

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK: Family Promise is a local organization that supports families that are experiencing homelessness. Philoptochos wants to invite you to help us provide food for the families living in the Beaverton Family Promise house for the week of March 22-28. Sign up through the weekly email, if you would like to participate.

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.

SENIOR MINISTRY LUNCHEON & TALK ... on Thursday, March 19 at 1:00 pm! Senior Living Advisor, Olivia Lilley, will be speaking about alternative living options, assessing funding options, accompanied facility tours and more! Needs are often unexpected and immediate. Light lunch provided.

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 W by Tuesday, March 24, at cravetruth@yahoo.com. Beds are limited.

FAMILY MEET-UP: On Wednesday, March 25 following the Annunciation feast day services—8:30 am Orthros & 9:30 am Liturgy—we have a Family Meet-Up! Bring a dish to share (fish, wine, & oil permitted) and a board game to play! We’ll have a short lesson on the feast and then hang out. Contact Anya S to RSVP.

COOKS NEEDED FOR BUILDING FUND SOUP & BAKE SALE: You are invited to make sweet & savory Lenten dishes for the Sunday, March 22 Soup & Bake Sale. Drop off your goods on Saturday, March 22 or early on Sunday. Volunteers needed to man the tables during fellowship. All proceeds go to the Building Fund. Contact Leslie Anna M.

JOIN US FOR THE WOMEN’S MINISTRY TALK ... with Fr. Matthew. Saturday, March 21 at 11:30am (after Liturgy). We’ll have a Lenten potluck and recipe swap in the South Fellowship Hall—so bring Lenten foods to share and recipes to swap, or just join your fellow women in conversation!

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

JR. GOYA (6th-8th) MEETING: On Saturday, March 21, we are meeting at church after Vespers, 6:15-8:15 pm for dinner, spiritual discussion and games!

TEEN OUTING ... to Stoneworks Climbing Gym (6775 SW 111th Ave, Beaverton, OR 97008), 6:30-8:30 pm. Experienced climbers and first-timers are welcome! Cost is \$17 per person. Please reach out to Fr. Basil at frbasil@stjohnngoc.org for more details.

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

THE LOST AND FOUND CLOSET IS FULL Please find your lost items and take them home. The closet is located in the North Fellowship Hall.



St. John the Baptist

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

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March 15, 2026

Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the third Sunday of Great, the Church commemorates the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday prepares us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, and also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal 5:24), and have mortified ourselves during these days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion—being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory. Just as people who walk on a long and hard journey, bowed down by fatigue, find relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a tree; so do we find comfort and rejuvenation under the life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. And just as, before the arrival of a king, his royal trophies and

emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade; so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His life-giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore we become ready to welcome our King, who shall triumph over the powers of darkness. Furthermore the Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose undrinkable waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. But when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth it became sweet. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which at times feel bitter. Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s sin, as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.



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: Anderson (open) and Statler (close) Greeter: Samuel and Anna (Annette)
Cleanup Team 5: Miller, Jungwirth, Lawson, Rush, Hansen, Overstreet, Statler

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 Holy Cross (First Mode)

Save, O Lord, Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your people by the power of Your Cross.

Sóson, Kýrie, ton laón su, ke evló-yison tin klironomían su. Nikas tis Vasiléfsi katá varváron dthorúmenos, ke to son filátton dthiá tu Stavré su polítevma.

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.

Repeat the Hymn of the Holy Cross.

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."

In place of the Trisagion Hymn, the following:

We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Ton Stavron su proskinumen, Dthespota, ke tin ayian su Anastasin dthoxazomen.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 (Sunday of the Holy Cross)

Brethren, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest,

but was appointed by Him who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 (Sunday of the Holy Cross)

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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.

Communion Hymn (Third Mode):

The light of Your countenance, O Lord, has been signed upon us. Alleluia.

Instead of “We have Seen the True Light,” repeat the Hymn of the Holy Cross.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK	
SUNDAY, MARCH 15	
Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross	
Orthros & Veneration of the Holy Cross	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School & Theology 101 follow	
MONDAY, MARCH 16	
Great Compline (<i>earlier time</i>)	6:00 pm
Trisagion for Orestis Manis	7:00 pm
Reception and All-Night Vigil following	
TUESDAY, MARCH 17	
Funeral for Orestis Manis & Interment	10:00 am
Makaria (Mercy Meal)	12:00 pm
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18	
Presanctified Liturgy with 9th Hour	8:15 am
at Forerunner Chapel (10050 NE Walker Rd)	
Wednesday Coffee Hour	10:00 am
Bible Study (<i>later time</i>)	11:00 am
Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy	6:00 pm
at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland	
Lenten Meal follows	
THURSDAY, MARCH 19	
Akathist to the Mother of God,	9:00 am
Nurturer of Children	
Senior Ministry Luncheon	1:00 pm
FRIDAY, MARCH 20	
Holy Fathers Slain at St. Savvas Monastery	
Presanctified Liturgy with 9th Hour	8:00 am
Salutations to the Theotokos	6:30 pm
Friday Night Lights: Young Men Fellowship7:30 pm	
SATURDAY, MARCH 21	
Saturday of Souls	
Orthros	8:30 am
Divine Liturgy & Trisagion	9:30 am
Women’s Ministry Breakfast & Discussion	
Great Vespers	5:00 pm
Jr. GOYA (6 th -8 th) Meeting	6:15 pm
SUNDAY, MARCH 22	
Sunday of St. John Climacos (of the Ladder)	
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Fellowship, Sunday School & Theology 101 follow	