex D. Constantine VS. for chairing the Pancake Breakfast, Palm Sunday luncheon and the Pascha Picnic, and to all the volunteers. Thank you also to all the flower, liturgical helpers and every other aspect.

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 2 after fellowship at 12:30 pm. All parish stewards are invited to participate, though anyone can attend. To become a steward, please turn in your 2024 stewardship pledge card to the office.

GOYA MONASTERY TRIP: Come worship, work, and spend time with your friends alongside the sisters at Goldendale, Friday-Saturday, May 17-18.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Come see what our Sunday School classes have been learning and working on this year as they display their year-long projects in the NFH on Sunday, May 19! We will also honor our high school and college graduates and thank our devoted Sunday School teachers; don't miss this wonderful opportunity to celebrate our kids!

ASA'S 20th ANNIVERSARY GALA! Join us on Saturday, June 8, 5:30pm, at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland. Our own Metropolitan Gerasimos will be attending. Get your tickets now. See the link in the weekly email.

WOMEN'S MONASTERY RETREAT - May 24-25. Come join us as we share a time of fellowship and prayer at St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA. RSVP to Rachel at RachelDaniels503@gmail.com

MEN'S BEACH RETREAT! is Wednesday, May 29 to Saturday, June 1 Come for all or part of it and have fellowship and fun. $50 per person covers food & the cleaning fee. ($35 for a one-night stay.) Space is limited. Contact Brandon for info or to RSVP **at** cravetruth@yahoo.com. RSVP by Monday, May 27.

HOPE & JOY (K-5th) FLOWER BOX PLANTING: After Liturgy on Sunday, May 26 our PreK-5th graders will plant flowers for icon decorating and basil for the Holy Cross in the outdoor planter. You may bring your own flower seeds and bulbs.

FATHER'S DAY FAMILY CAMPOUT: Everyone is invited to a weekend of camping and fellowship on Friday, June 14 to Sunday, June 16 in the Deschutes National Forest! We will go to Liturgy in Bend before returning home on Sunday. Please let Ioan (ioan@stjohngoc.org) know by May 31 if you intend to go.

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: Chosvig (open) and Moffitt (close) Greeter: Sandy
Cleanup Team: Marnul, Moore, Ferrarini, Paddock, Stinman, Moffitt

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

May 12, 2024

Sunday of St. Thomas/Anti-Pascha – St. Germanos of Constantinople

On the evening on the day after the Passover, though the doors were shut where the disciples were gathered, our Savior entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side; and He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, thus assuring them of His resurrection. But Thomas was not present and did not believe their testimony. After 8 days, on this Sunday, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus appeared again. He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas, beholding and examining the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29). Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching or Examination of Thomas." In Slavonic, it says, "The Belief of Thomas." When St. Thomas touched the life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts. The Sunday of Thomas is also called Anti-Pascha because with this day, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of the Resurrection. St. Thomas was born in Galilea and was a fisherman. Hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The holy apostle founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia, & India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr's death: For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur, he was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of this Holy Apostle are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos. His feast days are today and on October 6.

St. Germanos of Constantinople, was born to an illustrious family. He was Metropolitan of Cyzicos; in 715 he was elevated to the throne of Constantinople; but because of his resistance to Leo the Isaurian's impious decree which started the war upon the holy icons, he was exiled the same year. He lived the rest of his life in privacy, and reposed about 740, full of days. The foremost of his writings is that which deals with the 6 Ecumenical Councils. He wrote many hymns also, as is apparent from the titles of many stichera and idiomela, among which are those for the Feast of the Meeting in the Temple.

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 for Pascha (Plagal 1st Mode)
Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.
Christós anésti ek nekrón, thanáto thánaton patísas, ke tis en tis mnímasi zo-ín harisámenos.

Hymn at the Small Entrance (2nd Mode)
Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn for Sunday of Thomas (Grave Mode)
While the tomb was sealed, You, O Life, shined forth from the grave, O Christ God; and while the doors were shut, You came unto Your disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Your great mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha (Plagal 4th Mode)
Though You descended to the tomb, O Immortal One, You then completely tore the strength of Hades down, and You rose up, as One Who conquers all, Christ our God, calling out to the myrrh-bearing women: "Rejoice." And You gave Your divine peace to all Your Apostles too, You Who have granted the fallen to rise again.

Megalynarion for Thomas Sunday, instead of "It Is Truly Right" (First Mode)
You, the brightly shining lantern and Mother of our God, the conspicuous glory, you are superior to all creation. We hymn you and magnify.

EPISTLE READING

Acts 5:12-20 (Sunday of St. Thomas)
In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 19-31(Sunday of St. Thomas)
On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

Communion Hymn for Thomas Sunday
Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. Alleluia.
Instead of "We Have Seen the True Light" repeat "Christ is risen…"

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 12
Sunday of St. Thomas
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, & Adult Theology 101 follow Liturgy

Wednesday, May 15
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 16
Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children 9:00 am

Friday, May 17
GOYA overnight Monastery Trip
ASA Fine Arts Night Performance 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 18
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Woman's Fellowship 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 19
Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Churching - Bailey (Maria Despina) Armas & Spyridon James 11:30 am
Fellowship 11:45 am
Sunday School Showcase & Graduate Recognition 12:00 pm
NO Theology 101