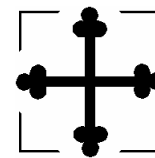




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JUNE 2016

Christ is Risen!

God has blessed us again with a number of new folks inquiring into the Orthodox Church and Faith. Between Eugene, Salem and Roseburg, there are close to a dozen people that I am meeting with. A frequent question I am being asked is, "How is a Christian to live in 2016 America?" I'm not surprised by the question as in casual conversation I hear many people say that times have changed and that living as a Christian in this culture has become more challenging. This is further evidenced by the many blogs and podcasts you can find on the internet. Some even say that things today remind them of the early days of the Christian Church. So, it might be helpful to look at how Christians live in those days. I came across an early Christian writing written somewhere between 130-200 AD entitled "An Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus", where the author says this about the manners of Christians: *For the Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. For they neither inhabit cities of their own, nor employ a peculiar form of speech, nor lead a life which is marked out by any singularity. The course of conduct which they follow has not been devised by any speculation or deliberation of inquisitive men; nor do they, like some, proclaim themselves the advocates of any merely human doctrines. But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined, and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all [others]; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death, and restored to life. They are poor, yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonored, and yet in their very dishonor are glorified. They are evil spoken of, and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honor; they do good, yet are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners, and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred.*

I don't about you but it seems to me that the early Christians had it right. They dwelt in cities and towns, but simply as sojourners. They were citizens that shared in all things but understood their true citizenship to be in heaven. They obeyed the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpassed the laws by their lives. They loved all men even amidst terrible persecution.

As we head into a summer which may prove to be politically and culturally "charged", let us live as did those early Christians, by God's grace! *Father Jerry*

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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Website: www.stgeorgeor.org
Email: frgerasimos@sntgrg.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

It has taken a while but our new database system will be fully implemented shortly which should help with the administration of our Parish while reducing some of the administration efforts. Currently we are utilizing a trial mode before we complete the switch. In addition it will give us some capabilities that we haven't had before. This system is the result of the Archdiocese working with a company to modify a system to meet the needs of the GOA. As a result the Archdiocese is covering the cost of this database system for the 1st year. Last year after the release of this program and with the expiration of our previous system, the council decided to try this new system. We also continue to see the impact of our efforts on our missions and the generosity of our brothers and sisters in keeping our parish moving forward, even with our limited numbers at times. We will continue our efforts together brothers and sisters as we work not only to continue our current missions, but work together to bring life back to our youth and young adult ministries. Our goal as a Parish Council is to not only working towards our goals, but to give each parishioner an opportunity to be engaged in a manner befitting their time, talent and treasure. And many of you have taken those opportunities recently with the Evening in Greece dinners, cooking, prepping, serving, dancing, cleaning up and most importantly welcoming our guests. I express my thanks to all of you.

In Christ,

Gregory Sebastian, Parish Council President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Giving for 2016 continues to lag behind 2015's. As we enter June (excluding the Memorial Day weekend), the operating fund has \$12,716 available to meet our June financial obligations. That amount is roughly what our expenses are in any given month. However, in 2015, again excluding the holiday weekend, our operations fund had \$15,416. The numbers for both years include the proceeds from our May fundraisers. This once again points out the importance of our stewardship giving, and our efforts to keep our giving up to date.

Thank you for your support of Saint George.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Thank you, everyone, for making our 2nd annual Evenings in Greece a huge success! Each of our dinners was sold out, with waiting lists! We had a wonderful time meeting new friends and sharing our hospitality and faith with them. Many people took church tours and asked lots of questions. Thank you to all the volunteers who made these dinners possible. We had a great time all working together.

Now we are looking ahead to our annual Gyrofest, which will be July 24, after church. Please talk to Presbytera about volunteering and invite your friends to join us for lunch!

Our next committee meeting will be June 26th, after church. If anyone would like to join our committee, feel free to attend.

Presbytera Maria

Mochas for Missions

Mochas for Missions is a fundraiser in the Diocese of the West which supports mission and mentored parishes in our Diocese. St. George set \$650 as a goal this year. The fundraiser ends on Pentecost Sunday, June 19th. St. George received support from this program to obtain our first full-time priest back in the 1980's. St. George has helped birth two missions which are being supported by this program, Salem and Roseburg. Fr. Jerry travels to both Missions to celebrate Liturgy and has office hours for the parishioners. Many converts have come into the Orthodox Church through these efforts. The St. George Christian family now includes these parishioners.

A parishioner from Roseburg recently had surgery at Sacred Heart Medical Center. We prayed for this family and provided a food basket while they stayed in Eugene. They expressed sincere appreciation for being included in our St. George family.

Please consider supporting this fundraiser which benefits those we know and love. We collect funds during Fellowship Hour each Sunday. If you are not available at this time, donate to St. George Mochas for Missions and give the money to Melita or Neal. Thank you very much.

