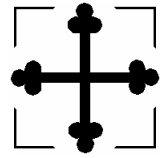




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH APRIL 2016

The "Nones" and the "Dones"

May the remainder of Lent be blessed!

Recently the Pew Research Center released the findings of a survey they did and gave it the title, "The Rise of the Nones". The research focused on the changing religious demographics in our country and concluded that the number of non-affiliated people (nones), and those leaving our churches (dones), was increasing dramatically. They concluded that the rise of secularism in this country was to blame and that soon, our churches would experience the same challenges that Western European Churches faced years ago.

I'm sure that some of us have already noticed the increase in the number of people leaving the Church and that in general, religion's role in society is decreasing. Some might even be asking, "How will the Church respond to this great challenge?" "How will the Church address the issue of an increasing number of people who are leaving our churches?" First off, we should never lose hope. Archbishop Anastasios of Albania encourages us with these words: "We should never fear to be a minority in society. The days of the great Christian empires are over, and now once again we are becoming a minority like the Apostolic Church. We shouldn't fear being a minority, as long as we are a minority inspired by God, filled with His Holy Spirit. A Spirit-filled minority can change the world." Reflecting on these words we must ask ourselves, "Can we be a Spirit-filled Church proclaiming Good News that is relevant, meaningful and life-giving? Can we offer a message of new life to all who accept it?"

We can and we should because we have a special offering that no one else can give! What the Orthodox Church has to offer is the elevation of humanity, through purification, from the multifaceted nature of sin to something more refined, more genuine. The goal is to advance to another level, to what we call illumination, to deification by the grace of God, and to union with God (Theosis). It is participation in God Who is love and a never ending movement of limited humanity towards the unlimited divinity. We have that "pearl of great price". We have Great and Holy Lent and this Lenten journey to Pascha that no one else has. We have the Church which makes the Eucharist and the Eucharist that makes the Church.

Are we truly presenting such a gospel? Is our church a loving and welcoming community? Can people authentically encounter the Divine in our worship and enter into His presence? Is our church offering substantial and inspiring education that leads to transformed lives? Do we represent people of humility who are ready to serve others with unconditional love? Are we people constantly confessing and repenting with tears? Are we "all-in" or are we secular Orthodox Christians whose lives have really nothing to do with God?

These are extremely important questions we must ask ourselves and answer. If we act as such people and communities of faith-no matter how small we are-we will have an impact on the world around us. The growing number of "Nones" and "Dones" will not only notice such people and communities, but will even join us in our fellowship of love. May it be so!

Father Jerry

p.s. The number of people not attending services here is increasing too and the effects are being felt. Just want to remind you that it is only the Church that gives real meaning to life and transcendence of death. It is in the Church alone where we find our true self in the strength of our communion with our brothers and sisters and our Savior. Now would be a great time to make your way back. Hope to see you in church soon. fj

Building a Stronger Orthodox Christian Community by: Spiritually growing together; Sharing the Orthodox Faith through fellowship, outreach, and philanthropy; Worshiping in a traditional Byzantine church; Supported through Stewardship

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Phone: (541) 683-3519

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that this finds each of you well as we continue on our journey through Great Lent together as we draw nearer to Pascha once again. It brings to mind of the work many of you do to support the missions and outreach of our Parish and the extra work needed this time of year though your stewardship of your time, talent and treasure. This strengthens and supports our actions as a Parish Council and Father's actions as our priest towards our current and future goals as a parish. While traveling to & at the Clergy - Laity Assembly I was reminded that in order to continue these efforts we need the full commitment of all our parishioners working together. Many of you are already doing so and beyond. We need to continue to reach out to our brothers and sisters we don't see or hear from regularly so that we support and engage them. Truly together with everyone, God willing we will reach what we have planned for the future of our Parish. On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish to thank you all for your efforts.

In Christ,

Gregory Sebastian, Parish Council President

From the Bookstore

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We recently got in a several new items. Our first new item is a recently published book on the accounts of a Greek taxi driver, this book is in similar style to that of Crazy John. We also got in a couple of Akathists that make great gifts for newlyweds and parents of newborns. In addition we got in some Lenten favorite reads. As books sell keep an eye open for new and different books. As always we seek to get items that meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners. If there is something you think our bookstore should carry please feel free to let me know.

