**PRAYING FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:** Come and pray the Akathist to the Theotokos, Healer of Cancer (*Pantánassa*) this Wednesday at 6:30 pm ***at our current church property, 14485 SW Walker Rd.*** (This service is in place of the weekly Paraklesis at the new property.)

**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*.

**FELLOWSHIP TODAY IS HOSTED BY:** ***The Leahu 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:

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CRAFT NIGHT** Come for fellowship & bring your crafting! Saturday, August 24 at 7:00 pm (after Vespers). Tweens & older welcome. Potluck snacks!"

**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.

**ST. PHANOURIOUS FEAST DAY:** On Monday, August 26 we will have ***evening*** Orthros & Liturgy (5:30 & 6:30 pm) to celebrate St. Phanourious. Bring your Phanouropites (St. Phanourious cakes)—as an offering of gratitude for his intercessions—to have them blessed after. Potluck dinner following the services.

**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.

**PARISH FAMILY NIGHT IS FOR EVERYONE!** Come celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos as a parish family on Saturday, September 7, 6:00-8:00 pm—with dinner following Vespers; a movie night for teens; art, games, and learning for the younger kids (PreK-5th); a spiritual discussion with Fr. Matthew for adults (not just parents!); and time for fellowship.

**NEW STUDENT SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH REGISTRATION:** Parents, please register ***NEW*** students only (4 years old and up, as of Dec 31, 2024) for Sunday School and Youth Groups with the QR code below. You do not need to register returning students. For returning kids, simply tell Anya or Ioan if your child(ren) will participate this year.

SCAN ME

**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: Galeev (open) and Nordling (close)** **Greeter: Dennis and Noelle**
**Cleanup Team 9: Corazza, Fairing, Kepler, Nordling**

# 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 18, 2024

***Floros & Lauros the Monk-Martyrs of Illyria • Uncovering of the Relics of St. Arsenios of Paros***

The Martyrs Floros and Lauros were brothers in flesh and in spirit. They lived in the second century at Byzantium, and afterwards they settled in Illyria (the Balkans). By occupation they were stone-masons. The prefect of Illyria, Likaion, sent the brothers to a nearby district for work on the construction of a pagan temple. The saints toiled at the structure, distributing to the poor the money they earned, while they kept strict fast and prayed without ceasing. Once, the son of the local pagan-priest Mamertin carelessly approached the structure, and a chip of stone hit him in the eye, severely injuring him. Saints Floros and Lauros assured the upset father, that his son would be healed. They brought the youth to consciousness and told him to have faith in Christ and healed him. In view of such a miracle, even the father of the youth believed in Christ. When the temple was completed, the brothers gathered the Christians together, entered the temple, and the idols, erecting the holy Cross. They spent all night in prayer, illumined with heavenly light. The martyrs Floros and Lauros were thrown down an empty well and covered over with earth. When their holy relics were recovered years later, they were incorrupt and poured forth myrrh and worked many miracles. Their relics were transferred to Constantinople. The heads of the martyrs were eventually brought to the Pantokrator Monastery on Mount Athos.

Today the Church commemorates the uncovering of the relics of Saint Arsenios of Paros (1800-1877). His primary feast is on January 31. Saint Arsenius and his elder stayed on Mount Athos for six years before being forced to leave by ignorant monks who were against the Kollyvades movement. The Kollyvades—a group of pious and holy monks which included St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite and St. Makarios of Corinth—called for a strict adherence to holy Tradition, opposed performing memorial services on Sundays, and believed that Christians should receive Holy Communion more frequently than four times a year. They also practiced unceasing prayer of the heart (hesychasm), which was misunderstood by many people of that time. Some of the Athonite monks, in their ignorance, were highly critical of the Kollyvades, insulting and mistreating them, and forcing them into exile. Being forced to leave Mt. Athos, St. Arsenios and his elder went to the island of Paros and eventually settled on the island of Pholegandros.

**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 Holy Dormition (First Mode)**
In giving birth, you preserved your virginity; in your dormition, you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, since you are the Mother of Life; and by your intercessions you redeem our souls from death.

*En ti Yennísi, tin parthenían efílaxas. En ti Kimísi, ton kózmon u katélipes Theotóke. Metéstis pros tin zo-ín, Mítir ipárhusa tis zo-ís, ke tes prezví-es tes ses litruméni, ek thanátu tas psihás imón.*

**Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Mode)**
O Lord, by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at Your command: that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

***Repeat the Hymn of Holy Dormition.***

**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 Dormition (Second Mode)**
The grave and death could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions and an unfailing hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life she was translated to life by Him Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

## EPISTLE READING

**1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (Eighth Sunday of Matthew)**
Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaios; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

## GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 14:14-22 (Eighth Sunday of Matthew)**
At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and He had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then He made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

**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

**Monday, August 19**
Ioan on vacation through August 30

**Tuesday, August 20**
Fr. Matthew out of town
- Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, August 21**
- Bible Study 10:00 am
- Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
- **Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer** (at 14485 SW Walker Rd—***not*** at new property) 6:30 pm
- *Growing in the Faith* Catechism Class: 7:30 pm "The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer"

**Thursday, August 22**
- **Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children** 9:00 am

**Friday, August 23**
Church Office Closed through August 26

**Saturday, August 24**
**St. Kosmas of Aetolia**
- **Orthros** 8:30 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 9:30 am

**Sunday, August 25**
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship follows Liturgy
- Kids Clothing Swap 11:45 am
- Middle Eastern Festival at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church 12:00 pm