BUILDING FUND BAKE SALE TODAY:! Buy some Lenten treats and baked goods to enjoy!

UNDERSTANDING HOLY WEEK: In the narthex you can find a stapled packet and a folded brochure that describe Holy Week and the services leading up to Pascha. Please feel free to take each of them home, so that you can plan your (family's) liturgical schedule for that week!

ELDER CLEOPA CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE: Today's the last day for 20% off any of the 10 volumes.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON TICKETS: The annual luncheon benefitting St. John the Forerunner Monastery is April 13. Please purchase your tickets in advance: $15 per person; $45 per family. Use this QR code.

COME ENJOY THE PASCHA PICNIC ... on Sunday, April 20. If possible, pay $10 per adult or $35 per family, but above all ***come!*** Pay more if you can, as any extra proceeds go the Benevolence Fund. Scan QR code to purchase tickets.

PASCHA - BREAKING OF THE FAST: Let's join for a joyous feasting finger food potluck to celebrate the Resurrection. Please clean up after your family as there is no clean-up team at 3:00 am :-)

WORK PARTY AT THE FORERUNNER PROPERTY: Come offer your help on the new property, every Thursday at 4:00 pm during Lent.

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

Helping with Holy Week & Pascha

LAZARUS SATURDAY Join us for pancakes and palm tying on Saturday, April 12 after liturgy. Please see the bulletin board in the SFH about ***how you can contribute to the breakfast!*** Thank you!

BAY LEAVES NEEDED! If you (or a friend) have a bay laurel bush in your yard and don't mind cutting a bough or two from it, please contact Fr. Matthew as soon as possible. The bay leaves are used in the Holy Saturday morning Liturgy. Thank you!

HELP BEAUTIFY GOD'S HOUSE: Help is needed for all the Holy Week and Pascha flowers. An hour or two of your time, greatly helps! No experience needed! Everything can be explained and demonstrated. ***If there aren't any volunteers, we will be unable to decorate the iconostasis.*** Sign up with the QR code.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL SIGNUPS: You may sign up via the QR code for one hour increments of reading the Psalms, from Holy Thursday, through Holy Friday, 10:30 pm to 9:00 am.

OFFER YOUR FLOWERS TO CHRIST'S TOMB: We need fresh cut ***bright*** flowers for the kouvouklion (the tomb of Christ)—to be brought on Holy Friday, April 18, by 9:00 am. (Label your container.) Don't have any flowers? Consider giving a donation. Contact Lauri at laurichosvig@yahoo.com.

DYE YOUR RED EGGS FOR PASCHA: On Holy Friday or Holy Saturday, ***hard-boil*** a dozen eggs then dye them red and put them in the church refrigerator. See the bookstore for dye and directions. Tips for dyeing eggs are on our website under: Resources - Parish Cookbook - Liturgical Recipes.

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 Makarounis (close) Greeter: Don and Lori
Cleanup Team 6: Kemper, Lindgren, Lowe, Cawley, Psiropoulos, Barnes, Makarounis

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

April 6, 2025

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

Saint Mary was born and raised in Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Justinian (527-656). She was a woman of remarkable beauty. Although baptized a Christian by her parents, upon reaching adolescence, Mary turned to a life of fornication. Finally after seventeen years of this life, her insatiable desires brought her to Jerusalem on the Third Sunday of Lent: the Feast of the Veneration of the Holy Cross. Joining a group of Christians, whose love for Christ peaked her curiosity, she attempted to follow them into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to see the relic of the Holy Cross. She was prevented, however, from crossing over the threshold of the church by an invisible power. She tried several more times, but each time was unable to enter. For the first time in her life, Mary began to fear God, to see her sinfulness and to realize that it was her own unworthiness that prevented her from entering this holy place. In a fervent act of repentance, Mary vowed to turn from her sins. She immediately made a sincere supplication to the Theotokos and was allowed to venerate the Holy Cross. After leaving the church, Mary went to a monastery near the Jordan River on the edge of the desert, where she confessed her sins and received Holy Communion. With only two loaves of bread and the clothes on her back, Mary left the world to enter the desert and further repent of her immoral life. For the next forty years, Mary lived in the desert, shedding many tears, praying and fighting-off many unspeakable temptations from her former life. Mary's sincere repentance allowed her to be purged and sanctified by God's merciful grace. At the very end of her life, Mary came into contact with the Hieromonk St. Zosima, who heard her confession and gave her Holy Communion. With the zeal of the martyrs, St. Mary became one whose life is upheld by the Church as an example of repentance. During Great Lent, each of us seeks repentance, turning from our own vices and passions and setting our minds and hearts on God. Through the intercessions of the most Holy Theotokos, God grants us the gift of compunction to turn from our wounds and sins to find healing and comfort in Him. Let us remember and be inspired by Saint Mary of Egypt and her wonderful redemption. During the remainder of this Lenten journey, may we pray to be freed from our imprisonment to the passions that enslave us and strive to sincerely repent no matter how grave our sins.

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 4th Mode)
From on high did You descend, O Merciful Lord. For us did You endure three days in the tomb that we may be released from passions in this world. You who are our resurrection and our life, glory unto You, O Lord.

Ex ípsus katílthes, o éfsplanghnos, tafín katedthéxo trimeron, ína imás eleftherósis ton pathón. I zoí ke i Anástasis imón, Kýrie, dthóxa si.

Hymn of St. Mary of Egypt (Plagal 4th Mode)
In you the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for, taking up your cross, you followed Christ, and by your deeds you taught us to overlook the flesh, for it passes away, but to attend to the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore, O righteous Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

Hymn of St. John the Baptist (2nd 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 Theotokos (2nd Mode)
A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 9:11-14 (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt)
Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10: 32-45 (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt)
At that time, Jesus took His twelve disciples, and He began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and spit upon Him, and scourge Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And He said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Megalynarion for the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Instead of "It Is Truly Right")
In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices – both the congregations of angels and the human race. O consecrated temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins, from you was God incarnate and became a child – He, our God, who existed before the ages. For He made your womb a throne and He made you more spacious than the heavens. In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY APRIL 6
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School & Theology 101 Adult Study following

MONDAY, APRIL 7
Great Compline 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm
Lenten Pan-Orthodox Meal 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children 9:00 am
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 pm
Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
Presancitified Liturgy 8:00 am

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
Lazarus Saturday
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Palm Tying & Pancake Breakfast 11:00 am
Baptism of Elliana (Elizabeth) Yurlova 12:30 pm
Myrrh-Bearing Maidens Retreat 1:00 pm
Great Vespers 5:00 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
Palm Sunday
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Palm Sunday Luncheon 12:00 pm
Bridegroom Orthros 7:00 pm