In Christ,

**Gregory Sebastian
Bookstore Manager**

Treasurer's Report

As we enter the month of April the Operations Account balance is \$16,029. By comparison, last year at this time the balance was \$16,283. The Dedicated Fund balance remains at \$7,096.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are getting ready for the 2nd Annual Evening in Greece dinners, May 14 & 21. Come one, come all!

Let Julie or Presbyteria know if you'd like to help. Please help spread the word about this great event by posting posters and handing out flyers. We will have them for you soon. Seating will be limited, so reserve your spots early.

Presbyteria Maria**Annual Tsoureki Fundraiser:**

It is time for Philia's Greek Easter Bread (Tsoureki) Fund Raiser. Tsoureki is a delightful egg bread baked with a hint of citrus. The loaves are beautiful and make excellent gifts. Traditionally, the bread is served at Pascha with the main meal, snack, or sweet enough to eat as a dessert.

Tsoureki is made by the ladies of Philia and is priced at \$8.00 per loaf. Order forms will be available on Sunday, April 3rd. All orders must be pre-paid and the order deadline is Thursday, April 14th. Order Pick-up date is Palm Sunday, April 17th.

If you would like to help make Tsoureki - no experience necessary - please contact me for particulars.

We will be baking on Saturday, April 2nd and Saturday, April 9th between 9 am and 5 pm. Both morning and afternoon shifts are available.

Gloria Zezeas Timmons

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

Two representatives from our mission parish had the blessing to join Fr. Jerry and the representatives from St. George and Holy Cross in Roseburg at the Clergy Laity Assembly. John Wayne Zaiger and Andreas Craig Volz reflected on our Metropolitan Gerasimos's leadership in humility as a budget decision was resolved and a unanimous outcome was achieved. Another highlight was being able to stay an extra day while the priests gathered, visiting the monastery as a smaller group, and worshipping in the beautiful Dormition Chapel of the Panagia.

If you haven't visited our website for a while, we have a whole new look thanks to Peter Fausero! He says it actually isn't finished yet, but we are thrilled with all he has been able to do to create this beautiful, informational, and evangelical resource. Most people who come inquiring have first visited our website.

We are in the process of planning a Bright Saturday Celebration that we invite you to join us for – more details to come soon. Thank you for your faithful prayers for us and especially our catechumens and inquirers.

In Christ,

Maria Hauser

From the mission in Roseburg

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church has been conducting catechisms since Fr. Jerry began serving here in Roseburg. Towards the end of winter this year, Fr. Jerry proposed asking Daniel Monroe to continue his work. Daniel reports that this spring Holy Cross has two catechumens. Their studies began with St. Ignatius' epistle to the Ephesians, which is a very early 2nd century document attesting to the timelessness of church dogmas and organization. The catechumens have been joined by several members of Holy Cross who decided to further their education. As a result, the discussions have been spirited and bracing. After they finish St. Ignatius, the catechumens and their fellow students will turn to St. Athanasius' treatise on the Incarnation, in which the bishop of Alexandria writes what may be the clearest explanation of salvation history in any language. When they have finished reading St. Athanasius, the catechumens will be given a survey of important Orthodox dogmas, historical moments and practices.

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross

PHILIA

Thank you to all who participated in our Lenten Silent Auction, to Melita for her efforts, to Adrienne, who took charge of the World's Largest Indoor Garage Sale at the Fairgrounds and to everyone who took part in it and made it happen. We netted \$121.00 on the first and cleared \$210.00 on the second. We are a very busy group of ladies. Thank goodness for pocket calendars! Our next project is the baking of Tsourekia. Please see Gloria if you wish to either help or order this traditional Greek Easter bread.

Plans for the future:

- Tsoureki bake and sale in April
- Greek Dinners - Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, May 21.

