

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 2nd Talk will be regarding our growing population and our deferred maintenance on the church building. 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.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT ... is planned for Monday, June 29 at 6:00 pm on the Forerunner Property. Main dish provided. See details in the weekly email.

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



JOIN THE PAN-ORTHODOX EFFORT TO HELP THOSE IN NEED IN PORTLAND! The Orthodox Churches in the Portland area are uniting to start a FOCUS Center locally. You can join this blessed endeavor by making a donation—and each gift will be *doubled* by a matching grant! We have raised \$40,000 towards our goal of \$45,000. Thank you! Donate here:



TODAY IS THE SOUP AND BAKE SALE FOR BUILDING FUND: we will have a Soup and Bake Sale. All contributions are welcome whether savory or sweet. Please bring your contributions pre-packaged, or ready to dish out. Whole cakes/loaves/etc. are welcome as well. Please price your items or have a suggested price. All proceeds go to the building fund!

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 PROFESSIONALS Join young adults from Orthodox parishes across the Portland area for a relaxed summer evening of fellowship, shared food, and community on June 30 at Annunciation Orthodox Church, 13515 SE Rusk Rd, Milwaukie, OR 97222 at 6:45pm following their Vespers service. Bring a dish for the potluck, an instrument if you have one, any lawn games you have, and enjoy an opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and make some new friends!

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



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: Mullen (open) and Makarounis (close) Greeter: Athena and Elizabeth (Lisa)
Cleanup Team 6: Kemper, Lindgren, Lowe, Cawley, Ercolani, Barnes, Riti, Makarounis



St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

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

(503) 644-7444 • www.stjohngoc.org
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June 28, 2026

Cyros & John the Unmercenaries • St. Paul the Physician of Corinth

The Holy Unmercenaries Cyros and John are counted among the Unmercenary Physicians. Cyros was a physician living in Alexandria. A pious Christian, he healed not only bodies but souls, bringing many to Christ, and often healing through prayer rather than the use of his medicines. He often said to his patients, “If you want to keep clear of illness, take care not to sin, because more often than not illness is a result of sin.” When Diocletian’s persecution broke out, Cyros was denounced to the governor and fled to Arabia, where he became a monk. He gained great renown there by healing many ailments using only the sign of the Cross. John was a soldier from Edessa who heard of Cyros’ deeds and, left the army, to find him. They met in Egypt, where John became a monk and his disciple, joining him in the practice of the virtues and in healing illnesses by prayer. They heard of the arrest of a Christian lady named Athanasia and her daughters Theoctista and Evdoxia. Concerned that the girls might renounce Christ under torture, the two monks sought them out to encourage them in their confession of the Faith. They themselves were captured, and the governor decided to have them tortured in front of the women, assuming that this would break their spirit. Instead, Cyros and John bore their sufferings so patiently that

the women were only strengthened in their resolve. Seeing that he had failed, the governor had all 5 beheaded. Their bodies were placed in the Church of St. Mark in Alexandria. In the 5th century the relics of Sts Cyros and John were enshrined in a church at Aboukir near Alexandria by St Cyril (June 9). There they were the source of abundant healings and miracles, and the shrine became one of the greatest places of pilgrimage in the Christian world.

St. Paul the Physician, from the city of Corinth, in this youth took monastic tonsure. Here the saint toiled much and became an experienced ascetic. Once Paul, was slandered by a woman. She came to the monastery with a newborn infant and said, that St. Paul was the father. The Elder endured the slander, he did not deny it and he took the infant, as though it were his own son. When they began to reproach the saint for breaking his monastic vows, St. Paul said, “Brethren, let us ask the infant who his father is!” The newborn, pointing his hand at the blacksmith, said, “Here is my father and not the monk Paul.” Seeing this miracle, people bowed down to the Elder, asking forgiveness. From this time the saint received from God the gift of healing the sick, whereby he received the name physician. Saint Paul died at age 70.

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 (Third Mode)

Let all things above in heaven rejoice; let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and firstborn of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Effrenéstho ta uranía, agalliástho ta epiyia, óti epiíse krátos, en vrahíoni aftú o Kýrios. Epátise to thanáto ton thánaton, protótokos ton nekrón eyéneto, ek kilías Ádthu errísato imás, ke parés-hye to kósmo to méga éleos.

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

Romans 6:18-23 (Fourth Sunday of Matthew)

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8:5-13 (Fourth Sunday of Matthew)

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to Him, beseeching Him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And He said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, He marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows
Talk #2 about our Church: Symeon Efird 12:15 pm
Great Vespers for Sts. Peter & Paul 6:30 pm

MONDAY, JUNE 29

Sts. Peter & Paul
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Artoklasia 11:00 am
Family Meetup 11:30 am
Mom’s Night Out at the Chapel House 6:00 pm
Fr. Matthew at Clergy-Laity Congress thru July 3

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Synaxis of the Holy Apostles
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Young Professionals Dinner (potluck) 6:45 pm
at Annunciation Church Milwaukee

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am

THURSDAY, JULY 2

St. John of San Francisco
Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 pm

FRIDAY, JULY 3

Church Office Closed
Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm
Friday Night Lights: Young Men’s Fellowship 7:00 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 4

NO Catechism Class tonight
Great Vespers 6:00 pm

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