

TODAY IS PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY: Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) helps Orthodox Christians who have been arrested for crimes, to return to the Faith, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with Christ. OCPM also provides spiritual care for both Orthodox and non-Orthodox, enabling people in prison to find hope and purpose in their lives. Learn more at the table in the fellowship hall, where you can sign up to help start a local chapter.

FAMILY MEETUP TOMORROW ... Following the Divine Liturgy for St. Panteleimon. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a potluck, fellowship, and board games with fellow St. John families and parishioners.

COME TO 40 LITURGIES, FOR OUR FUTURE! Pray for the future of St. John’s—for discernment, wisdom, patience, and fortitude—now through the Dormition of the Theotokos. See the calendar for services and location (at Forerunner Property & current property).

THE SEASON OF PANAGIA ... is upon us! August 1-14 is the fast for the Dormition of the Theotokos. There will be a Paraklesis service almost every night. Try to come to at least one Great Paraklesis and one Small Paraklesis during this blessed season!

BLESSING GRAPES ON TRANSFIGURATION: On Thursday, August 6, we will celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mt. Tabor with 8:30 am Orthros and 9:30 am Liturgy. Bring grapes— *washed & clipped into small clusters*—to be blessed after Liturgy.

JOIN A FELLOWSHIP TEAM ... and take part in the *Philoxenia* ("Love for strangers") that is an integral part of our community life. Email fellowship@stjohngoc.org or use this QR code with questions or to sign up!



AN 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. If you have them, bring gloves and loppers. All are welcome! Join us on Saturdays: August 8, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm; and September 12, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm—and every Thursday 4:00 - 6:30 pm.

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE! The YAL (Young Adult League) Conference, for adults 18-35 years old, will take place in at the Westin St. Francis Union Square in San Francisco, September 3-7. It will be an immersive weekend of Fellowship, Service, Worship and Witness in the heart of the Metropolis. Registration closes August 8. Visit sanfran.goarch.org/YAL2026 to register.

CASA CUNA @ PROJECT MEXICO ... is asking faithful Orthodox Christians to commit six months or up to one to two years to loving these orphaned babies. Whether that means soothing a fussy baby at 2am, helping with feedings, or simply sitting with a child so they know someone is there. Your time will make a difference you can actually see. Contact Pres. Merilyn, infants@projectmexico.org



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: Blankenstein (open) and Nordiing (close) Greeter: Aquila (Don) & Evangelia (Lori)
Cleanup Team 10: Wagner, Swan, Pryor, Valentine, Smirnov, Duncan, Nordling



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 26, 2026

St. Paraskevi the Martyr of Rome • Holy Hieromartyrs Hermolaos, Hermippos & Hermocrates

Holy Virgin Martyr Paraskevi of Rome was the only daughter of Christian parents, Agathon and Politia, and from her early years she dedicated herself to God. She spent much of her time in prayer and the study of the Holy Scriptures. After the death of her parents Saint Paraskevi distributed all of her inheritance to the poor, and consecrated her virginity to Christ. Emulating the holy Apostles, she began to preach to the pagans about Christ, converting many to Christianity. She was arrested during the reign of Antoninos Pios (138-161) because she refused to worship the idols. She was brought to trial and fearlessly confessed herself a Christian. Neither enticements of honors and material possessions, nor threats of torture and death shook the firmness of the saint nor turned her from Christ. She was given over to beastly tortures. They put a red-hot helmet on her head and threw her in a cauldron filled with boiling oil and pitch. By the power of God the holy martyr remained unharmed. When the emperor peered into the cauldron, Saint Paraskevi threw a drop of the hot liquid in his face, and he was blinded. The emperor began to ask her for help, and the holy martyr healed him. After this the emperor set her free. Traveling from one place to another to preach the Gospel, Saint Paraskevi arrived in a city where the governor was named Asclepios. Here again they tried the saint and sentenced her to death. They took her to an immense

serpent living in a cave, so that it would devour her. But Saint Paraskevi made the Sign of the Cross over the snake and it died. Asclepios and the citizens witnessed this miracle and believed in Christ. She was set free, and continued her preaching. In a city where the governor was a certain Tarasios, Saint Paraskevi endured fierce tortures and was beheaded in the year 140. Many miracles took place at the saint’s tomb: the blind received sight, the lame walked, and barren women gave birth to children. It is not only in the past that the saint performed her miracles, but even today she helps those who call on her in faith.

Saint Hermolaos and those with him were priests of the Church in Nicomedia, living in hiding after the Emperor Maximian had burnt to death the 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (see Dec. 28). It was Hermolaos who converted Saint Panteleimon to Christ. When Saint Panteleimon was seized as a Christian and was asked by Maximian who it was that had turned him from the idols, the Saint, enlightened by God that the time of his teacher's martyrdom also was at hand, revealed to Maximian that it was Hermolaos the priest. Saint Hermolaos was taken with Saints Hermippos and Hermocrates, and when they had confessed Christ to be the only true God, they were beheaded in the year 305. Saint Hermolaos is one of the Holy Unmercenaries.

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 (Grave Mode)

O Lord, by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at Your command: that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Katélisas to Stavró Su ton thánaton, inéoxas to listí ton Parádthison. Ton Mirofóron ton thrínon metévales, ke tis sis Apostólis kirittin epétaxas: óti anéstis Christé o Theós, paréhon to kósmo to méga éleos.

Hymn of St. Paraskevi (First Mode)

Showing a diligence befitting your calling, O namesake of preparedness, you have gained as your dwelling a faith worthy of your name, O prize-winning Paraskevi. Hence, you pour forth healings and intercede for our souls.

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 3:23-29; 4:1-5 (Sunday of St. Paraskevi)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:14-22 (Eighth Sunday of Matthew)

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and He had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then He made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

Communion Hymn for Sundays

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

Communion Hymn of St. Paraskevi

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

Relentless onslaughts of distressing troubles now disquiet my humble soul. And the gloomy clouds of tribulation shroud my heart. But since you, O Bride of God, are Theotokos and Mother of the divine pre-eternal Light, shine on me the light that is full of joy.

~ Ode 1 Hymn from the Great Paraklesis to the Theotokos

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JULY 26
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows
Talk #5 About Our Parish – Steps Ahead 12:15 pm
(Matt Newman of NE Engineers)

MONDAY, JULY 27
St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 8:30 am
at 14485 SW Walker Rd. all week long
Family Meetup 10:00 am

TUESDAY, JULY 28
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 8:30 am

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 8:30 am
Bible Study 10:00 am
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am

THURSDAY, JULY 30
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 8:30 am
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 pm

FRIDAY, JULY 31
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 8:30 am
Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
Dormition Fast begins through August 14
Liturgy with Pre-Communion Prayers 8:30 am
Procession with the Holy Cross 9:30 am
Great Vespers 6:00 pm
“Growing in the Faith” Catechism Class 7:15 pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Fellowship follows
Churching of Damian Omar Gonzalez 11:45 am
Talk #6 About Our Parish – Nick 12:15 pm
Diamond of Capacity Commercial Group
Baptism of Matthias Stephenson 2:00 pm
Reception follows
Great Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm