STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: After Liturgy, the 2025 Stewardship Commitment Cards will be blessed. Please bring your card forward.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION IS TODAY: All parish stewards are encouraged to vote.

WOMAN'S MONASTERY RETREAT … in Goldendale, WA, December 13-14. For info and to register, email: RachelDaniels503@gmail.com.

HOSTING SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Share your *philoxenia* "love for strangers" through a snack or a meal. (Up to $150 can be reimbursed.) Sign up here or 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!

GOYA (9th-12th) WHITE ELEPHANT: Join your friends for a white elephant gift exchange, dinner, and storytelling on Saturday, December 14, 6:30-9:00 pm at the Efird's home! Please bring a wrapped gift (value of around $10.) Reach out to Sam and Naomi Swan if you need a ride.

JR GOYA (6th-8th) GIFT EXCHANGE … on Sunday, December 15, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Jungwirth's! Come for dinner, discussion, and a white elephant gift exchange!

ALL WELCOME: AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE! Please join the students of ASA for their annual Nativity Program on Friday, December 13 at 6:30pm. If you have questions, contact Christina Blankenstein at christina@asapdx.org.

TEEN CAROLING OUTING: Our teens will sing carols at the homes of our seniors on Saturday, December 21, 6:30-9:00 pm. Come and join in the blessing of Christmas cheer!

MOM'S N TOTS PLAYDATE … is 9:30-11:00 am on Thursday, December 19.

YOUNG MEN'S GROUP … will meet on Friday, December 20, 6:00-9:00 pm at Joseph Lubliner's home. You may email for questions to jlubliner92@gmail.com.

VISIT THE CHURCH NEW PROPERTY … whenever you're driving by or want to have a moment of prayer and stillness. Read the Akathist to St. John or say any other prayers—in the Forerunner Chapel or at the Icon Stand along the driveway. Every prayer helps to sanctify our new church home: 10050 NE Walker Road, Hillsboro!

DONATE ICONS FOR BUILDING FUND! Thanks to all participants. November sales though the Logos Bookstore have raised over $400, making total donations over $2.5K! Any parishioner can contribute by bringing used Icons and Orthodox items to the Bookstore, clearly marked "Building Fund." May God bless our efforts!

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: Nordling (open) and Blankenstein (close) Greeter: Maggie and Sandy
Cleanup Team 1: Galan, Anderson, Hudanish, Dressler, Krogh, Blankenstein

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

December 8, 2024

Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos • Our Righteous Father Patapios

St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St. Joachim, who was a native of Galilee. For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, who would bring blessings to all mankind. Panagia (the Theotokos) was like everyone else in her mortality and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, she would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt. The conception by St. Anna of the Panagia took place in Jerusalem.

St. Patapios was born and brought up in the Faith by pious parents in the Egyptian city of Thebes. At an early age he perceived the vanity of this world and withdrew into the wilderness of Egypt. There he devoted himself to a life of asceticism, cleansing his heart of all earthly desires and thoughts for the sake of God's love. However, when his virtues became known among the people, they began to come to him and to seek solace from him in their sufferings. Fearing the praise of men, which darkens the minds of men and separates them from God, St. Patapios fled this wilderness to Constantinople, because he thought that he could hide himself more easily in the city than in the wilderness. St. Patapios built a hut for himself near the Church of Blachernae. Unknown there, he continued his ascetical life. However a light cannot be hidden. A child, blind from birth, was led by God's providence to St. Patapios. He besought the saint to pray to God that he be given his sight and be able to look upon God's creation—thus allowing him to praise God all the more. St. Patapios, having compassion on the suffering child, prayed to God, and the child's sight was restored. This miracle revealed God's chosen one throughout the entire city, and people rushed to him for healing, comfort and instruction. Many other miracles did St. Patapios perform, through prayer in the name of Christ and by the sign of the Cross. He entered into rest peacefully in old age in the seventh century.

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 (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.

Katélisas to Stavró Su ton thánaton, inéoxas to listí ton Parádthison. Ton Mirofóron ton thrínon metévales, ke tis sis Apostólis kiríttin epétaxas: óti anéstis Christé o Theós, paréhon to kósmo to méga éleos.

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 Forefeast of Nativity (Third Mode / *On this day the Virgin)*
On this day the Virgin * comes to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:14-22 (Tenth Sunday of Luke)
Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:10-17 (Tenth Sunday of Luke)
At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 8
Stewardship Sunday
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School & Theology 101 follow
PC Elections 12:00 pm

Monday, December 9
Conception by St. Anna of Holy Theotokos
Orthros 7:15 am
Divine Liturgy 8:15 am

Tuesday, December 10
Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers) 5:30 am

Wednesday, December 11
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
Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 12
St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
Orthros 7:15 am
Divine Liturgy 8:15 am
Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, December 13
St. Herman of Alaska & St. Lucia
Women's Monastery Retreat thru Saturday
Orthros 7:15 am
Divine Liturgy 8:15 am
ASA Christmas Performance 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 14
Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers) 7:00 am
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
GOYA (9th-12th) Meeting 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 15
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School & Theology 101 follow
Jr. GOYA (6th-8th) Meeting 6:30 pm