

ANNUAL BASIL & FLOWER BOX PLANTING FOR OUR YOUTH: Join us today after the Liturgy for our annual Basil and Flower Box Planting as we plant the basil that will be harvested for the Feast of the Cross in September! Parents and children of all ages are encouraged to join us and be part of the fun!

FR. MATTHEW ON VACATION through May 29. Fr Basil will teach catechism class and Bible study and will be available for pastoral emergencies.

SUMMER HOURS FOR SERVICES ... Starting this weekend, Saturday Vespers will be at 6:00 pm. And after ASA’s last day of school on June 10, weekday services will be: 8:30 am Orthros and 9:30 am Liturgy. *(Sunday services will remain the same: 8:45 am Orthros and 10:00 am Liturgy.)*

TEEN END-OF-YEAR PARTY! (6th-12th grade): On Saturday, May 30, we’ll meet at the Forerunner Property after Vespers, 7:15-9:30 pm, to celebrate the end of the school year! We will start in the Forerunner Chapel, then have dinner and games at the Chapel House. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Teens are encouraged to bring their own baked goods and snacks to share. (Please no peanuts or sesame.)

FEAST DAY OF HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL: On Monday, June 1, Holy Trinity will celebrate its feast day. Come and join the celebration with Orthros at 8:30 am and Liturgy at 9:30 am at Holy Trinity Cathedral, 3131 NE Glisan Street, Portland.

WEEKLY PARAKLESIS MOVED TO FRIDAY: Starting in June, the Paraklesis service will be on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm, no longer on Wednesdays.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE MEN’S BEACH RETREAT: Come for part or come for all—Wednesday-Saturday, May 27-30. The cost, which covers food & cleaning fees, is \$50 per person for the whole retreat or \$35 for one night. Contact Brandon at to RSVP.

PRISONS’ LIBRARY BOOK DRIVE: Starting on Pentecost, May 31, you can provide Orthodox books for those who are in prison! Logos Bookstore is spearheading a book drive for *four* local prisons, so that the inmates have access to the rich spiritual wealth of the Orthodox Church. See the display table and buy the books!

COME AND SHOW CARE FOR OUR NEW CHURCH PROPERTY—ALL ARE WELCOME ... to our weekly work parties on Thursdays, 4:00-6:30 pm. Come celebrate the brightness of our Lord’s Resurrection by working together toward the blessed goal of building a church! Bring your work gloves to the Forerunner Property (10050 NE Walker Rd, Hillsboro) each Thursday at 4:00 pm.

CATECHISM CLASS—TO LEARN ABOUT ORTHODOXY: The *Growing in the Faith* catechism class is on *Saturday nights after Vespers*. This class is for inquirers, catechumens, and all of the faithful who want to deepen their faith!

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL is at Holy Trinity Cathedral from June 15-19. It’s for Pre-K-5th. Cost is \$50 per child or \$150 per family. Scholarship available. Register with the QR code.



St. John the Baptist

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Fr. Matthew Swehla • Rev. Fr. Basil McAfee
Rev. Dn. Innocent Duchow-Pressley

14485 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton, OR 97006
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May 24, 2026

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council • St. Symeon the New Stylite

The heretic Arius was from Libya and was a presbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against Jesus Christ, the Son and Word of God, saying that before the creation of the universe, the Son did not exist and only God the Father existed. Thus he heretically taught that the Son of God was not God, nor consubstantial (of the same nature) with the Father, but rather made Him to be a creation of God. This blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, after trying in vain to correct Arius through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet Arius did not stop at this, nor accepted his correction. He and his followers wrote to the bishops of other cities, requesting that his doctrine be examined, thus sowing the tares of his heretical teachings. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar. Therefore, Saint Constantine the Great, Emperor of the Roman Empire, summoned the 1st Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. There the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Lycia, chastised Arius for his blasphemy; and St. Spyridon, Bishop of Trymithous, explained the nature of the Trinity through the miraculous example of a brick, which

spontaneously turned into its three elements: earth, fire, and water; St. Athanasius the Great, a deacon of the Church of Alexandria, forcefully refuted the Arian heresy. All of the assembled bishops, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith, known as the Nicene Creed (up to “And in the Holy Spirit” and following, which was added by the Second Ecumenical Council). This creed states that the Son is “of one essence” (omo-ousios) with the Father. They anathematized the impious Arius and those of like mind with him. Therefore, recognizing the these Holy Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church has appointed this Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto their praise and honor, to the glory of God, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

St. Symeon, the "New Stylite," was born in Antioch; As a child he was under the special guidance of St. John the Baptist and adopted an ascetical way of life. He became a monk as a young man. He came to Wondrous Mountain, and mounted a pillar for 10 years. Then he mounted another pillar upon which he lived in great hardship for 45 years, working many miracles and was worthy of divine revelations. He reposed in 595, at the age of 85 years, 79 of which he had passed in asceticism.



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: Daniels (open) and Blankenstein (close) Greeter: Dionysios (Dennis) and Natalia (Noelle)
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 thousands of 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.

If you want to learn more about Orthodox Christianity: come to our Saturday evening catechism class (at the time posted on our online calendar); purchase the newcomer book bundle at Logos Bookstore; and meet with our clergy.

HYMN OF THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Second Antiphon of Ascension (Second Mode)

Save us, O Son of God, who ascended in glory. We sing to You: Alleluia.

Hymn of Ascension (Fourth Mode)

You ascended in glory, O Christ our Lord and God. And Your disciples were filled with joy by the promise of the Holy Spirit unto them. And through this blessing, You did proclaim and thus assure them that You are truly the Son of God and the Redeemer of the world.

*Anelífthis en dthóxi, Christé o Theós imón, haropí-
isas tus Mathitás, ti epangelía tu ayíu Pnévmatos,
veveothéndon aftón dthiá tis evloyías, óti Si i o Yiós tu
Theú, o litrotís tu kósmu.*

Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal Second Mode)

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary, seeking Your pure and sacred body, then You did vanquish Hades, and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin, bestowing the gift of life. O You Who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Repeat Hymn of Ascension

Hymn of the Holy Fathers (Plagal Fourth Mode)

Most glorified are You, O Christ our God, Who have established our Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth and through them guided us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to You.

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 Ascension (Plagal Second Mode)

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake and united things on earth with the things in heaven, You were taken up thither in glory, O Christ our God, going not away from any place, but continuing inseparable, and to them that love You crying out, “I am with you, and therefore there is none against you.”

EPISTLE READING

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Sunday of the Fathers)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with

tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

GOSPEL READING

John 17: 1-13 (Sunday of the Fathers)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, since you have given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work which You gave Me to do; and now, Father, You glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory which I had with You before the world was made. "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You; for I have given them the words which You gave Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You did send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Mine; all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which you have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Sunday of Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship and Youth Flower Box Planting follow
Fr. Matthew on vacation through May 29

MONDAY, MAY 25

3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, MAY 26

Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Paraklesis to St. Nikiforos the Leper 6:00 pm
Men’s Beach Retreat through May 30

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am
Nurturer of Children
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 pm

FRIDAY, MAY 29

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

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Saturday of Souls
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy & Trisagion 9:30 am
Great Vespers 6:00 pm
Growing in the Faith Catechism Class 7:15 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Holy Pentecost
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows
Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost 12:15 pm

MONDAY, JUNE 1

Holy Spirit Monday—Holy Trinity’s Feast Day
Orthros at Holy Trinity Cathedral 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral 9:30 am