

HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED: It is traditional to have your house (or business) blessed after Theophany. Please contact the church office to schedule a time. All that’s needed are an icon and a bowl of water. (Basil/rosemary sprigs, a candle, and incense are encouraged as well.) If you’d like to have coffee or lunch with Fr. Matthew & Basil when they visit, just let Barbara know, so that she can schedule extra time.

OUTDOOR BLESSING OF THE WATERS! Join us Today at 12:30 pm at Commonwealth Lake (965 SW Huntington Ave Portland, OR 97225) for a service to bless all the waters of creation.

COME WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF ST. JOHN: We’ll have an “all hands on deck” work party on Saturday, January 17, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the new church property (10050 NE Walker Rd, Hillsboro).

PAN-ORTHODOX FILM NIGHT: Come see the award-winning new film, *American Orthodox: Finding the Ancient Faith in the Modern World*, on Saturday, January 17 at Holy Trinity. We will have 5:00 pm Vespers, followed by the screening, refreshments and a Q&A with the writer/director, Robert John Hammond. The film celebrates the holiness present in our land through the lives of saints such as St. Herman of Alaska, St. Sebastian of Jackson, St. Raphael of Brooklyn, St. John of San Francisco, and others! Scan the QR code to RSVP.

HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP! Sign up using this QR Code or on the clipboard by the kitchen doorway.



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: Efird/Chosvig (open) and Mullen (close) Greeter: Vasiliki (Athena) and Elizabeth (Lisa)
Cleanup Team 8: Lupercio, Nieuwsma, Muzik, Holloway

“SUPPER FOR SIX” IS BACK! Want to get to know more people at St. John’s? Sign up for Supper for Six! Couples and other pairs (friends, parents and adult children, etc.) will be paired into groups of six. Each pair will host one dinner (or choose a restaurant) between February and June. Questions, or to sign up—email Naomi S. at naomibanham5@gmail.com.

TEEN NEW YEAR’S PARTY ... for St. John’s teens (6th-12th) at the Chapel House. Come join us after Vespers, January 24, 6:15-8:15 pm for board games and fellowship to celebrate the New Year! Pizza and drinks will be provided. Teens are encouraged to bring snacks or baked goods to share!

GOYA (9th-12th) MEETING: On January 31, 6:15-9:00 pm, come to John and Jennifer D’s house for games, dinner, fellowship, and a spiritual talk!

CONTACTING BASIL, OUR NEW PASTORAL ASSISTANT: Now that Basil M. has started his new position as Pastoral Assistant at our parish—taking over the duties of our former DYFM—he can be contacted at: youthdirector@stjohngoc.org. (Once he is ordained, he will transition to the email address frbasil@...) He has also moved into his new office and now has a church phone where you can reach him.

SAFETY FIRST—KIDS AND CARS: What a blessing it is to have so many young families at St. John! Unfortunately, several children were almost hit in the parking lot in the past few weeks. The parking lot is not a safe place for children to play. Instead, **with adult supervision**, take kids to the field behind the parking lot, so they don’t play in the parking lot.



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

January 11, 2025

St. Theodosios the Great

St. Theodosios the Great the founder of cenobitic monasticism lived during the 5th-6th centuries. He was born in Cappadocia. He toiled at church reading, chanting, and praying fervently. Yearning for the solitary life, the saint settled in Palestine into a desolate cave, where the three Magi had spent the night on their journey to Bethlehem. He lived there for 30 years in abstinence and prayer. People flocked to him, wishing to live under his guidance. When the cave became too small, he prayed for a new place. Taking a censer with cold charcoal and incense, the monk started walking into the desert. At a certain spot the charcoal ignited by itself. Here the monk established the first cenobitic monastery, or “Lavra.” Soon the Lavra became renowned, and up to 700 monks gathered at it. The Lavra aided the poor and offered shelter for wanderers. St. Theodosios was very compassionate. When a famine befell Palestine, a multitude of people gathered there, and the saint allowed everyone into the monastery. His disciples were annoyed, knowing that the monastery couldn’t feed all of them. But when they went into the bakery, they saw it was filled with bread. This miracle was repeated every time he wanted to help the destitute. At the monastery, the Saint built separate infirmaries for monks and laymen, and also a shelter for the dying. Services were arranged in various languages: Greek,

Georgian, and Armenian. All gathered to receive the Holy Mysteries in the large church, where divine services were chanted in Greek. During the reign of the Emperor Anastasios (491-518) there arose the heresy of Eutychios and Severos, which denied the sacraments and clergy. The emperor accepted this, and persecuted the Orthodox. St. Theodosios defended Orthodoxy and wrote a letter to the emperor, in which he denounced him and refuted the heresy with the teachings of the Ecumenical Councils. He affirmed that they all would firmly support the Orthodox teaching. The emperor renewed his persecution of the Orthodox. The holy Elder then showed great zeal for the truth, and went to Jerusalem and cried out for all to hear: “Whoever does not honor the four Ecumenical Councils, let him be anathema!” For this he was sent to prison, but was released after the death of the emperor. He accomplished many healings and other miracles during his life destroying locusts, saving from death soldiers, those who are shipwrecked, and those lost in the desert. Before his death, St. Theodosios summoned to him three bishops and said that he would soon fall asleep. After three days, he died at 105 years. The saint’s body was buried with reverence in the cave.

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

Second Antiphon of Theophany (Second Mode)

Save us, O Son of God, who were baptized by John in the Jordan. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of Theophany (First Mode)

When You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who have appeared and have enlightened the world, glory be to You.

En Iordtháni vaptizoménu Su, Kýrie, i tis Triádhos efaneróthi proskínisis; tu gar Yennítoros i foní prosemartíri Si, agapitón Se Yíón onomázusa; ke to Pnévma en ídthi peristerás, evevéu tu lôgu to asfalés. O epífanís Christé o Theós, ke ton kósmon fotísas, dthóxa Si.

Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal Second Mode)

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary, seeking Your pure and sacred body, then You did vanquish Hades, and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Repeat Hymn of Theophany

Hymn of St. Theodosios (Plagal Fourth Mode)

With the streams of your tears, you cultivated the barrenness of the desert; and by your sighings from the depths, you bore fruit a hundredfold in labors; and you became a luminary, shining with miracles upon the world, O Theodosius, our righteous father. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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 Theophany (Fourth Mode)

On this day You have appeared unto the whole world, and Your light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Your praise and chant with knowledge: You have now come; You have appeared, O light unapproachable.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 13:7-16 (Sunday of St. Theodosios)

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar

from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore let us go forth to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday after Theophany)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Communion Hymn for Sundays

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Alleluia.

Eníte ton Kýrion ek ton uranón. Allilúia.

Communion Hymn of the Saint

In everlasting memory shall the righteous be. Alleluia.

Is mnimósionon eónion éste dthíkeos. Allilúia.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Parish Council Oath of Office 11:45 am
Fellowship follows
No Sunday School or Theology 101
Outdoor Blessing of the Waters 12:30 pm
at Commonwealth Lake Park

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

ASA Vasilopita Cutting—*All are welcome!* 8:15 am
Building Committee 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist 6:00 pm
Growing in the Faith Catechism Class: 7:00 pm
“Ask Father” Q&A

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

St. Anthony the Great
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia 9:30 am
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 11:30 am
No Vespers at St. John
Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Holy Trinity 5:00 pm
Cathedral in Portland
American Orthodox Film Screening 6:00 pm
at Holy Trinity Cathedral

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Sts. Athanasios & Cyril
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School & Adult Theology
101 follows