

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

2026 GOYA (9th-12th) CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP: We'll leave for Mt. Hood after Liturgy on Sunday, February 15 and we will return the following evening, February 16. Cost: \$35 per person for meals & rentals. RSVP at youthdirector@stjohnnoc.org.

MEATFARE TALENT SHOW & POTLUCK: On Sunday, February 15, bring a dish to share (the last of the meat in your fridge) and your best talent: musical performances, jokes, storytelling, sleight of hand tricks...sky's the limit! All ages are encouraged to participate! Signup with QR code, so we can plan for your performance.

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!

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.

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:

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

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 (open) and Silva (close) Greeter: Aquila (Don) & Evangelia (Lori)
Cleanup Team 12: Sorenson, Robertson E., Drury, Stebner, Chanberlin, Silva



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 8, 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a story about the spiritual death and rebirth of a young man. In this illustration about sin and repentance, Jesus shows us how in varying ways we each make both conscious and unconscious decisions to turn away from our homeland (the Kingdom of Heaven), to foolishly waste our time, talents and treasure on immediate gratification and selfish pursuits, and to sink lower and lower into sin. The story also shows us how to come to our senses, realize our sinful condition and return to our Heavenly Father. Jesus shows us how great the Father's desire is to see the repentance of one of His creatures. Remember, while the prodigal son was still far off, the father ran toward his son, embraced him, clothed him, restored him to sonship and invited his entire household to rejoice over the rebirth of his second son. Once a person, with the help of God, is able to develop sustained desire and humility, he is able to see himself as he truly is in relation to God. When a person compares himself to God, he discovers his sinfulness and his inadequacies. This is exactly what happened to the prodigal son when he came to his senses and realized he needed to turn back to his father and this is what must happen in our own lives. We must see our need for God and desire to change, before God can forgive us and restore us to complete and full fellowship with Him.

May we take the opportunity that Lent provides for us to nurture this kind of repentance in our own hearts.

We will celebrate Saturday of the Souls this Saturday, February 14 with Orthros at 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am, and Trisagion at 11:00 am. The Saturday of the Souls services are an important way for us to fulfill our sacred role: praying for the salvation of those who have departed this life. Please list the baptismal names of Orthodox Christians who have reposed so that they may be commemorated. You may also bring an offering of koliva. To find a recipe for koliva, look for “Liturgical Recipes” on our parish website. Logos Bookstore has the wheat and the almonds for koliva.

*Next week, the Sunday of the Last Judgment, is the last day to eat meat before Lent begins—so this is the week to use up these items in your home or to bring them to the parish **Meatfare potluck next Sunday, February 15.** Then we have seven more days of dairy (eggs), wine and oil before the Great Fast begins on Monday, February 23.*

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 the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple (Second Mode)

Save us, O Son of God, who were carried in the arms of Symeon. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of the Meeting of Our Lord (First Mode)

Rejoice, you who are full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice also, O righteous Elder, as you receive in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also grants unto us the Resurrection.

Hyé-re keharitoméni Theotóke Parthéne; ek su gar anétilen o Ílios tis dthikeosínis, Christós o Theós imón, fotizon tus en skóti. Effrénu ke si Presvita dthike-e, dthexámenos en angkáles ton elefitherotín ton psihón imón, harizómenos imín ke tin Anástasin.

Resurrectional Hymn (Second Mode)

When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life Immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven’s powers did proclaim and cry out, “O Life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory.”

Repeat the Hymn of the Meeting of Our Lord

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

I Corinthians 6:12-20 (Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:11-32 (34th Sunday of Pentecost)

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a

kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - (of the Prodigal Son)

Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School and Adult Theology 101 follows

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

St Haralambos the Hieromartyr
Orthros 7:15 am
Divine Liturgy 8:15 am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm
“*Growing in the Faith*” 7:00 pm
Catechism Class

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am
Nurturer of Children
Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Friday Night Lights: Young Men’s Fellowship 7:00 pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Saturday of Souls
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy & Trisagion 9:30 am
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 11:30 am
Great Vespers 5:00 pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Sunday of the Last Judgement–Meatfare Sunday

Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Meatfare Potluck and Talent show