FULLNESS OF THE FAITH CLASS: Learn about Orthodox spirituality, prayer, theology, and iconography, and the 2,000-year history of the Church in this 12-week series. Classes are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (after 6:00 pm Paraklesis) beginning September 10. *All are welcome*—to deepen their Orthodox Faith.

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:

WOMEN'S MINISTRY DISCUSSION…with Father: Talk, fellowship & Potluck. September 13 6:30-8:30pm (after Vespers). All women welcome!

GOYA MEETING High schoolers, join us for games, dinner, and discussion at the Forerunner Property house September 13 after Vespers! Questions, contact Sam Swan.

SENIOR MINISTRIES (55+): Come and join us on Thursday, September 18 at 1:00pm as our meetings resume again after the summer break. Light lunch will be served. Questions? Contact Mo E or Helen S

MEN'S NIGHT OUT: The next Men's Event is September 15 at 6:00 pm. Let's meet at BG's Food Cartel in Beaverton. 4250 SW Rose Biggi Ave. No need to RSVP. Just show up!

CELEBRATE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORERUNNER CHAPEL! On September 1, 2024, our parish had its first Liturgy at the new church property. Celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the Forerunner Chapel by coming to Liturgy on Thursday, September 18 at 8:30am, then joining for fellowship afterwards at the Chapel House (10050 NE Walker Rd, Hillsboro). We will also have Liturgy on Thursday, September 11 at 5:30am.

BOOKSTORE WORK PARTY to build the new bookshelves. Thursday, September 11 at 5pm. Sign up at the Logos Bookstore table.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: If you have not registered before, or have updated information for your child, please complete the form by scanning the QR code for children who will be ages 4-18 as of Dec 31, 2025. Sunday School will starting on Sep. 14! Questions? Contact Nika at sundayschooldirectorsjb@gmail.com or Sam at youthdirector@stjohngoc.org.

SUPPORT PORTLAND'S PAN-ORTHODOX CHURCHES … by attending their festivals! St. Stephen's Serbian Festival is on Saturday-Sunday, September 13-14. St. George's Middle East Festival is on Saturday-Sunday, September 20-21. See the weekly email or the bulletin board for details.

ASA GREEK OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT & DINNER Tuesday, September 23 at 1:00 pm, Dinner at 5:30 pm Register at:wwwGreekOpen.com Early Bird Pricing ends September 13.

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: Silva (open) and Chosvig (close) Greeter: Don and Lori
Cleanup Team 2: Bourquin, Braden, Brunson, Wilson, Dahl, Chosvig

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

September 7, 2025

Sozon the Martyr • Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

The holy Martyr Sozon was a shepherd in Lycaonia. Born a pagan, named Tarasius, he received holy Baptism and was renamed Sozon. Filled with zeal for the truth, he taught his countrymen to desist from the worship of idols. Once he entered the temple of Artemis in Pompeiopolis of Cilicia, cut off the golden hand of the idol, and breaking it in pieces, distributed it among the poor. When he saw that many were being unjustly punished for the theft, of his own accord he gave himself up to Maximian the Governor. He was beaten with rods until his bones were broken. According to some, he suffered martyrdom in 288; according to others, in 304.

It is fitting that the first and last major feasts of the ecclesiastical year are those of the Nativity and Dormition of the Theotokos respectively. According to the ancient tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Joachim and Anna. St. Joachim was of the tribe of Judah and a descendant of King David. St Anna was of the tribe of Levi, the daughter of a priest named Matthan. Matthan's three daughters were Mary, Zoia and Anna. Mary became the mother of Salome the Myrrhbearer; Zoia bore Elizabeth, mother of St John the Baptist; and Anna married Joachim in Nazareth. Joachim and Anna, to their great sorrow, were barren for fifty years. They lived prayerfully and kept only a third of their income for themselves, giving a third to the poor and a third to the Temple. Once when they had come to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice at the Temple, Joachim was publicly scorned by the High Priest Issachar for his childlessness. Joachim and Anna, greatly grieved, prayed fervently that God would grant them the miracle that he had wrought for Abraham and Sarah, and give them a child in their old age. Once, as each was praying separately in a secluded place, angels appeared to each of them and revealed to them that they would be given a blessed daughter, `by whom all nations will be blessed, and through whom will come the salvation of the world.' They both rushed home to tell one another the joyous news, and embraced when they met. Anna conceived and gave birth to the Most Holy Theotokos. Both reposed in peace, not long after they had sent her to live in the Temple in Jerusalem. Sts. Joachim and Anna are comemmorated Sept. 9th.

Please make every effort to *attend* the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos tomorrow, Monday, September 8 with Orthros & Divine Liturgy begining at 7:15 a.m.

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 of the Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Fourth Mode / *Joseph was amazed*)
From the root of Jesse and the loins of David the great king, Mariam, the child of God, is born for our sake on this day. Hence, all creation exults now on its renewal. Both heaven and the earth rejoice together now. Praise her, O you tribes of nations here below. The righteous Joachim rejoices, * and Anna keeps feast, crying out: * The barren bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

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 the Nativity of the Theotokos (Third Mode / *On this day the Virgin*)
On this day the virgin Maid, Mary the true Theotokos, the inviolate bridal room of the heavenly Bridegroom, by the will of God is born of a barren woman, to prepare to be the carriage of God the Logos, as for this she had been destined, to be the gateway of God and Mother of Life.

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)
Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:13-17 (Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)
The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship follows
- Ministry Fair 12:00 pm
- **Great Vespers--Nativity of Theotokos** 6:30 pm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
- **Nativity of the Theotokos**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am
- Family Meetup 9:45 am

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
- Bible Study 10:00 am
- Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
- **Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist** 6:00 pm
- "*Fullness of the Faith*" 7:00 pm
  12 Week Catechism Class
- Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
- **Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers** 5:30 am
  at the Forerunner Chapel
- **Akathist to the Mother of God Nurturer of Children** 9:00 am
- Work Party at the Logos Bookstore 4:00 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
- Kid's Clothing Swap 2:00 pm
- **Great Vespers and Akathist for the Elevation of the Holy Cross** 5:00 pm
- Women's Ministry Discussion & Fellowship 6:30 pm
- GOYA (9^{th}-12^{th}) Meeting 6:30 pm
  at the Forerunner Property

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Elevation of the Holy Cross - Wine/Oil Fast Day
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Procession w/ the Holy Cross** 9:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am
- Fellowship, First Day of Sunday School & Theology 101 Adult Study follows
- Kids Clothing Swap 12:00 pm