

**OFFERING YOUR SERVICE FOR THE ORDINATION WEEKEND:**  Glory to God, our very own Basil McAfee will be Ordained to the Holy Diaconate and to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday & Sunday, March 7 & 8. Our celebrations will include a light meal after liturgy on Saturday, March 7 and an Ordination Luncheon on Sunday following Liturgy. *Many hands are needed!* Please prayerfully decide how you can volunteer under one *or more* of the areas by scanning the QR code. Both Saturday and Sunday helpers are needed. Questions? Reach out to Stephanie M. at smakarounis@mac.com or (503) 481-4363 or Patrice K. at Patrice.kuchulis@gmail.com or (503) 319-9222.

**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM’S ORATORICAL FESTIVAL...** will take place today at 1:15 pm. Please join us and support our youth!

**MEN'S MONASTERY WORK PARTY** - Friday afternoon and Saturday, March 27-28 in Goldendale, WA. Come help the sisters with a wide variety of tasks to maintain the monastery grounds. Spend the night on Friday or drive up on Saturday morning. The work portion will begin Saturday morning after breakfast. *Please RSVP to Brandon by Tuesday, March 24,* at cravetruth@yahoo.com to provide an accurate headcount for the sisters for beds and meals and to help consider carpooling. Beds are limited.

**GOYA MEETING:** On Saturday, March 14, we are meeting at the current Church property after Vespers from 6:15 pm- 9:00pm for dinner, spiritual discussion, a small parish service project, and games!

**SUMMER CAMP IS ALMOST FULL!!** Week 3 of summer camp has only a few spaces left. Please decide soon if your children (ages 8-18) will go to camp, then register at the QR code here, then tell Basil once you’ve registered. Financial assistance is also available—talk to Fr. Matthew.

**LET’S WELCOME OUR GUESTS NEXT WEEKEND ...** and leave parking spaces for them! Please, *everyone* who is able, park offsite, along Meadow Drive or in the Meadow Park Middle School parking lot.

**CONFESSION DURING GREAT LENT ...** is an essential aspect of this annual spiritual pilgrimage! Please contact the church office to find a time to confess—so that we can approach the Resurrection of our Lord in a worthy manner.

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

**MEN, SAVE THE DATE ...** for the Men's Beach Retreat on May 27-30. Come for some or for all!

**JOIN US FOR THE WOMEN’S MINISTRY TALK** with Fr. Matthew. Saturday, March 21 at 11:30am (after Liturgy) WM will host a Lenten Potluck & Recipe Swap in the South Fellowship Hall. Ladies, bring Lenten foods to share and recipes to swap, or just join fellow women in conversation!



# St. John the Baptist

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla (503) 644-7444 • www.stjohngoc.org  
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March 1, 2026

*Sunday of Orthodoxy • Eudokia the Martyr of Heliopolis • Martyr Antonina of Nicea*

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm. The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilos, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes. In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel. Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today’s Liturgy reflect this older usage.

This Saint, who was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia (Baalbek in present-day Lebanon), was an idolater and led a licentious life. Being beautiful beyond telling, she had many lovers, and had acquired great riches. Yet brought to repentance by a monk named Germanus, and baptized by Bishop Theodotus, she distributed to the poor all her ill-gotten gains, and entered a convent, giving herself up completely to the life of asceticism. Her former lovers, enraged at her conversion, her refusal to return to her old ways, and the withering away of her beauty through the severe mortifications she practiced, betrayed her as a Christian to Vincent the Governor, and she was beheaded, according to some, under Trajan, who reigned from 98 to 117, according to others, under Hadrian, who reigned from 117 to 138.

The Holy Martyr Antonina suffered at Nicea during a persecution under the emperor Maximian (284-305). After fierce tortures, Saint Antonina was thrown into prison, but Maximian could not force the saint to renounce Christ and offer sacrifice to idols. Angels of God appeared to the holy martyr and the executioners took fright. Even when they placed her on a red-hot metal bed, Saint Antonina remained unharmed, by the power of God. Finally, after long torture they sewed the saint into a sack and sank it in a lake.

**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**

**Hymn of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (Second Mode)**

We venerate Your immaculate icon, O Good One, asking the forgiveness of our failings, O Christ our God; for of Your own will You were well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that You might deliver from slavery to the enemy those whom You had fashioned. Therefore, we cry to You thankfully, "You filled all things with joy, O our Savior, when You came to save the world."

**Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal First Mode)**

Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure. And He raised the dead unto life through His glorious resurrection.

*Repeat the Hymn of the Sunday of Orthodoxy*

**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 Akathist (Plagal Fourth Mode)**

To thee, the Champion Leader, we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do thou deliver us that we may cry to thee, "Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded."

**EPISTLE READING**

**Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**GOSPEL READING**

**John 1:43-51 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

**Megalynarion for the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Instead of “It Is Truly Right”)**

In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices – both the congregations of angels and the human race. O consecrated temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins, from you was God incarnate and became a child – He, our God, who existed before the ages. For He made your womb a throne and He made you more spacious than the heavens. In you who are full of grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you.

| PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK                  |          |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|
| SUNDAY, MARCH 1                                 |          |
| Sunday of Orthodoxy                             |          |
| Orthros                                         | 8:45 am  |
| Divine Liturgy followed by                      | 10:00 am |
| 40-Day Churching of Simeon Armas                |          |
| Procession with Holy Icons                      | 11:45 am |
| Fellowship follows                              |          |
| St. John Oratorical Festival                    | 1:00 pm  |
| MONDAY, MARCH 2                                 |          |
| St. Nicholas Planas                             |          |
| Presanctified Liturgy with 9 <sup>th</sup> Hour | 8:00 am  |
| Great Compline                                  | 6:30 pm  |
| WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4                              |          |
| Presanctified Liturgy with 9 <sup>th</sup> Hour | 8:15 am  |
| at the Forerunner Chapel                        |          |
| Wednesday Coffee Hour                           | 10:00 am |
| Bible Study ( <i>Later Time</i> )               | 11:00 am |
| Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy              | 6:00 pm  |
| at St. George Antiochian Church                 |          |
| Lenten Meal follows                             |          |
| THURSDAY, MARCH 5                               |          |
| Akathist to the Mother of God                   | 9:00 am  |
| Nurturer of Children                            |          |
| FRIDAY, MARCH 6                                 |          |
| Presanctified Liturgy with 9 <sup>th</sup> Hour | 8:00 am  |
| Salutations to the Theotokos,                   | 6:30 pm  |
| 2nd Stanza                                      |          |
| Friday Night Lights: Young Men’s                | 7:30 pm  |
| Fellowship                                      |          |
| SATURDAY, MARCH 7                               |          |
| Orthros                                         | 9:00 am  |
| Hierarchal Divine Liturgy &                     | 10:00 am |
| Diaconate Ordination                            |          |
| Light Reception                                 | 12:30 am |
| SUNDAY, MARCH 8                                 |          |
| Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas                   |          |
| Orthros                                         | 8:45 am  |
| Hierarchal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil          | 10:00 am |
| & Ordination to the Holy Priesthood             |          |
| Ordination Luncheon                             | 1:00 pm  |