

HONOR PANAGIA BY HELPING AT HER PICNIC: A community of helpers is needed for a community event, and the Panagia Picnic is no different. Please lend a hand to make this gathering happen! There are varied jobs for different time commitments and strengths: buying food, prepping food, bringing lawn games, driving items between church properties, setting up, and more. Sign up with the QR code or talk to Mary Olsen.



FR. MATTHEW ON VACATION from August 18 through August 26.

MEN’S NIGHT OUT ... Monday, August 24, 6:00-9:00 pm, at Breakside Brewery in Beaverton. Come join us for dinner at the food carts and a drink. No RSVP needed, just show up at 12675 SW 1st Street, Beaverton.

A LOCAL YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT Come join us for the PNW Pan-Orthodox Young Adults retreat, ages 21-40 at Camp Angelos this October 23-25. The retreat will include a guest speaker, church services, 5 square meals, games, dancing, campfires, outdoor activities, and relaxed fellowship with peers from across the PNW. Registration closes September 20, don't wait till it's too late as spots are limited. Email pdxpanorthodoxretreat@gmail.com if you have questions. Scan QR code to register.



THIS SATURDAY IS PANAGIA PICNIC! Join your fellow parishioners in honoring Panagia on Saturday, August 22, 2:00-5:30 pm at the Forerunner Property! We’d love for you to bring a potluck dish, a picnic blanket and/or chairs, and your appreciation for the Theotokos. But, most importantly, we want you to come and bless us with your presence! Wearing blue is strongly encouraged.

ANNUAL LABOR DAY HIKE FOR GOYA & Jr. GOYA: The Labor Day Hike is fast approaching! On Monday, September 7 (Labor Day), we will meet at church at 9:00 am and drive out to the Oregon Coast for a day of hiking, food, fellowship, and fun to kick off the new school year! We are planning to return to the church by 6:00 pm—in time for Great Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos. More details to come!

YOUNG WOMEN’S NIGHT BEGINS: Come join us for our first monthly Young Women’s Night on Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 pm at the church! This is a potluck event so please bring a dish or beverage to share and enjoy fellowship with ladies 18-40 years old. We hope to see you there!



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.stjohnnoc.org
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August 16, 2026

St. Joseph the Hesychast

Francis Kottis was born in the island of Paros to George and Maria on February 12, 1897. In his teens, he went to work in Piraeus. At 23 he began to read the lives of the Fathers, a spiritual turning point for him. These lives, particularly those of the strict ascetics, and a dream he had, gave him the desire to enter into monasticism. He responded to this desire by fasting and praying in the nearby countryside, which was uninhabited, and then going to Mt. Athos. The future Elder yearned to pray unceasingly, but had great troubles - he could not find a spiritual father, and the indifference of many monks towards unceasing prayer. In the midst of this experience, however, he was granted a vision of the uncreated light, and the gift of ceaseless prayer was given to him. During this time, he spent time in remote places to recite the Jesus Prayer. Eventually he met Fr. Arsenios, who was to become his co-struggler, and found that they shared a common desire for hesychasm and decided to find an experienced elder. They found Elder Ephraim and they arranged their lives to provide the maximum silence for the Jesus Prayer. In addition to his work and his prayer rule, Fr. Joseph went to a cave at sunset to recite the Jesus Prayer for 6 hours. After Elder Ephraim's repose, Frs. Joseph and Arsenios spent summers moving from place to place around the peak of Mt. Athos, so as to be unknown and to find and learn from spiritual monks. In winter, however, they returned to their hut in the wilderness at St Basil's. They possessed only their tattered monastic garments,

and Fr. Joseph ate 3 ozs. of dried bread a day, sometimes with wild greens. They spoke little so that they could pray more. Fr. Joseph was assailed with great temptation for 8 years, using as weapons extended vigils and using a chair to sleep on. Finally, Frs. Joseph and Arsenios discovered an experienced ascetic and spiritual father, Elder Daniel. Time passed, and the fame of Elder Joseph began to spread. After Fr. Arsenios ceded the eldership, Elder Joseph accepted 3 brothers to live with them. In 1938, seeking solitude from the increasing number of monks who sought his advice, he went to a cave at Little St. Anne's, where the brotherhood grew to 7 monks. After approximately 13 years, the large amount of physical labor required to live there became too much, making most of the fathers ill. Elder Joseph moved the community further down the mountain, nearer the sea, to New Skete. Elder Joseph reposed on August 15, 1959. In October 2019, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople glorified Elder Joseph and 4 other holy monks, Elders Hieronymus of Simonopetra, Daniel, Ephraim of Katounakia, and Elder Sophrony of Essex, as saints. Elder Joseph was already glorified as a saint in several places, including the Holy Mountain, Greece and Romania. The relic of the Elder's head is kept in St. Anthony's monastery, in Arizona, while the rest of his relics are kept in the Vatopedi monastery. His relics give off a divine fragrance. The abbot of Vatopedi monastery spoke publicly in Athens about miracles performed through his intercession, and miraculous appearances.



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 Blankenstein (close) Greeter: Elizabeth (Saige) and Christina
Cleanup Team 1: Lubliner J., Peil, Swanson, French, Dressler, Krogh, Giannetti, 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, please come to the Saturday evening Great Vespers service and the catechism class afterwards. Also visit Logos Bookstore and see the newcomer table.

HYMN OF THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Hymn of Dormition (First Mode)

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity; in your dormition, you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, since you are the Mother of Life; and by your intercessions you redeem our souls from death.

En ti Yennísi, tin parthenían efilaxas. En ti Kimísi, ton kózmon u katélipes Theotóke. Metéstis pros tin zo-in, Mitir ipárhusa tis zo-ís, ke tes prezví-es tes ses litruméni, ek thanátu tas psihás imón.

Resurrectional Hymn (Second Mode)

When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life Immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven’s powers did proclaim and cry out, “O Life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory.”

Repeat Hymn of Dormition

Hymn of the Holy Napkin (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."

Hymn of St. Joseph the Hesychast (Fourth Mode)

The offspring of Athos and the great adornment of monks, a haven of quietude and the ascetical life have

you now show to us. You revealed the methods to find grace by example, saving by prayer your servants who with faith entreat you. Our holiest Father Joseph pray to the Lord for us.

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 Holy Dormition (Second Mode)

The grave and death could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions and an unfailing hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life she was translated to life by Him Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

EPISTLE READING

I Corinthians 9:2-12 (11th Sunday of Matthew)

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a

flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:23-35 (Eleventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia 10:00 am
Fellowship follows

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
Fr. Matthew on Vacation through August 26

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20
Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 am
Nurturer of Children
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
Baptism of Natalie Rose Wynn 11:00 am
Panagia Picnic at the Forerunner Property 2:00 pm
Memorial for Aly Hope Weiser-Lily (11 years) 6:00 pm
Great Vespers 6:00 pm
“*Growing in the Faith*” Catechism Class 7:15 pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows