LOAN PAYOFF IS OUR TOP BUILDING FUND PRIORITY! We have about $500,000 to raise. We're requesting ***each household*** to submit a commitment card for what they can contribute by October. No amount is too small! Fill out an online card through this QR code, or a printed card—in the ***bright yellow*** envelopes on the Welcome table—at church.

WHO WILL OFFER LOVE TO STRANGERS? Few Sundays have fellowship hosts… ***All*** families are invited to host fellowship, offering your *philoxenia* "love for strangers" through a snack or a meal. (Up to $150 can be reimbursed.) Sign up through this QR code:

SUMMER HOURS FOR SERVICES … begin soon. Starting on May 24, Saturday Vespers will be at 6:00 pm. And after ASA's last day of school on June 11, weekday services will be: 8:30 am Orthros and 9:30 am Liturgy. *(Sunday services will remain the same: 8:45 am Orthros and 10:00 am Liturgy.)*

PNW YOUNG ADULT RETREAT! Meet other 19-30 year olds over Mmorial Day Weekend, May 23-25, in Goldendale at Sts. Joachim & Anna Church. RSVP at this QR code:

GOYA MONASTERY TRIP, MAY 23-24: Highschoolers, join us for an enriching time at the monastery in Goldendale as well as a night trip to the observatory. RSVP to Sam.

MEN'S BEACH RETREAT … is May 28-31. $50/person covers food & cleaning. ($35 for a one-night stay.) Space is limited. Contact Brandon at cravetruth@yahoo.com to RSVP by May 26.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION AND SHOWCASE … on May 18 after Liturgy. Celebrate our graduates and students, and thank our teachers and youth workers.

HOPE & JOY (K-5th Grade) FLOWER BOX PLANTING: Sunday, May 25, we have our annual flower box planting event! We will start around noon.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER (OCMC) DINNER & PRESENTATION … at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Portland on Saturday, May 17 at 6:30 pm (with Vespers at 5:00 pm). Preseentation by Fr James Retelas & missionaries Jesse Brandow & Juanita Pascual on how OCMC missionaries serve as disciples of Christ across the globe. All proceeds benefit OCMC. See the flyer on the bulletin board or in the weekly email.

SENIOR MINISTRY (Age 55+) MEETING: Please join on Thursday, May 15 at 1:00 pm for our monthly meeting & lunch. The speaker is Deacon Innocent. Please refer questions to Mo E. or Helen S.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT TO HELP FAMILY PROMISE: On May 17 after Vespers, 6:00-8:00 pm, we will have a finger food potluck and help prepare simple meals to freeze for families in need. All ingredients are provided. Frozen meals will be distributed through Family Promise. Sponsored by Philoptochos. Please RSVP to Kendall M. or Lori S.

SEASONED FIRE WOOD FOR SALE … from the Forerunner Property. Recommended donation to the building fund is: $200 for full cord or $100 for half. Extra $50 for delivery. Bundles available for $5. Pick up on Thursdays during Work Party hours from about 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Order ahead with Jon C at (503) 840-7991 or corazzajl@gmail.com

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: Statler (open) and Corazza (close) Greeter: Lisa and Mina
Cleanup Team 9: Corazza, Nordling, Dixon, McCormack, Kepler, Corazza

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

May 11, 2025

Sunday of the Paralytic

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants (Exodus 7:20). Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19). In Exodus 14, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. After they crossed, the waters came together, and their pursuers were drowned. On their 40-year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidem, but there was no water for them to drink. The people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6). In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water. On the 4th Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for 38 years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. The Lord felt compassion for him and healed him. The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to St. John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath. Like the Old Testament, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Pool, once a year, one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine Baptism. As in the case of St. Vladimir, Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities. In the Canon for the Paralytic, the Angel who stirred the water in the Sheep Pool is the Archangel Michael. In Ode 3 we ask him to "protect us from falling into the passions of life." In Ode 6, we ask him to guide us on the path of life." In Ode 8, we ask him to pray with all the Bodiless Hosts, that we may be granted deliverance from our offenses, correction of our life, and the enjoyment of eternal blessings. As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts" (Kontakion of the Paralytic).

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 for Pascha (Plagal First Mode)
Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Christós anésti ek nekrón, thanáto thánaton patísas, ke tis en tis mnímasi zo-ín harisámenos.

Entrance Hymn of Pascha (2nd Mode)
Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Resurrectional Hymn (Third Mode)
Let all things above in heaven rejoice; let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and firstborn of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

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. Wherefore, 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 Pascha (Plagal Fourth Mode)
Though You descended to the tomb, Immortal One, You then completely tore the strength of Hades down, and You rose up, as one who conquers all, Christ our God, calling out to the myrrh-bearing women, "Rejoice," and You gave Your divine peace unto all Your apostles, too, You who have granted the fallen to rise again.

EPISTLE READING

Acts 9: 32-42 (Sunday of the Paralytic)
In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL READING

John 5: 1-15 (Sunday of the Paralytic)
At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Instead of "It Is Truly Right" (First Mode)
The angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin, and again I shall say, Rejoice! Your Son has resurrected from the grave on the third day. With one voice, O Virgin, we the believers call you blessed. O rejoice, You the Lord's gate; city animate, rejoice. Lady, rejoice, for today the light of the resurrection from the dead of the Son Whom you have borne has shone on us.

Communion Hymn of Pascha
Partake of the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality..

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, MAY 11
Sunday of the Paralytic
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, and Theology 101 Adult Study follow Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14
Mid-Pentecost
ASA Feast Day
Orthros 7:15 am
Divine Liturgy 8:15 am
ASA Sponsored Fellowship
NO Bible Study
Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist 6:00 pm
Growing in the Faith Catechism Class: "The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer" 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, MAY 15
Senior (55+) Ministry Luncheon 1:00 pm
Speaker: Deacon Innocent
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 17
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
OCMC (Orthodox Christian Missions Center) Dinner at St. George in Portland 6:00 pm
Women's Fellowship: Potluck and Meal Prep for Family Promise 6:00 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 18
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows
Sunday School Showcase & Graduation 12:00 pm

MONDAY, MAY 19
Church office closed through Thursday, May 22