

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

MEATFARE TALENT SHOW: After the potluck, join us today and support St. John’s talented entertainers!

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. You can pick up a form in the church office or in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support!

SENIOR MINISTRIES (55+): Join us on Thursday, February 19 at 1:00pm. Our speaker is Basil M. Light lunch will be served.

PARISH FAMILY CLEANUP: is Saturday, February 28 Everyone is invited (including children) to help make our church beautiful prior to Basil’s ordination. We need everyone to help. Even if you can only spare 30 minutes. Cleanup will begin at 12 pm and last until 4 pm. We will have fast friendly food offered by the parish following cleanup.

JR. GOYA MEETING: On Saturday, February 21st, we are meeting at Norm and Eleni’s house from 6:15 pm- 8:15 pm for dinner, games, and a spiritual discussion!

 **SHOW YOUR PHILOXENIA** “Love for strangers” and sign up to host a Sunday Fellowship. Just click the QR code.

ORDINATION GIFTS: Let’s clothe Basil with the essential implements of the priesthood, giving him gifts that befit a priest of God. As a newly-ordained priest, he will need liturgical vestments, robes, liturgical books, a blessing cross, and other items to fulfill his priestly ministry. Symeon (William) E. will collect donations toward this cause through his Venmo. Donations in excess of the needed implements will be given as a financial gift to the McAfee family.



SUMMER CAMP—START PLANNING! We are going to St. Nicholas Ranch this summer, July 19-25. All youth ages 8-18 are welcome. Register for Session 3. Act quickly, because registration will fill up!

 Financial assistance is also available—please talk to Fr. Matthew. Contact Basil after you have signed up. Scan QR code.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: On Fridays, the Church will be open from 7:00-10:00 pm for the young men (any age) in our parish to come and enjoy fellowship with one another. Feel free to bring food or non-alcoholic drinks to share. For more details, feel free to reach out to Basil at youthdirector@stjohnnoc.org.

SUPPORT AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY AT THE 32ND ALL YOU CAN EAT CRAB FEED This year, AHEPA and Agia Sophia Academy are co-hosting the event at Holy Trinity. Half of the funds raised will be given towards the ASA scholarship funds. Don't miss out on the delicious crab and good times with friends on **Saturday, February 21 at 4:00 pm.** Scan QR code for tickets:



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

February 15, 2025

Sunday of the Last Judgment • Onesimos Apostle of the 70

This Sunday, the second-to-last Sunday before Great Lent begins, has great meaning in our understanding of the Orthodox Christian life. The passage in today’s Gospel is that of the Last Judgment, found in the Gospel of St. Matthew (25:31-46). The Church calls us to remember the coming Day of Judgment and what will constitute the most important criterion for either our salvation or our condemnation: love. Love is the virtue which most aptly characterizes God. “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 John 4:16) The condemned on the Day of Judgment will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, because they did not see God in their neighbor. By rejecting and not loving their neighbor, they did not love God. We cannot say that we love God if we do not in fact love our neighbor. As we approach the inevitable spiritual struggle Lent calls us into, we are greatly tempted to become judgmental, irritable, impatient, and tired—all vices which make it particularly difficult to love. Yet if we do not struggle to love our neighbor in spite of the weakened physical condition brought on by fasting and increased worship services, all our ascetical efforts will be in vain. These efforts are aimed at a type of self-denial that actually frees up our will, so that even in the midst of discomfort and bodily weakness we may take our focus off of ourselves

and consider the good of our neighbor. This is the purpose of Lent: to draw nearer to our Lord *and* our neighbor. As we become more like God, imitating His love, we naturally begin to see His image in the face of our neighbor. God wants us to remember our inevitable judgment, to think about the end of our life, and be motivated by these thoughts to repent and be filled with His divine love, a cruciform love, expressed both vertically and horizontally.

This Apostle, who was from Colossae, was a bond-servant of that Philemon to whom the Apostle Paul addressed his epistle. Onesimos escaped from Philemon and fled to Rome, where he became a disciple of Saint Paul. Saint Paul brought him to the Faith of Christ, and then sent him back to his master, who in turn gave him his freedom and sent him back to Rome again, where he ministered to Saint Paul. Later, he was seized because he was a Christian and was sent to Puteoli, where he was beaten to death with clubs. Saint Onesimos is also commemorated on November 22 with the holy Apostles Philemon, Apphia, and Archippos.



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 Blankenstein (close) Greeter: Katherine (Maggie) & Dka. Vasiliki (Sandy)
Cleanup Team 1: Lubliner, Peil, Swanson, French, Dressler, Krogh, Blankenstein

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 (Third Mode)

Let all things above in heaven rejoice; let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and firstborn of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Effrenéstho ta uránia, agalliástho ta epíyia, óti eplise krátos, en vrahíoni aftú o Kýrios. Epátise to thanáto ton thánaton, protótokos ton nekrón eyéneto, ek kilías Ádthu errísato imás, ke parés-hye to kósmo to méga éleos.

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 Last Judgment (First Mode)

When You, O God, will come to earth with glory, and all things tremble, and the river of fire flows before the Judgment Seat, and the books are opened and the hidden things made public, then deliver me from the

unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O most righteous Judge.

EPISTLE READING

I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 (Meatfare Sunday)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:10-14 (Meatfare Sunday)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on his glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at His left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and You gave me no food, I was thirsty and You gave me no drink, I was a stranger and You did not welcome me, naked and You did not clothe me, sick and in prison and You did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK	
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15	
Sunday of the Last Judgement–Meatfare Sunday	
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Meatfare Potluck and Talent show	
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16	
Church Office Closed	
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17	
Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18	
Bible Study	10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour	11:00 am
Paraklesis to the Mother of God	9:00 am
Nurturer of Children	
“ <i>Growing in the Faith</i> ” Catechism Class	7:00 pm
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19	
NO Akathist today	
Liturgy (with Pre-Communion Prayers)	8:30 am
at the Forerunner Chapel	
Senior Ministries Luncheon	1:00 pm
Trisagion for Claire Hafez	6:00 pm
at Valley Memorial Park & Funeral Home	
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20	
Funeral for Claire Hafez	10:00 am
Makaria (Mercy) Meal	11:00 am
Board Game Night & Cheesefare	4:00 pm
Friday Potluck	
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21	
Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics	
Orthros	8:30 am
Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Memorial for the Departed	11:00 am
Great Vespers	5:00 pm
Jr. GOYA Meeting	6:15 pm
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22	
Forgiveness Sunday – Cheesefare Sunday	
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship follows	
NO Sunday School or Theology 101	
Forgiveness Vespers	12:15 pm