WORK PARTY TODAY! All are welcome to help at the new church property, 1:00-4:00 pm today. Bring your work clothes and help with spreading wood chips, clearing brush, and other outdoor projects.

FAMILY MEETUP … after Divine Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos this Thursday, 9:30-11:30 am. Join us for discussion for parents, playdate for younger kids, and learning/activity time for older homeschooled kids! Reach out to Bailey A. (419-913-6899) with questions.

JOIN US FOR CROSSROADS MINISTRY … on Thursday, November 21 at 1:30 pm. We will have a chair fitness class with Mo E., to help lessen arthritis pain. Lunch will be provided.

THANKSGIVING AT THE CHURCH: If anyone is interested in gathering at the Church for a Thanksgiving dinner ***potluck***—at 4:00 pm on November 28), contact Leslie or Paul M. We will be bringing fast-appropriate dishes, but all contributions are welcome.

HOSTING SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Share your *philoxenia* "love for strangers" through a snack or a meal. (Up to $150 can be reimbursed.) Sign up here, in the weekly email, or on the kitchen clipboard:

EASY "HOW TO HOST" GUIDE: Feeding the masses can feel pretty daunting! Don't worry, it's easier than you think. Just scan this QR code to find our handy hosting guide, complete with FAQ's and even sample menus. No experience necessary!

TASSO THANKS YOU … for your feather donations. Donations may be made in person or through PayPal on the church website. May this almsgiving effort be blessed in every way as we strive to help our brothers and sisters in Christ

ADOPT A FAMILY for Christmas is coming up soon. Please watch for the sign up genius if you would like to purchase a gift on the list.

Q4 STEWARDSHIP STATEMENTS ... were mailed on October 17. Contact Barbara or Michael P. if you didn't receive yours.

JR GOYA (6th-8th) SERVICE PROJECT: Tuesday, November 26 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm during Thanksgiving Break. We will pack food at Oregon Food Bank's Portland Warehouse. Bring a warm jacket and closed-toed shoes. Meet at St. John's at 5:00 pm to carpool.

NAVIGATING TECHNOLOGY AS PARENTS: On Thursday, Dec 5, 6:00-8:30 pm, Shawn Marshall, MA, LPC will discuss the entire trajectory of preparing to give your children technology to after giving it to them. Light refreshments to follow talk with Q & A. Childcare will be available.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NIGHT—SAINT NICHOLAS CAROLING PARTY: Our annual St. Nicholas Caroling Party is coming up on December 7, 5:00-7:00 pm! Come share in the joy that St. Nicholas brings! We will have a potluck dinner and ask that A-G families bring salad; H-P bring the main dish (fish and oil allowed); and R-S bring dessert (no dairy please).

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

November 17, 2024

St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Neocaesarea

St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocaesarea, was born in that city in northern Asia Minor into a prominent pagan family. He studied in Beirut, where the truth was revealed to him in the Holy Gospel. Continuing his studies in Alexandria, he was baptized there. After returning to Neocaesarea, the saint fled from worldly affairs and went into the desert, where by fasting and prayer he attained great spiritual heights, as well as the gifts of clairvoyance and prophecy.

Though he wished to stay in the desert, St. Gregory was consecrated Bishop of Neocaesarea. During this time, the heresy of Sabellius and Paul of Samosata began to spread. They taught falsely concerning the Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory prayed fervently and diligently imploring God and His most pure Mother to reveal the truth to him. By the command of the Mother of God, the Apostle John taught St. Gregory the correct way to speak of the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. He wrote down all that St. John revealed to him. As a hierarch, the saint's sermons were direct, lively and fruitful. He taught and worked miracles in the name of Christ: he healed the sick, helped the needy, and settled disputes and complaints.

When the persecution of Christians began under Emperor Decius (249-251), Saint Gregory led his flock to a faraway mountain. A certain pagan, who knew where the Christians were hiding, informed the persecutors, and soldiers surrounded the mountain. The Saint went out into an open place, raised his hands to heaven, and ordered his deacon to do the same. The soldiers searched the entire mountain, and several times they went right past those who were praying. Unable to see them, they gave up and went away. In the city they reported that there was nowhere to hide on the mountain. There were no people, just two trees standing next to each other. The informer was struck with amazement, he repented of his ways and became a devout Christian.

Saint Gregory returned to Neocaesarea after the end of the persecution. With his blessing, Church feasts were established in honor of the martyrs who had suffered for Christ. By the holiness of his life, his effective preaching, his miracles, and inspired guidance of his flock, St/ Gregpru increased the number of converts to Christ. At the time of his repose, virtually all the people of Neocaesarea had become Christians.

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 (Fourth Mode)
When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel were proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.

To fedthrón tis anastáseos kírigma, ek tu anggélu mathúse e tu Kyríu mathítrie, ke tin progonikín apófasin aporrípsase, tis Apostólis kafhómene élegon: Eskílefte o thánatos, iyérthi Christós o Theós, dthorúmenos to kósmo to méga éleos.

Hymn for St. Gregory the Wonderworker (Plagal Fourth Mode)
By your accomplishments, you earned the name that you bore, for you were vigilant in prayer and diligent in working miracles. Therefore, holy father Gregory, intercede with Christ our God, that He illumine our souls, lest we fall asleep in sin unto death.

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 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (4th Mode / *You Who were raised up)*
The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and brings with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; God's Angels hymn her with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 2:16-20 (Ninth Sunday of Luke)
Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:16-21 (Ninth Sunday of Luke)
The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Exult, O David, the composer of divine hymns; and dance for joy, O Joachim along with Anna; for from you has come forth a most holy offspring, yes, Mary the divine lantern bearing the light. And as she enters the Temple she does rejoice. As he saw her, the priestly son of Barachiah blest her, and full of joy he cried aloud, Rejoice, wonder of all the world.

Today the Theotokos, who is the temple that contains God, is led into the Temple of God; and Zacharias welcomes her. Today the Holy of Holies is exultant, and the chorus of Angels mystically celebrates. Together with them let us also keep the feast today, and with Gabriel let us cry aloud: Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace, the Lord is with you; and He has the great mercy.

~ Hymns from the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 17
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship (following services)
- Artisan Fair & Logos Bookstore Sale 12:00 pm
- Work Party at New Church Property 1:00 pm
  (10050 NE Walker Rd, Hillsboro

Monday, November 18
- **Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am

Tuesday, November 19
- **Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am
- Young Women's Book Study 9:30 am
- Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 20
- **Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am
  at Forerunner Chapel (10050 NE Walker)
- Bible Study 10:00 am
- Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
- **Great Vespers—Entrance of Theotokos** 6:30 pm
- Fullness of the Faith Catechism Class 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 21
- **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am
- Family Meetup at Church 9:30 am

Friday, November 22
- **St. Iakovos of Evia**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am
- Young Men's Group at Church 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 23
- **Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)** 7:00 am
- **Great Vespers** 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 24
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- **Churching, Theodore James McFarland** 11:30 am
- Fellowship, Sunday School, & Theology
  101 Adult Study (following services)