

HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED: Contact the church office to schedule a time. And if you’d like to have coffee or lunch with Fr. Matthew & Basil when they visit, just ask Barbara to schedule extra time.

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

FR. MATTHEW AT CLERGY-LAITY ... January 26-29. For pastoral emergencies, contact Holy Trinity.

MARY McAFEE’S BABY SHOWER ... on Saturday, January 31, 2:00-5:00 pm. All women are welcome!

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@stjohnnoc.org.

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 \$4,783 in 2025. Thank you!

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!

2026 GOYA CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRIP
GOYANs (9th-12th) are invited to our annual Ski trip! We depart after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February

15 and return the following evening. More details to come soon. For more info and to RSVP, email Basil M. at youthdirector@stjohn.org!

YOU CAN DONATE MONTHLY TO THE BUILDING FUND WITH AN A.C.H. TRANSFER:
The church is now able to accept recurring automatic ACH payments to the building fund, just like it does for Stewardship. To enroll just fill out a form in the church office. Thank you for your continued support!

PHILOPTOCHOS DONATION DRIVE: Help fund philanthropy at the state, national and local level and within our St. John community. Look for the table during Fellowship.

KICK-OFF DINNER FOR STARTING A FOCUS CENTER IN PORTLAND: On Saturday, February 28 we will have a pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (2101 NE 162nd Ave, Portland), followed by a free dinner (donations accepted) and a presentation by Steve Christoforou, Executive Director of FOCUS North America. The Orthodox clergy of Portland hope to form an Exploratory Committee that will lay the foundation for the launch of a FOCUS Center in the area. We will discuss potential avenues for the type of ministry that is most needed in the area and where we feel called to serve. FOCUS will provide a generous matching grant to kickstart local fundraising efforts and help us develop a healthy, vibrant ministry that will continue to grow in the years to come.



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: Christian/Burger (open) and Nordling (close) Greeter: Elizabeth (Sagie) and Christina
Cleanup Team 10: Wagner, Swan, Pryor, Valentine, Smirnov, Duncan, Nordling



St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla (503) 644-7444 • www.stjohnnoc.org
Deacon Innocent Duchow-Pressley 14485 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton, OR 97006

January 25, 2025

St. Gregory the Theologian

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in Arianzos, a village of the 2nd district of Cappadocia. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzos, was named Gregory, and his mother was named Nonna; both are among the Saints, as are his brother Caesarios and his sister Gorgona. At first he studied in Caesarea, Alexandria, and in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent sea storm put in peril his life and salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. He besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the sea calmed. At Athens St. Gregory was later joined by St. Basil the Great, and their acquaintanceship grew into a lifelong brotherly love. A fellow student of theirs in Athens was the young Prince Julian, who later as Emperor denied Christ and tried to restore paganism. Even in Athens, St. Gregory saw what an unsettled mind he had. After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, for a time in the hermitages of Pontos. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzos, and St. Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima in Caesarea. About the Year 379, he came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had already been troubled for 40 years by the Arians; by his

wise words and many labours he freed it from the corruption of heresy, and was elected Archbishop of that city by the 2nd Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381, and condemned Macedonios, Archbishop of Constantinople, the enemy of the Holy Spirit. When he came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and served in a house chapel dedicated to St. Anastasia the Martyr. From there he began to preach his famous 5 sermons on the Trinity, called the Triadica. 2 years later, he left Constantinople and the Arians had not one church left to them in the city. St. Meletios of Antioch, who was presiding over the 2nd Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and the Saint was chosen in his stead; there he distinguished himself in his expositions of dogmatic theology. Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son - before 150 bishops and the Emperor Theodosios the Great; in this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

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 (Plagal Fourth Mode)

From on high did You descend, O Merciful Lord. For us did You endure three days in the tomb that we may be released from passions in this world. You who are our resurrection and our life, glory unto You, O Lord.

Ex ípsus katílthes, o éfsplanghnos, tafín katedthéxo tri-ímeron, ína imás elefthérosis ton pathón. I zoí ke i Anástasis imón, Kýrie, dthóxa si.

Hymn of St. Gregory the Theologian (1st Mode):

The shepherd’s pipe of your theology overpowered the trumpets of the philosophers. For the more you plumbed the depths of the Spirit, ever greater eloquence was bestowed on you. O Father Gregory, intercede with Christ God, entreating Him to save our souls.

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 7:26-28; 8:1-2 (For St. Gregory)

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when he offered up Himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the Law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 19:1-10 (15th Sunday of Luke (of Zachaios))

At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaïos; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaïos, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaïos stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK		
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25		
St. Gregory the Theologian		
Orthros		8:45 am
Divine Liturgy		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		
Men's Night Out - Giovanni's		6:00 pm
Italian Restaurant in Beaverton		
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28		
No Bible Study or Catechism Class today		
Paraklesis to St. Nikiforos the Leper		6:00 pm
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29		
Akathist to the Mother of God		9:00 am
Nurturer of Children		
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30		
Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs		
Orthros		7:15 am
Divine Liturgy		8:15 am
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31		
Baby Shower for Mary McAfee		2:00 pm
Great Vespers		5:00 pm
GOYA (9th-12th) Meeting		6:15 pm
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1		
Triodion: Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee		
Orthros		8:45 am
Divine Liturgy		10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School, & Adult Theology		101 follows
Great Vespers for the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple		6:30 pm
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2		
The Meeting of our Lord in the Temple		
Orthros		7:30 am
Divine Liturgy		8:30 am
Family Meetup		10:00 am