TODAY IS THE ARTISAN FAIR: Come support our parish artisans and the Building Fund—and shop for Christmas too! Our annual Artisan Fair is on! You'll be treated to booths bursting with handcrafted Christmas delights. Can't wait to see you there!

NATIVITY AND THE FORTY LITURGIES: During this blessed season of preparation for our Lord's incarnation, we will have daily Liturgies. Please make effort to prepare for the Christmas by coming to these Liturgies. Note: Every Thursday the Liturgy will take place at the Forerunner Chapel at the new property (10050 NE Walker Road, Hillsboro).

HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP … using this QR Code or on the kitchen clipboard.

SENIOR MINISTRY HOLIDAY TEA In lieu of our December meeting, we will be having our annual Holiday Tea at the new property on Thursday, January 8 at 1:00pm. Join us for the festivities as we ring in the new year! A ride from our current property to the new property will be provided. Please let Mo E know if you need a ride.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT - Let's get together to enjoy fellowship on one of the last fish-wine-oil days before the Nativity! At WildFin (2725 SW Cedar Hills Blvd #130), Monday, December 8, 5:00-8:00 pm. Come when you can, no RSVP needed. Tables reserved in the restaurant under "Brandon."

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: On Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 pm we will have our second—and hopefully last!—planning commission meeting at the Civic Center Auditorium, 150 E Main, Hllsboro.

COME WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF ST. JOHN: We will have an "all hands on deck" work party at the new church roperty (10050 NE Walker Rd, Hillsboro) Come and lend a hand! Saturday, December 13, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION: Please consider serving on parish council. By December 7, please submit nominations via the QR code to the election committee (Kristina H.H., Zoya C. or Crystal S.), or Erik C. Election will take place on Sunday, December 14.

WHITE ELEPHANT PARTIES FOR OUR TEENS! Wear a Christmas sweater and bring about a $10 value wrapped or bagged gift to your respective party…
FOR GOYA: At Brian & Shannon R's house on Saturday, December 13 after Vespers (until 9:00 pm)
FOR JR. GOYA: At Cam & Halli P's house on Sunday, December 14, 6:15-8:15 pm.

TEEN (6th-12th) CAROLING OUTING: Middle through high schoolers, on December 20, 6:00-9:00 pm. Join us for a lovely evening of caroling at the homes of seniors in our parish! We will start with dinner at church after Vespers, go caroling, then share hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies before parents pick up at 9:00 pm. Please *RSVP* to Sam Swan so that we can be sure to have enough vehicles and approved drivers for the evening.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT: On Sunday, December 28 at 6:00 pm, join the mom's of St. John for a Christmas Potluck and White Elephant Party at Rachel D's home.

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 Daniels (close) Greeter: Dennis and Noelle
Cleanup Team 3: Cherry, Contreras, Efird, Cox, Daniels

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 7, 2025

St. Ambrose Bishop of Milan

St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, was born in 340 into the family of the Roman prefect of Gaul.After the death of the father of the family, Ambrose journeyed to Rome, where he and his brother Satyrios received an excellent education. About the year 370, upon completion of his study, Ambrose was appointed to the governor of the districts of Liguria and Aemilia, though he continued to live at Mediolanum (now Milan). In the year 374 Auxentios, the Arian Bishop of Milan, died. This led to complications between the Orthodox and the Arians. Ambrose went to resolve the dispute. While he was speaking, the people began chanting, for him to become bishop, He considered himself unworthy.as a catechumen He disparaged himself, and tried to flee. The matter went before the emperor Valentinian (364-375), and he was baptized and, passed through all the ranks of the Church in 7 days, on December 7, 374. He was consecrated as bishop, dispersed all his worldly possessions and became a strict ascetic. He combined temperance, vigilance and work in his duties as archpastor and defended the unity of the Church, from heresy. In 379, he establish an Orthodox bishop at Sirmium, and in 385-386 refused to hand over the basilica of Milan to the Arians. His preaching in defense of Orthodoxy was influential. St. Augustine, bore witness to this, having accepted holy Baptism in the year 387 by the saint. He actively participated in civil matters and saw all as equal. The emperor Gracian (375-383), having received the "Exposition of the Orthodox Faith", removed the altar of Victory from the halls of the Roman senate, where oaths were taken. He placed a severe penance on the emperor Theodosios I (379-395) for the massacre of Thessalonians. He would not permit him to take communion. His fame for his actions attracted many followers from afar. Learned Persians came to him for consul. Fritigelda queen of a Germanic tribe, which often had attacked Milan, was instructed by him. He stated dogmas and she came to believe, and converted her husband and he made peace with the Romans. He was renown as a Church writer. In dogmatic compositions he set forth the Orthodox teaching about the Holy Trinity, the Sacraments, and Repentance. 5 Books on the Faith; Explication of the Symbol of the Faith, on the Incarnation, 3 Books on the Holy Spirit, on the Sacraments, and 2 books on Repentance Also a well-known book on pastoral duty. He was also a reformer of Church singing. He introduced antiphonal singing (along the Eastern or Syrian form) into the Western Church, which became known as, Ambrosian Chant. He also composed 12 hymns. He reposed the night of Holy Pascha and was buried in the Ambrosian basilica in Milan.

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 (First Mode)

The stone had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch o'er Your pure and sacred body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.

Tu líthu sfrayisthéndos ipó ton Iudthéon, ke stratiotón filassóndon to áhrandon su Sóma, anéstis tri-ímeros Sotír, dthorúmenos to kósmo tin zoín; dthiá túto e Dthinámis ton uranón evó-on si zoödthóta. Dthóxa ti Anastási su Christé, dthóxa ti vasilía su, dthóxa ti ikonomía su, móne filánthrope.

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 5:8-19 (26th Sunday after Pentecost)

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:10-17 (10th 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 7
- **Stewardship Sunday**
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Stewardship Commitment Cards** 10:00 am
- Fellowship after; No Sunday School/Theo 101
- Artisan Fair 12:00 pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8
- **Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am
- Men's Night Out at Wild Fin Cedar Hills 5:00 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
- **Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10
- **Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am
- Bible Study 10:00 am
- Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
- **Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist** 6:00 pm
- *"Fullness of the Faith"* Catechism Class 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
- **Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)** 5:30 am at the Forerunner Chapel
- **Akathist to the Mother of God** 9:00 am
- Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12
- **St. Spyridon the Wonderworker**
- **Orthros** 7:15 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am
- ASA Christmas Performance 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
- **St. Herman of Alaska & St. Lucia of Syracuse**
- **Orthros** 8:30 am
- **Divine Liturgy** 9:30 am
- Work Party at the Forerunner Property 11:30 am
- **Great Vespers** 5:00 pm
- GOYA (9th-12th) Meeting 6:15 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
- **Orthros** 8:45 am
- **Divine Liturgy and 40-Day Churching of John David Lawson** 10:00 am
- Fellowship & Sunday School follow
- PC Elections 12:00 pm
- Guatemalan OCMC Presentation 12:30 pm
  By Jesse Brandow & Juanita Pascual