

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.

LITURGY AT THE NEW PROPERTY: The Forerunner Chapel—now heated by a pellet stove!—will have Liturgy on these Thursdays before Lent: January 22 at 8:30 am, February 5 at 5:30 am, February 19 at 8:30 am. Come pray at our new home!

BREAD MINISTRY REMINDER: Help yourself to fresh frozen healthy bread in South Fellowship freezers for your homes and to offer to families in need.

FR. MATTHEW & BASIL AT CLERGY-LAITY: On January 26-29, Fr. Matthew will attend the metropolis clergy-laity assembly at St. Nicholas Ranch in California (along with Basil M and Rachel D). For pastoral emergencies, contact Holy Trinity.

BABY SHOWER FOR MARY McAFEE: Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 31, 2:00-5:00 pm. All women are welcome!

DONATIONS TO BOOKSTORE—ORTHODOX ITEMS ONLY: You can help raise money for the Building Fund by donating or purchasing items! The “Building Fund Table” at Logos Bookstore, raised \$3,227 in 2024 and \$4,783 in 2025. Thank you to all participants! May God bless our efforts!

“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!

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL... will take place after Divine Liturgy and fellowship on Sunday, March 1. This event is open to 7th-12th graders. For more information on registration, topic selection, and prizes please reach out to Basil M at youthdirector@stjohngoc.org.

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!

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.



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: Mullen (open) and Corazza (close) Greeter: Dionysios (Dennis) and Natalia (Noelle)
Cleanup Team 9: Corazza, G, Burger, Dixon, McCormick, Kepler, Fairing, Corazza, J&L



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 18, 2025

Sts. Athanasios the Great & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

In the half-century after the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicea in 325, there was one man whom the Arians hated more intensely than anyone. It was St. Athanasios the Great. This champion of Orthodoxy was born in Alexandria in 296. He was well educated in Greek and Scripture. He had a remarkable depth of theological understanding; he was only 20 when he wrote, *On the Incarnation*. St. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, ordained him deacon, after ousting Arius for his blasphemy against Jesus’ Divinity, and He brought the saint to the Council in Nicea. St. Athanasios spent the remainder of his life in defense of this Council. In 326, he was appointed successor to St. Alexander. Though Arius had been condemned by the council, Emperor Constantine was persuaded to receive him back in the Church. But Athanasios, refused him, so Arius’ followers framed false charges against Athanasios. Constantine had him exiled to Gaul in 336. When Constantine was succeeded by his three sons in 337, St. Athanasios returned to Alexandria in triumph. But his enemies found an ally in Constantios, and the saint was again exiled, this time to Rome. Constans prevailed to restore Athanasios. For ten years he strengthened Orthodoxy in Egypt. After Constans's death in 350, Constantios became sole Emperor, and danger prevailed. In 356, a general with more than 5,000 soldiers broke open the doors of St. Athanasios’ church. He disappeared to the desert for six years. When Julian the Apostate succeeded Constantios in 361, Athanasios returned again, for a short time, and the emperor ordered his death, which the saint eluded until the emperor’s death in 363. Under Emperor Valens in 365, he was exiled again for four moths. St. Athanasios passed the remaining seven years in peace. Of his 57 years as Patriarch, he spent 17 in exile. He reposed in 373.

St. Cyril was also from Alexandria, born about the year 376. He was the nephew of Theophilos, Patriarch of Alexandria, who also instructed the saint in his youth. He became successor to the throne in 412. In 429, when Cyril heard news of the new Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorios, he began attempting through letters to bring Nestorios to renounce his heretical teaching on the Incarnation. When he did not repent, St. Cyril and Pope Celestine led the Orthodox opposition. In 431 St. Cyril presided over the Third Ecumenical Council, gathered in Ephesus under St. Theodosios the Younger. At this Council, he convicted Nestorios’ impious doctrine, who refused to appear. St. Cyril, besides overthrowing the error of Nestorios, has left to the Church full commentaries on the Gospels of Luke and John. He shepherded the Church of Christ for 32 years and reposed in 444.

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 (Grave Mode)

O Lord, by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at Your command: that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Katélisas to Stavró Su ton thánaton, inéoxas to listí ton Parádhison. Ton Mirofóron ton thrínon metévales, ke tis sis Apostólis kirittin epétaxas: óti anéstis Christé o Theós, paréhon to kósmo to méga éleos.

Hymn of Sts. Athanasius & Cyril (Third Mode / Your confession)

Shining forth with works of Orthodoxy, you quenched every false belief and teaching and became trophy-bearers and conquerors. And since you made all things rich with true piety, greatly adorning the church with magnificence, Athanasius and wise Cyril, you justly found Christ God, Who through your prayers grants His great mercy unto all.

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 Meeting of our Lord (First Mode)

You Who sanctified the Virgin’s womb by Your birth, and blessed Symeon’s hands as was meet, by anticipation have even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Your commonwealth, and strengthen the hierarchs whom You have loved, O only Friend of man.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 13:7-16 (For Sts. Athanasios & Cyril)

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

Luke 17:12-19 (12th Sunday of Luke)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Communion Hymn for Sundays

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Alleluia.

Eníte ton Kýrion ek ton uranón. Allilúia.

Communion Hymn of the Saints

In everlasting memory shall the righteous be. Alleluia.

Is mnimósinon eónion éste dthíkeos. Allilúia.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm
“*Growing in the Faith*” Catechism Class7:00 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers) 8:30 am
at the Forerunner Chapel
No Akathist at St. John’s

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

St. Xenia of St. Petersburg
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Baptism of Herman (Sean) Marnul, 12:00 pm
Timothy (Bryce) & Anna (Krista)
Duncan, Julia & Leo Overstreet
Great Vespers 5:00 pm
Teen Outing (6th-12th): New Year Party 6:00 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

St. Gregory the Theologian
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School & Adult Theology
101 follows

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Fr. Matthew at Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly
in California through January 29