CELEBRATING THE FEAST! After Pascha and the Nativity of Christ, among the Orthodox, the Dormition of the Theotokos is the most celebrated feast of the year. Faithful Orthodox take time off of work and away from other obligations so that they can honor our Most Holy Mother. Each of us should follow this blessed example and come to the feast day services: Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30 pm, Festal Vigil (Vespers & Orthros) with Artoklasia & Lamentations; Thursday, August 15 at 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers. ***The Panagia Picnic should NOT be our only "celebration" of this feast—let us truly honor Her!***

HONORING PANAGIA BY HELPING AT HER PICNIC: Join us as we honor the Most Holy Theotokos with a parish ***potluck*** picnic on this Saturday at our new church property (10050 NE Walker Rd). Please bring a side dish to share. Magnolia R. has volunteered to organize the picnic; but in order for it to run smoothly, we need your help! Would you consider volunteering your time? Please scan the QR code to offer your service, or contact Magnolia at magnolia.g.rush@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY HAS BEGUN! Every Wednesday at 10:00 am (unless otherwise noted on the calendar), studying the Gospel of Matthew. Stay afterward for the Wednesday Coffee Hour.

GROWING IN THE FAITH **PRAYER/ CATECHISM CLASS:** Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, join our discussion on prayer, the spiritual life, and the book, *The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer*. ***[No class this week on August 14, due to the Dormition Vigil.]***

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK, AUGUST 11-17: We will provide meals and gift cards for families who are temporarily living in the Beaverton Family Promise House. Family Promise is an organization that helps families struggling with homelessness. To sign up for bringing a meal scan this QR code. To contribute to gift cards, bring cash or **check payable to Sts. Mary and Martha Philoptochos** to the office. If you have any questions please ask Lori at (503-537-0408).

FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY: ***The Silva Family!*** Offer your *philoxenia* "love for strangers" through a snack or meal. (Up to $150 can be re-imbursed.) Sign up on the sheet by the kitchen door or here:

RUMMAGE SALE THANK YOU! Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers, donations, prayers, and many purchases, the 2024 Rummage Sale brought in over $1,600 to the Building Fund!

KIDS CLOTHING SWAP is Sunday, August 25 after Liturgy in the NFH! Baby items may also be included, but please NO TOYS. See details in the weekly email. If you would like to help organize reach out to Anya S.

JR GOYA & GOYA LABOR DAY COAST TRIP: Share lasting memories and breathtaking views with your friends on Monday, September 2. Meet at church at 9:00 am, drive to the coast, hike up Neahkahnie Mountain, spend the afternoon at Manzanita Beach, and eat pizza before heading home. RSVP to Ioan by August 30 if you would like to go: ioan@stjohngoc.org.

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: Daniels (open) and VanSickle (close) **Greeter: Athena and Julie**
Cleanup Team 8: Mullen, Muzik, Nieuwsma, Plankers, VanSickle

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

August 11, 2024

Holy Martyr Efplos, Archdeacon of Catania

The holy martyr Efplos was an archdeacon in Catania, Sicily. The emperor, Diocletian, dispatched Commander Pentagurus to Sicily to kill any Christians he found there. One of the people accused St. Efplos of taking a book to secret Christians and reading to them. They brought him to court, hung that book, the Holy Gospel, around his neck and led him to prison. After a week of imprisonment and hunger he was handed over for torture. While they beat him, Efplos said to the torturing judge: "O ignorant one, do you not see that because of God's help, these tortures are for me as a cobweb? If you can, find other harsher tortures, for all of these are as toys." Then St. Efplos opened the Holy Gospel and read to the people for a long time. Many converted to the Faith of Christ. He was finally beheaded in 304 AD. His miracle-working relics are kept in a village near Naples, Italy.

The Holy Dormition of the Theotokos is celebrated on August 15. In her old age, the Theotokos often prayed to the Lord on the Mount of Olives that she would be able to repose and join the Lord as soon as possible. Finally the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that within three days she would find repose. It was the Theotokos' wish to see the twelve apostles before her repose. Accordingly they were miraculously transported from the ends of the earth to where she lived in Jerusalem. After blessing each of them, she fell asleep and was buried in a tomb. Then Thomas, who had not arrived with the others, came and, wishing to see her face one last time, he requested that the tomb be opened. It was opened and they found that her body was no longer there. Our Church teaches that the Most Holy Mother of God fell asleep, rose in bodily form, and was taken to heaven by her Son. Even in the manner of her death, we see evidence of the holiness of the Theotokos.

After Pascha and the Nativity of Christ, among the Orthodox, the Dormition of the Theotokos is the most celebrated feast of the year. Faithful Orthodox take time off of work and away from other obligations so that they can celebrate our Most Holy Mother. Each of us should follow this blessed example, to ensure that we can come to the feast day services:

- *Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30 pm: Festal Vigil (Vespers & Orthros) with Artoklasia & Lamentations.*
- *Thursday, August 15 at 9:00 am: Divine Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers. Fellowship following.*

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

Second Antiphon of Transfiguration (2nd Mode)
Save us, O Son of God, who were transfigured on Mt. Tabor. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of the Transfiguration (Grave Mode)
You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your glory to Your disciples as much as they could bear. Shine your everlasting light upon us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of Light, glory to You.

Metemorfóthis en to óri, Christé o Theós, dthíxas tis Mathités su tin dthóxan su, kathós idthinanto. Lámpson ke imín tis amartolís, to fos su to aïdthion, presvíes tis Theotóku. Fotodthóta, dthóxa Si.

Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal Second Mode)
When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary, seeking Your pure and sacred body, then You did vanquish Hades, and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Repeat the Hymn of the Transfiguration.

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 Transfiguration (Grave Mode)
On the mount You were transfigured, and Your disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Your glory, O Christ our God; that when they should see You crucified they would know Your passion to be willing, and would preach to the world that You, in truth, are the radiance of the Father.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 15:1-7 (Seventh Sunday of Matthew)
Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:27-35 (Seventh Sunday of Matthew)
At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 11
Dormition Fast Continues through August 14
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows Liturgy
Great Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm

Monday, August 12
Church office closed through August 13
Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm

Tuesday, August 13
Great Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm
Building Committee Meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday, August 14
Bible Study—Gospel of Matthew 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Vigil for the Dormition of the Theotokos - Vespers, Artoklasia, Orthros, and Lamentations 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 15
Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos
Divine Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers) 9:00 am
Festive Potluck Fellowship follows Liturgy

Friday, August 16
St. Joseph the Hesychast
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Saturday, August 17
Picnic for Panagia at 10050 NE Walker 2:00 pm
Great Vespers at 10050 NE Walker 6:00 pm
No services at 14485 SW Walker Rd.

Sunday, August 18
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Memorial for Constantin & Andrei Leahu 11:45 am
Catechumen Prayers 12:00 pm
Fellowship follows Liturgy