HONORING PANAGIA BY HELPING AT HER PICNIC: Join us as we honor the Most Holy Theotokos with a parish ***potluck*** picnic on Saturday, August 17 at 2pm at our new church property (10050 NE Walker Rd). 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 BEGINS THIS WEEK! Wednesday, August 7 at 10:00 am. We will study the Gospel of Matthew. Please stay for Wednesday Coffee Hour afterward.

FEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION & THE BLESSING OF GRAPES: On Tuesday, August 6 we will celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor with 8:30 am Orthros and 9:30 am Liturgy. Bring grapes to the Liturgy, ***washed and clipped into small clusters.***

THE 14-DAY DORMITION FAST HAS BEGUN. This is a strict fast, with wine and oil on weekends and fish on the feast of the Transfiguration, August 6.

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:

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).

PARAKLESIS DURING DORMITION FAST … will take place at St. John's current location, 14485 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton, ***except on Wednesday, August 7***, which will take place at the new property. (The Dormition Vigil on August 14 will also take place at our current location.)

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.

GROWING IN THE FAITH **PRAYER CLASS:** Every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, join our discussion on prayer, the spiritual life, and the book, *The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer.*

CALLING ALL ARTISTS FOR THE ARTISAN FAIR 2024! - This year's Artisan Fair will be on the weekend of November 16– 17. All artisans are invited to participate! If you are interested in having an Artisan table at the Fair email logosbookstore@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: Chosvig (open) and Moffitt (close) **Greeter: Mina and Sandy**
Cleanup Team 7: Marnul, Russo, Buckley, 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

August 4, 2024

The Seven Youths of Ephesus • The Transfiguration of Our Lord

The 7 Youths hid themselves in a certain cave near Ephesus in the year 250, to escape the persecution of Decius. By divine grace, a sleep lasting 184 years overcame them, until the reign of St. Theodosius the Younger, when the doctrine of the resurrection was being assailed by heretics. They then awoke in the sight of all, with a bodily resurrection; and again after a short time, by divine command, they fell asleep in the year 434.

The Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) occurred at a time when Jesus's disciples were having difficulty grasping His identity, approximately 40 days before the Crucifixion. Many said He was a prophet, or the Messiah, or Elijah, or even a man possessed by demons. Jesus knew it was important for His disciples to accept His identity, especially in preparation for His Passion. So, He took His 3 closest disciples, Peter, James and John, up to Mt. Tabor where He was transfigured, revealing His divinity as uncreated light brighter than the sun. Moses & Elijah appeared on either side of Him. The meaning of the event is 3-fold. First, the light is Jesus' own divinity shining through the power of the Holy Spirit. He has this uncreated light with Him always, but is allowing His disciples to experience it so they will know that He is indeed God. Later in Church history, the Holy Fathers described this light of Christ's divinity as uncreated, because it is part of His divine energies. The Fathers made a distinction between God's essence and His energies. Both are fully divine and uncreated, but the essence of God is unknowable to everything created, while the energies are revealed to us by God's grace. The experience of the apostles has been repeated in the lives of various Saints who have reached an advanced state of sanctity. Second, the voice of His Father in heaven is heard, "Behold, this is My beloved Son, listen to Him." By seeing Jesus filled with light by the power of the Holy Spirit and hearing the voice of the Father, the Transfiguration became a revelation of the Holy Trinity. The presence of both the Prophet Elijah & Moses, holy men of the Old Testament, show in an even more dramatic manner that Jesus is the Messiah. Elijah & Moses are symbols of Old Testament prophecy regarding the Messiah, and the Law. It was important for the 3 to see the uncreated light of His divinity, to see the witness of Moses the Law-giver & Elijah the Prophet, and to hear the voice of the Father. Later this encouraged them and strengthened their faith.

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 First Mode)
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure. And He raised the dead unto life through His glorious resurrection.

Ton sinánarhon Lógon Patrí ke Pnévmati, ton ek Parthénu tehthénda is sotirían imón. Animnísomen pistí ke proskinísomen, óti ivdthókise sarkí, anelthín en to Stavró, ke thánaton ipomíne, ke eyíre tus tethneótas en ti endthóxo Anastási aftú.

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 Holy 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 12: 6-14 (Sixth Sunday of Matthew)
Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:1-8 (Sixth Sunday of Matthew)
At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" He then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

When You were transfigured on a high mountain, O Savior, having with You those paramounts of Your Disciples, You shone forth with glory. Your intention was to show that those who attain the height of virtue will also be counted worthy of divine glory. Moses and Elias conversed with Christ, to show that He is the Lord of the living and the dead, and that the One who spoke through the Law and the Prophets of old was God. It was to Him that the voice of the Father bore witness from the bright cloud saying, "Listen to Him." He is the One who despoiled Hades through the Cross, and who granted the dead eternal life.

He who of old conversed with Moses on Mount Sinai through symbols, saying, "I am that I am, the One who is," was transfigured on Mount Tabor today for His Disciples to see. And since He had assumed human nature in himself, He showed them the original beauty of the image. He presented Moses and Elias as witnesses of this grace, and He let them share in the great joy, prefiguring what would follow through the Cross, namely the glorious and saving Resurrection.

~ Hymns from Vespers for Feast of Transfiguration

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 4
Dormitions Fast Continues
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows Liturgy
Great Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm

Monday, August 5
St. John Jacob the New of Hoziva
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Great Vespers for Transfiguration 6:30 pm

Tuesday, August 6
Transfiguration of our Lord
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Blessing of the Grapes 10:45 am
Great Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm
Building Committee Meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday, August 7
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Small Paraklesis (at the new property) 6:00 pm
Growing the Faith Catechism Class: 7:30 pm
The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer

Thursday, August 8
Akathist to the Theotokos 9:00 am
Nurturer of Children
Great Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm
Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:30 pm

Friday, August 9
Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm

Saturday, August 10
Great Vespers 6:00 pm

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