In service, Melita Green

STEWARDSHIP

Parish Council members are often asked what the difference between stewardship and free will giving is. Stewardship is a pledge to support the Saint George and its ministries with your time, talent and treasure over the course of any given year with a specific commitment to the parish. Hence, we ask you to fill out a card stating your intentions. As has been the case the last few years, we have not only asked for a financial pledge, but also an expression of those activities in which you would like to offer your time and talents. Free will giving is an open-ended commitment of your time, talent and treasure as your family and you are able. It also can be giving over and above that which you have pledged in stewardship. Both are critical to our parish's growth and sustainability. Presently, the parish has thirty-five stewards. It also has eleven free will givers who are lending their support to the parish. The parish council is grateful to each and every one of you for being an active, involved member of Saint George.

Gloria, Bonnie, John and Adrienne,

I got lucky again this year and was on duty for the meal prepared but St. George for the homeless families from First Place Family Shelter. The food was great and the families really enjoyed it. I always enjoy talking with you and John, and was really impressed with Bonnie and Adrienne. They were super workers and very thoughtful. Participating this year in May put a real strain on you and your congregation with your big Greek Dinner fund raiser in just a few days. Thank you for being flexible. We will be hosting families in May again, so I hope this won't be too difficult for all of you.

It is hard to imagine the stress that being without a home places on the parents and their children. Nor can I imagine how teachers can adequately respond to children dealing with living in a different place each week. Teachers have lots of challenges. Please let your whole congregation know how much we appreciate their support and help to make these families lives a bit more secure.

Some interesting facts. The first year St. Thomas hosted homeless families was 2004. I'm not sure, but I think you and St. George have been our partner for at least ten years. This year we had 10 families, 29 +/- individuals, with about 10 -15 being 10 years and younger. About 50-55 individual members from St. Thomas, St. Matthews and St. George Greek Orthodox church volunteered at least 304 hours. Those hours do NOT include time spent organizing each meal, preparing the food and travel time nor the organizing effort of our St. Thomas team of Sue Colvin, Lindy Moore, breakfast cook/coordinator and me.

Again, Gloria, thank you. Do let members of St. George know how much we appreciate their help.

Janet Calvert

St Thomas Episcopal Church

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Our bookstore continues to offer new items. We have added some new books, incense and gift items from St John's Monastery along with those from other suppliers. We have to order some books and items which were requested for the bookstore to carry along with restocking of some popular favorites. I am happy to report that due to your continued input our bookstore is continuing to better serve our needs as we continue to seem to have the joyous difficulty of keeping items on our shelves. I continue to encourage you to take look at the bookstore, whilst providing your input.

In Christ,

Gregory Sebastian

Bookstore Manager

PHILIA

A great big thank you to all the Philia Ladies as well as to many other members of the parish who helped pull off two very successful Evening In Greece dinners. While somewhat labor intensive, they brought and introduced many outsiders to our Orthodox church, they were profitable and, most importantly, they were a lot of fun!

Philia will have a guest speaker on Sunday, June 5. Marcie McKenna from a group called "Moms Demand Action for Better Gun Sense in America", will be doing a 20-minute power point presentation called "Be Smart". It will be held in the conference room at noon. Any ADULTS who want to attend are welcome, however, because of graphic content, children should not be present. We will hold our Philia meeting right after the presentation.

Once again we are collecting items for a garage sale to be held at Adrienne's on August 20. If you have anything you wish to donate to our fundraiser, please let us know. Remember, your trash might be someone's treasure!

Plans for the future:

- June 8, 12:00 - 12:20 p.m. - Speaker on Gun Safety - Conference Room
- July 24, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Gyrofest Fundraiser
- August 20 - Garage Sale at Adrienne's

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

Next meetings: July 3 and August 7, 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 :

Despite a broken finger, Michael Creech led a crew of Fathers and Sons who created a lovely luncheon for the Moms. It was both pretty and delicious, and made us feel very special. Thank you all! A reminder that June 12 will be another potluck day and on June 19, Pete will present us with the Pentecost Charity Luncheon.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Reminder that June 4 will be another one of the "Everyone Tidy Up" days, so, if you see something amiss that week, please take care of it. And if you need to have the door opened for your regular scheduled cleaning, please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com.

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

**Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
Greetings from the Salem Mission!**

We had a Bright Saturday Potluck and Celebration after Fr. Jerry celebrated the Divine Liturgy with us. It was a bright, warm, and sunny day enjoyed by the Salem faithful and some guests! The tables were overflowing and of course, we had one more opportunity to try to be the last person to have the last intact red egg. Throughout Lent, people had contributed items for gift baskets which were raffled off, all proceeds going to C.O.M.E. Mochas for Missions. The highlight and conclusion of the day was Fr. Jerry and a couple of our Greek ladies teaching Greek dancing. Everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to visit and share their Holy Week and Pascha experiences as Bright Week drew to a close. You can see some pictures on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/salemorthodoxchurch>.

You're always welcome to join us! We meet the 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9 a.m. for Divine Liturgy, 2nd and 4th Sundays with Orthros starting at 9 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy, and Wednesday evenings starting at 6 p.m. for usually either a Paraklesis or vespers service followed by a potluck and study time. We are currently watching the video series The Way, An Introduction to the Orthodox Christian Faith. Please see our website and Facebook pages for up-to-date information.