For info on wedding or baptismal items contact Gloria at 541-424-0575 or via email at zeazeastimons@gmail.com. And see Melita if interested in Rada products.

Next meetings: April 10 and May 8, 2016

Reminder: Philia is a philanthropic organization open to ALL women in the parish, Come and join us! We could always use helping hands and helpful minds.

Julie Lenkoff, Philia Coordinator

COFFEE CHAT :

April 10 is potluck day; please jot that on your calendars and bring something to share. The Easter Potluck on May 1, however, will be different. The Parish Council will be in charge of that, and will be providing sign up sheets for various side dishes and any other pertinent info. April 24 is Palm Sunday Charity Luncheon, sponsored by the Parish Council.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Just a reminder that church-wide cleanup is set for April 23 and April 30. For your scheduled cleaning, please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened.

Thank you.

Julie Lenkoff, Cleanup Coordinator (email: julielenkoff@comcast.net)

Mission & Evangelism

Elyse Buffenbarger tells her story...

Eight years ago, I was done with church. My “seeker-friendly” evangelical congregation had devolved into a hip, vaguely spiritual coffee shop; the cross that hung in the sanctuary had been taken down for being “too religious.” The Presbyterian church down the street, with its accompanying symphony, felt majestic but cold. The Methodist minister around the corner preached her sermon on a Leonard Cohen song. Try as I might, the Gospel was nowhere to be found.

Imagine my interest when I heard that Bryce, a friend from high school, had left his evangelical church and become “Greek Orthodox.” Greek Orthodox? What in the world was that? It embarrasses me to admit it now, but I thought the term “Greek Orthodox” was some sort of obscure joke Bryce had invented to make fun of churchgoers. On a whim, I emailed him. “Is Greek Orthodoxy real,” I said, “or did you make it up?”

There was no way I could have known, as I wrote that email, that Orthodoxy was real, that Bryce would want to get dinner and talk about it, that he and I would be married a year later. I could not have known that the Orthodox Church was the home I had been looking for all my life. I certainly could not have known that, years later, we would come to seminary with the intent of ordination. By sending one email, I had signed on for the adventure of a lifetime. After learning that the Orthodox Church was not an obscure joke, but the second largest Christian church in the world, I was stunned that I had never heard of it before. Bryce hadn’t either, until he attended a philosophy conference and met Orthodox ethicist Tristram Englehardt. Neither of us grew up under a spiritual rock; we both had deeply religious families, broad educations, and lives lived in Christian communities.

So I ask you this: does the college student down the block from you know that Orthodoxy exists? Does your local community know your parish for its service and not just its baklava? The parish that first welcomed us both, once a thriving Greek Orthodox community, has dwindled to four or five very faithful families and can no longer afford a priest; if it does not grow and welcome others into its fold, it will die out in a generation, maybe sooner.

Will yours?

