LITURGY IN THE FORERUNNER CHAPEL … will take place this month on Thursdays, February 6 & 20 at 5:30 am. (Please park on the upper driveway, in front of the garage or the Chapel House to avoid the mud in the lower area.)

ST. JOHN'S ONLINE DIRECTORY: Are you newer to the church? Want to connect a name to a face? Or call that person that you connected with at church? Please contact Barbara in the Church Office to be included and given access.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN … so make sure to register soon (using the QR code) for Week 3, July 20-26. Registration will fill up soon! Financial assistance is also available: please talk to Fr. Matthew. This summer we plan to carpool together and to visit St. John Maximovich in San Francisco during our drive down.

MEATFARE TALENT SHOW & POTLUCK: On Sunday, February 23, bring a dish to share (the last of the meat in your fridge) and your best talent: musical performances, jokes, storytelling, sleight of hand tricks...! All ages are encouraged to participate and to sign up using the QR code.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL 2025: Our parish's St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will take place on Sunday, March 9 in the church after Liturgy. See the weekly email for topics and registration. For more info, email Jodi H: mandjhailey@hotmail.com.

HOUSE BLESSINGS: This is the last week to schedule house blessings for February. Contact Barbara to schedule.

WOMEN'S CRAFT NIGHT & POTLUCK: Ladies, bring a craft or come for fellowship and a potluck, at 6:00 pm on Saturday, February 15.

SENIOR MINISTRIES ... (formerly Crossroads) will kick off the year with our first lunch on Thursday, February 20 at 1:00 pm. Enjoy a light lunch and a discussion with Father Matthew. Senior Ministries is intended for anyone 55+, but all are welcome! We will meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 1:00 pm in the South Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please see Mo E. or Helen S.

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!

ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT AT ST GEORGE: Support St. George Antiochian Church as they work toward filling their nave and sanctuary with iconography—the first Orthodox church in the Portland area to do so! Attend their Iconography Banquet on Saturday, February 22 at 5:00 pm. Your donation of $100 per person for dinner will go directly toward this iconography project. RSVP here:

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: Anderson (open) and Corazza (close) Greeter: Noelle and Dennis
Cleanup Team 9: Corazza, Nordling, Dixon, McCormick, Kepler, Corazza J.

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

February 2, 2025

The Meeting our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. According to the Law of Moses, forty days after a woman has given birth to a male child, she must come to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law. At this time the righteous Elder St. Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St. Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St. Joseph brought Jesus to fulfill the Law. The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and for the glory of Your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). St. Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yes, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35). At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow St. Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel, who did not leave the Temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St. Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for the Messiah. In the icon of the feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established heaven and earth." Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple. The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church, attested by sermons on the feast from Saints Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory the Theologian, Gregory of Nyssa, John Chrysostom, and others.

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

Special Second Antiphon for the Feast
Save us, O Son of God, who were carried in the arms of Simeon. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of the Meeting of our Lord (First Mode)
Rejoice, you who are full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice also, O righteous Elder, as you receive in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also grants unto us the Resurrection.

Hyé-re kecharitoméni Theotóke Parthéne; ek su gar anétilen o Ílios tis dthikeosínis, Christós o Theós imón, fotízon tus en skóti. Effrénu ke si Presvíta dthíke-e, dthexámenos en angkáles ton eleftherotín ton psihón imón, harizómenos imín ke tin Anástasin.

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 Hymn of the Meeting of our Lord

Kontakion of the Meeting of our Lord (1st Mode)
You Who sanctified the Virgin's womb by Your birth, and blessed Symeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation have even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Your commonwealth, and strengthen the hierarchs whom You have loved, O only Friend of man.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 7:7-17 (The Meeting of our Lord)
Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the Law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the Law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL READING

Luke 22:22-40 (The Meeting of our Lord)
At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Symeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 2
The Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, & Theology
101 Adult Study (following services)

Tuesday, February 4
Architecture Team 2.0 Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 5
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm
Growing in the Faith Class: 7:00 pm
"The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer"

Thursday, February 6
Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers) 5:30 am
at the Forerunner Chapel
(10050 NE Walker Rd, Hillsboro)
Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children 9:00 am

Saturday, February 8
Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Jr. GOYA (9th-12th) Meeting 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 9
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, & Theology
101 Adult Study (following services)