**Glory to God for all things,
Maria Hauser**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~
Christ is Risen!**

Growing up is hard to do!

The Mission Statement of Holy Cross reads: Attaining to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, through worship, service, witness, fellowship and discipleship, guarded and guided by the Holy Trinity.

We are attempting to fulfill this ideal by creating teams to lead us in each of these 5 areas. Our main focus at present is the Missions and Evangelism team, who is full of ideas to reach out to our community and make Orthodoxy visible in Roseburg. Meanwhile the Steering Committee is working on much-needed administration items (such as proper insurance). None of this flurry of activity is viable, however, without the protection and guidance of the Holy Trinity. Please be in prayer for the Roseburg Mission, as we work on growing up in Christ!

The Mission would like to extend a special thank you for your sweet ministry towards our parishioners Stan and Meme Tenold. Your care for them while they are in Eugene dealing with critical medical issues has been an amazing blessing and a wonderful example of Philia!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

June Celebrations Birthdays

June 8th-Jim Stephenson
June 9th-Paras Markopoulos
June 10th-Elias Groomer
June 16th-Larisa Lilles
June 18th-Julie Rundt
June 21st-Aftasie Doran
June 25th-Ashley Knerl
June 27th-Sharon Smith

Feast Days

June 3rd-St Kevin of Ireland
Kevin Kaelin
June 27th-St Joanna the Myrrhbearer
Jo Ann Kluge
June 30th-Sts. Peter & Paul
Gwen Knerl

Wedding Anniversaries

June 6th
Bill & Lisa Lilles
June 15th
John & Georgia Lallas
June 27th
Mark & Maria Hauser

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

June 2nd
Ray, Joshua, Ashley Knerl
June 14th
John Timmons
June 26th
Lester & Debi Wilson
Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates for the June First Saturday Breakfast events are **Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th**. Many hands make for light work so please consider lending us yours.
- **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!
- **St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival:** We wish Timothy Kaelin the best as he heads to Charlotte, North Carolina for the National St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival! God be with you!
- **Holy Feasts:** Please join us on **Wednesday, June 8th** for Great Vespers on the eve of Ascension at 6 pm; **Thursday, June 9th** for the feast of Ascension, beginning at 9 am. Please also join us on **Sunday, June 19th**, for the feast of Pentecost. Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost will follow the charity luncheon that day. Our brethren from St John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church will be joining us for Kneeling Vespers.
- **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry:** **Sunday, June 12th** is Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday and OCPM needs your help to assist in strengthening and expanding its mission to all prisons nationwide. Please see the brochures in the Fellowship Hall to learn about how you can help.
- **Holy and Great Council:** The long-awaited, and much anticipated, Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church will take place from **June 16th to 27th** in Crete. Please pray for this unique and historical event!
- **Grads and Dads:** June is the month we honor grads and dads so please join us on **Sunday, June 19th**, as we honor our Grads and Dads!
- **Feast-day Celebration:** You are cordially invited to celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner with Abbess Efpraxia, and the Sisters with her, at the St John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery in Goldendale, WA. Great Vespers and Orthros will be celebrated beginning at 6 pm on **Thursday, June 23rd and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, June 24th**, beginning at 8 am. For more information please see the flyers posted around the church.
- **Summer, summer, summer:** The season of summer is fast approaching and July will be here before we know it. Don't forget to check out the St John the Wonderworker Family Camp, which will take place **July 4th -10th**. Just visit the church website, www.stjohnthewonderworker.org for all you need to know. You might also be interest in Camp Angelos, a ministry of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland. This year's dates for camp are **July 10th-15th**. Check it out at www.goholytrinity.org
- **In our prayers: "Pray for one another that you might be healed" (James 5:16)**-Jim, Eleni, , John, Elaine, John, Kevin, Maria, Anastasia, Zinaida, Nektaria, Leda, Jesse, John, Ann, Kay, Photini, Elaine, Elle, Jan, Andy, Jimmy, Froso, Dimitri, Christian, Judy; Mary, Gloria, John, Eloise, 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 whole world.

KOINONIA

	6/5	6/12	6/19	6/26	
FELLOWSHIP	Markopoulos	POTLUCK	Pentecost Charity Lunch	Hutanu	
GREETER	Ann L	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Hauser	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	6/4 Everyone	6/11 Julie & Adrienne	6/18 Green	6/25 Julie & Adrienne	

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

A good word from the Fathers....

They're silent out of indifference...In these difficult days each must do what's in their power. And leave what's out of their power to the will of God.

In this way our conscience will be clear.

If we don't resist, then our ancestors will arise from their graves. They suffered so much for the Fatherland, and we? What are we doing for it? If Christians don't begin to witness their faith, to resist evil, then the destroyers will become even more insolent. But today's Christians are no warriors. If the Church keeps silent, to avoid conflict with the government, if the Metropolitans are silent, if the monks hold their peace, then who will speak up?

St. Paisios of Mount Athos