April Celebrations Birthdays

April 2nd-Raphael Groomer

April 3rd-Georgia Lallas

April 9th-Sarah Shafer, Demetre Markopoulos

April 11th-Panayiotis Katsoyannos

April 15th-Melita Green, Nektarios Kaelin

April 20th-Eliana Hauser

April 26th-Niko Lilles

Feast Days

April 1st-St Mary of Egypt

Melita Green, Sharon Smith

April 22nd-St Nearchos

Neal Zoumboukos

April 23rd-St George

Georgia Lallas

Wedding Anniversaries

April 3rd

Nektarios & Ann Marie Kaelin

April 4th

Neal & Yvonne Zoumboukos

April 29th

Leo & Debbie Hall

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

April 11th

Daniel, Bonnie, Aftasie, Omilie Doran

April 23rd

Sara, Gwen, Lewace, Jordyn Knerl

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates for the April First Saturday Breakfast events are **Friday, April 1st and Saturday, April 2nd**. Many hands make for light work so please consider lending us yours.
- **Great and Holy Lent 2016:** Great and Holy Lent continues this whole month with many beautiful services and opportunities to grow in faith. Please join us on Mondays and Tuesdays for Great Compline; on Wednesdays and Fridays for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts; and Fridays for the Salutations services.
- **Mochas for Missions:** This grassroots campaign is both a fundraiser for the Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism and an opportunity to grow in our understanding of the evangelistic vision of the Orthodox Church. Last year, over \$34,000 dollars was raised Metropolis-wide and we contributed over \$600 dollars towards that. This year the goal is \$45,000 dollars so let's do all we can to help them reach it!
- **Stewardship:** During this season activity at church increases significantly. From decorations to hosting meals, there are many more opportunities to give of your time, talent and treasure. We don't "budget" for Lent and Pascha so the costs we incur are over and above our normal expenses. Please consider a special offering of your time, talent and treasure this month to help us.
- **Events in our area:** A four-day iconography workshop will be held **April 1st-4th**, in Newberg, Oregon. The workshop is offered by Magdalene G. Deane, founder and master instructor at the Hagia Theodora School of Byzantine Iconography, in Newberg. Details and registration information can be found on the flyer or at www.hagiatheodora.org. The Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. John the Honorable Forerunner in Goldendale, WA will host a Women's Lenten Retreat, **April 15-17th**. The V. Rev. Fr. John Bethancourt will be the retreat leader. For more information please see the flyer posted in the Fellowship Hall. An event for IOCC will take place on **Sunday evening, April 17th**, at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland. This event hopes to bring attention to the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East and to raise funds to support the work of IOCC. Two hundred tickets have already been sold so please don't wait to make reservations. Details and registration information can be found on the flyer posted in the Fellowship Hall.
- **In our prayers: "Pray for one another that you might be healed" (James 5:16)**-Jim, Eleni, John, Elaine, John, Fr. Constantine, Fr. James, Kevin, Lisa, Eugenia, Niko, Rebeca, Maria, Anastasia, Zinaida,

Katherine, Rachel, Nektaria, Leda, Jesse, John, Ann, Kay, Photini, Elaine, Elle, Jan, Andy, Jimmy, Froso, Andy, Dimitri, Christian, Judy, Mary, Gloria, John, Eloise, Matteus, Chris, Nikki, Anastasia, the unborn, pregnant women contemplating abortion, & those who pray for the end of abortion. Please also be praying for all those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East, Iraq, Africa, Syria, and the whole world.

Father Jerry and Clergy Laity Assembly Delegates from Eugene, Salem and Roseburg



KOINONIA

	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24	5/1
FELLOWSHIP	Batterson	Everyone Potluck	Kaelin	Palm Sunday Luncheon	PASCHA!
GREETER	Larissa L.	Gloria & John	Ann L.	Jerry R.	
PROSFORON	Hauser	Lilles	Freezer	Creech	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	4/2 Batterson	4/9 Hauser	4/16 Kaelin	4/23 Everyone	

GET INVOLVED!!!

Look through this list of organizations, programs, and ministries at our parish,
then call the contact person and get involved!!!

PARISH COUNCIL	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
ACOLYTES	Bob Graham 541-937-2670
BOOKSTORE	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
CHURCH SCHOOL	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
CHANTER/CHANT GROUP	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN	Art Mehas 541-485-8671
FELLOWSHIP	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
STEWARDSHIP	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
GREETERS	Melita Green 541-543-8792
1ST SAT. BREAKFAST	Adrienne Bonosevich 541-343-72832/7
FLOWERS	Diane Monger 541-530-3210
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Melita Green 541-543-8792
FUNDRAISERS	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

**Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
202 Hillview 1
Eugene, OR 97408-5018**

The last prayer of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts...

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy

“O Almighty Lord, who has made all created things in wisdom; and by Your inexpressible Providence and great goodness, have brought us to these all-saving days, for the purification of body and soul, for the controlling of carnal passions, and for the hope of the Resurrection; who during the forty-days did give into the hand of Your servant Moses, the Tablets of the Law with letters divinely inscribed; enable us also O Good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the Fast, to preserve inviolate the Faith, to crush under-foot the heads of invisible serpents, to be accounted victors over sin, and to arrive un-condemned at , and adore, Your Holy Resurrection!”

Amen