

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 4th *Talk* is regarding Our Parish New Property by Tim Nieuwsma. 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.

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

HELP SEND KIDS TO CAMP! Today's fellowship is hosted by parents of our kids attending the Metropolis Summer Camp later this month! Donations (cash, card or QR Code) can be made during fellowship and will go towards defraying transportation costs for our families. Anything you are able to offer is a blessing!



CALLING ALL WOMEN! Join together with fellow women of St John's to learn about where Women's Ministry is today and bring your feedback and ideas to shape where it will be tomorrow. All women are warmly encouraged to contribute. We will meet in the NFH during Fellowship on Sunday July 19.

MEN'S BACKYARD BBQ - On Saturday, July 18, 2:00-5:30PM, join the Men's Ministry for food and fellowship at Symeon's (William) home! He's planning to BBQ but bring your own side dish and/or drinks to share. Please bring a \$5 donation to help offset food costs. RSVPs are encouraged. If you didn't receive the Evite email, please talk to Symeon (William) or to Brandon W at cravetruth@yahoo.com

SHOW YOUR PHILOXENIA "Love for strangers". Email Fellowship@stjohngoc.org with any questions. Or sign up for a Sunday fellowship team 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 12, 2026

Saint Paisios the Athonite

In 1924, the future St. Paisios was born in Cappadocia. The village's spiritual father, St. Arsenios, baptized him with his own name. Soon after they were driven, out of Asia Minor by the Turks. St. Arsenios guided his flock to Greece, to the town of Konitsa. The young Arsenios was wholly given over to God and spent his free time in silence, praying constantly. After completing his education, he was a carpenter. He did this until his mandatory military service. He served in the army to the end of WWII. He was brave and self-sacrificing, always risking his life for others. After completing his tour of duty, he was discharged in 1949 and desired to begin monastic life on Mt. Athos. In 1950 he arrived on the Holy Mountain, where he learned his first lessons in the monastic way from the ascetic Fr. Kyril; then he was sent to the Monastery of Esphigmenou and was tonsured a monk in 1954. He was conscientious, completing his works while preserving his silence. He was always selfless and unwilling to rest while others worked. Soon after his tonsure, he left and joined Philotheou Monastery. Fr. Paisios believed that his own spiritual failures were the cause of his neighbor's shortcomings, as well as the world's ills. He pushed himself to greater self-denial and fervent prayer. He always sought the "good reason" for scandalous events and for people's actions, this kept him from judgment. In 1958, the saint was asked to remain near his home of Konitsa, and to support the faithful against the Protestant groups. In 1962, he left to visit

Sinai where he stayed for 2 yrs. He returned to Mt. Athos in 1964, and his health declined. In 1966, he had part of his lungs removed. It was during this time that his long friendship with the sisterhood of St. John the Theologian began. During his operation a group of novices donated blood to save him. He was most grateful, and did what he could, materially and spiritually, to help them build their monastery. In 1968, he helped renovating the Monastery of Stavronikita. While there he was in contact with Elder Tychon and stayed by his side until his repose, serving him selflessly. It was during this time that he was clothed in the Great Schema. Fr. Paisios remained in his hermitage until after his repose. In 1979, he moved to the Holy Mountain, to the hermitage Panagouda. Here he received the sick and suffering all day long, dedicating the night to God in prayer, vigil and spiritual struggle. This made him prone to sickness. In addition to respiratory problems, he suffered from a serious hernia, and hemorrhaging. When he had to leave Mt. Athos for medical reasons, he would receive pilgrims for hours on end at Souroti. He bore his suffering with grace. He said God is greatly touched when one who suffers does not complain. In 1993, he was diagnosed with cancer. After the operation he spent some time in the hospital and was then transferred to the monastery at Souroti. He received people and counselled them. His last days were full of suffering, but also of joy. On July 12, 1994, the saint gave his soul to God. He was buried at the monastery in Souroti.



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: Christian (open) and Mullen (close) Greeter: Elizabeth (Saige) & Christina
Cleanup Team 8: Lupercio, Muzik, Nieuwsma, Holloway, Mullen

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
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Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal First Mode)

Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure. And He raised the dead unto life through His glorious resurrection.

Ton sinánarhon Lógon Patrí ke Pnévmati, ton ek Parthénu tehthénda is sotirían imón. Animnísomen pistí ke proskínísomen, óti ivdthókise sarkí, anelthín en to Stavró, ke thánaton ipomíne, ke eyíre tus tethneótas en ti endthóxo Anastási aftí.

Hymn of St. Paisios the Athonite (Plagal First Mode / Coeternal with the Father)
Once the fire of love for the Lord was lit in you, through ascetical rigor you gave yourself to God. O God-bearing St. Paisios, for many you became consolation, giving counsel with God-inspired words, and by your prayers working wonders. And now, devout one, you intercede for the whole world unceasingly.

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
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Romans 12:6-14 (Sixth Sunday of Matthew)
Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

GOSPEL READING
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Matthew 9:1-8 (Sixth Sunday of Matthew)
At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" He then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Communion Hymn for Sundays
Praise the Lord from the heavens. Alleluia.

Eníte ton Kýrion ek ton uranón. Allilúia.

Communion Hymn for St. Paisios
In everlasting memory shall the righteous be. Alleluia.

Is mnimósinson eónion éste dthikeos. Allilúia.

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK	
SUNDAY, JULY 12	
St. Paisios the Athonite	
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Churching of Matthias Stephenson	11:45 am
Fellowship follows	
Talk #4: regarding Our Parish New Property – Tim Nieuwsma	12:15 pm
MONDAY, JULY 13	
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers	8:30 am
Liturgies are at the Forerunner Chapel this week	
TUESDAY, JULY 14	
St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain	
Orthros	8:00 am
Divine Liturgy	8:30 am
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15	
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers	8:30 am
Bible Study	10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour	11:00 am
THURSDAY, JULY 16	
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers	8:30 am
NO Akathist today	
Work Party at the Forerunner Property	4:00 pm
FRIDAY, JULY 17	
Fr. Matthew to Metropolis Summer Camp through Saturday, July 25	
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers	8:30 am
Paraklesis to the Theotokos	6:00 pm
Friday Night Lights: Young Men’s Fellowship	7:00 pm
SATURDAY, JULY 18	
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers	8:30 am
Men’s Backyard BBQ at Symeon’s home	2:00 pm
Memorial - Abraham Gedeon (40 days)	6:00 pm
Great Vespers	6:00 pm
Pan-Orthodox Young Professionals Gathering at the Forerunner Property	7:00 pm
“Growing in the Faith” Catechism Class	7:15 pm
SUNDAY, JULY 19	
Orthros	8:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Churching of Matthias Stephenson	11:45 am
Fellowship follows	
All Women’s Meeting	12:00 pm