

SIX TALKS ABOUT OUR CHURCH: Today during Sunday fellowship we’ll have one of six talks about ...

- *Where we are today as a church community, and*
- *Where we’ll be someday at the Forerunner Property.*

This 3rd Talk will be regarding Agia Sophia Academy, it’s present state and its future. Find prior recordings on our YouTube page.

COME TO THE 40 LITURGIES --- FOR OUR FUTURE! Pray for the future of St. John’s, for discernment, wisdom, patience, and fortitude from Tuesday, July 7 to the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos on August 15. See the calendar for services and locations of services. They will be both at the Forerunner Property and at the current property. You may also pick up a paper calendar in the Narthex.

OPPORTUNITY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY! Our new church property has many needs and you have a unique opportunity to help us with some projects during Oregon’s beautiful summer. Please take advantage these opportunities for fellowship and to work alongside fellow members of St. John’s this summer. All are welcome. Things to bring: gloves, water bottle, and loppers if you have them on the following Saturdays: July 25 after liturgy for Dormition of St. Anna from about 11:30 am -3:30 pm; August 8 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm; and/or September 12 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

A SUCCESSFUL BAKE SALE ... for the Building Fund. Glory to God! In one Sunday afternoon parishioners contributed over \$1,600 to build our church. A huge thank you to all who contributed time, talent, and treasure! P.S. Help name this event, since it's really not just a bake sale. Write your suggestions on the sheet in Logos Bookstore.

SHOW YOUR PHILOXENIA "Love for strangers". Email Fellowship@stjohnnoc.org with any questions. Or sign up for a Sunday fellowship team



YOUTH SUMMER PARTY ... at the Forerunner Property: on Saturday, July 11 from 7:15 pm to 9:15 pm, we will have a joint Youth Summer Party (6th-12th) with the Youth from Holy Trinity. We have also invited youth from St. George Antiochian in Portland and Holy Resurrection in Salem. Food, fellowship, games, and prayer—stay tuned for more details!

YOUNG WOMENS NIGHT (ages 18-40) Do you want to get to know other young women of St. John’s? We would like to meet once monthly. All women married, single or mom’s are welcome. Please see the poll, so we can start making plans



St. John the Baptist

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

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

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July 5, 2026

Saint Athanasios of Mount Athos

St. Athanasios of Mt. Athos was baptized Abraham. He was orphaned, and was raised by a pious nun. He imitated her in fasting and prayer. Doing his lessons came easy and he excelled. After her death, he was taken to Constantinople to Emperor Romanos. He was enrolled as a student under the rhetorician Athanasios. Quickly he attained the skill of his teacher and became an instructor. Abraham led a strict and abstinent life, he slept little and ate only bread and water. When his teacher became jealous of him, he gave up his teaching position and went away. During these days, he visited St. Michael Maleinos, abbot of the Kyminas monastery. Abraham expressed his desire to become a monk. The holy Elder, saw in him a chosen vessel of the Holy Spirit and instructed him. Abraham was consumed by his zeal for the monastic life. Having forsaken everything, he went to the Kyminas monastery and begged to be received into the monastic life. It was granted and he was tonsured with the name Athanasios. With long fasts, vigils, bending of the knees, with works night and day Athanasios soon attained such perfection that the holy abbot blessed him to live in a solitary place not far from the monastery. Later on, having left Kyminas, he made the rounds of many solitary places, and guided by God, he came to a place at the very southern tip of

Mt. Athos, far off from the other monastic dwellings. He made himself a cell and began to live an ascetical life. He decided to suffer for a year, and then he would go where the Lord directed. On the last day, when he was praying, a heavenly light appeared filling him with joy. He received the gift of tenderness, and he became fond of the place. During this time Nikiforos, the nephew of Emperor Romanos, sought him out to build a monastery, and a church. At first he did not agree, but seeing his good intent, and discerning the will of God, he began building it. He built a large church in honor of St. John the Forerunner, and another for the Most Holy Theotokos. A wondrous monastery arose on the Holy Mountain with a dining area, a hospice for the sick and for taking in wanderers. Brethren flocked from Greece and other lands, and the brotherhood grew. The saint foresaw his falling asleep and told his brethren not to be troubled over it. After giving them his final guidance, alert and joyful, the holy abbot went with eight of the brethren to inspect the church construction. Suddenly, the church collapsed. Five of the monks reposed. St. Athanasios and the architect Daniel, were alive. All heard him call out to the Lord, “Glory to Thee, O God! Lord, Jesus Christ, help me!” They began to dig him out from the rubble, but found him already asleep.



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: Nordling (open) and Efird (close) Greeter: Dennis (Dionysios) & Natalia (Noelle)
Cleanup Team 7: Marnul, Moore, Ferrarini, Henry-Hall, Moffitt, Stinman, Efird

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

Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Mode)

When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel were proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.

To fedthrón tis anastáseos kírigma, ek tu anggélou mathúse e tu Kyríu mathítrie, ke tin progonikín apófasin aporrípsase, tis Apostólis kafhómene élegon: Eskiléfte o thánatos, iyérthi Christós o Theós, dthorúmenos to kósmo to méga éleos.

Hymn of St. Athanasios of Athos (Third Mode / Awed by the beauty)

The Angels' ranks were awed by your life in the flesh: how, though corporeal and clad with earthly clay, you set forth with courage to invisible wars and wrestlings, and you boldly smote the hordes of the demons with mortal wounds. Therefore, Christ rewarded you with abundant gifts in return. Entreat Him that our souls find salvation, O most renowned Father Athanasios.

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 Theotokos (Second Mode)

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 (of St. Athanasios)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1 (Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to His own city.

Communion Hymn for Sundays

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Alleluia.
Eníte ton Kýrion ek ton uranón. Allilúia.

Communion Hymn for St. Athanasios

In everlasting memory shall the righteous be. Alleluia.
Is mnimósinson eónion éste dthíkeos. Allilúia.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JULY 5
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows
Talk #3 ASA: Present & Future 12:15 pm
Dave Shaffer, ASA Board President

MONDAY, JULY 6
Logos Bookstore closed for Inventory thru July 8

TUESDAY, JULY 7
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 5:30 am

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 5:30 am
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am

THURSDAY, JULY 9
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 5:30 am
Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am
Nurturer of Children
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 am

FRIDAY, JULY 10
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 5:30 am
Paraklesis to St. Paisios the Athonite 6:00 pm
Friday Night Lights: Young Men’s 7:00 pm
Fellowship

SATURDAY, JULY 11
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 5:30 am
Swan’s Orthodox Marriages – 3:00 pm
Sam & Naomi; Aquila & Evangelia
Reception follows
Memorial for Constantin & Andrei 6:00 pm
Leahu (2 years)
Great Vespers 6:00 pm
“*Growing in the Faith*” Catechism Class 7:15 pm
St. John/HTC combined GOYA/Jr. GOYA 7:15 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 12
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Churching of Matthias Stephenson 11:45 am
Fellowship follows
Talk #4: About Our Parish new property 12:15 pm
- Tim Nieuwsma