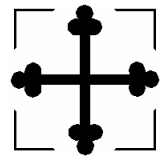




# Agape



## ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JULY 2016

Beloved in the Lord,

I've included here for you, bits and pieces of the concluding "MESSAGE OF THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH". The entire "message" is many more pages long and will not fit this tiny space. I've have included these words to give you a flavor of the Holy and Great Council and I encourage you to read the entire message when you can. -fj

*To the Orthodox people, and to all people of good will,*

*To God, "the Father of mercies and all comfort," we address a hymn of thanksgiving and praise for having enabled us to gather during the week of Pentecost (18-26 June 2016) on Crete, where the Apostle Paul and his disciple Titus preached the Gospel in the early years of the life of the Church. We give thanks to the Triune God who was well pleased that in one accord we should bring to a conclusion the work of the Holy and Great Council that was convoked by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch. Bartholomew by the common will of their Beatitudes the Primate of the local Orthodox Autocephalous Churches. Faithfully following the example of the Apostles and our god-bearing Fathers we have once again studied the Gospel of freedom "for which Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5: 1). The foundation of our theological discussions was the certainty that the Church does not live for herself. She transmits the witness of the Gospel of grace and truth and offers to the whole world the gifts of God: love, peace, justice, reconciliation, the power of the Cross and of the Resurrection and the expectation of eternal life.*

*The key priority of the Council was to proclaim the unity of the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church expresses her unity and catholicity "in Council". Conciliarity pervades her organization, the way decisions are taken and determines her path. The Orthodox Autocephalous Churches do not constitute a federation of Churches, but the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Each local Church as she offers the holy Eucharist is the local presence and manifestation of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. In regard to the Orthodox Diaspora in various countries of the world, it was decided to continue with the institution of Episcopal Assemblies until such time as canonical rigor can be implemented. These assemblies are composed of the canonical bishops appointed by each Autocephalous Church and these bishops continue to remain subject to their respective Churches. The due function of these Episcopal Assemblies guarantees respect for the Orthodox principle of conciliarity.*

*During the deliberations of the Holy and Great Council the importance of the Synaxis of the Primate which had taken place was emphasized and the proposal was made for the Holy and Great Council to become a regular Institution to be convened every seven or ten years.*

*Participating in the Holy Eucharist and praying for the whole world, we must continue the 'liturgy after the Divine Liturgy' and give the witness of faith to those near and those far off, in accordance with the Lord's clear command before His ascension, "And you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth (Ac. 1: 8). The re-evangelization of God's people in modern, secularized societies and the evangelization of those who have still not come to know Christ remain an unceasing obligation for the Church.*

*In response to her obligation to witness to the truth and her apostolic faith, our Church attaches great importance to*

***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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*dialogue, primarily with non Orthodox Christians*

*Let us pray that "the God of all grace, who has called us to his eternal glory in Christ, will, after we have suffered a little, Himself restore, establish, and strengthen and settle us. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 5.10-11).*

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

As you may have heard recently from Father's emails that a donor came forth to cover the costs of the siding project, and further that a contractor will begin work on replacing the siding shortly. As Father's emails eluded to, along with the previous work party and discussions over the past several years, this is not a new project. This is but the final step for at least many years, for siding our building. The Parish Council and some parishioners worked diligently to find a contractor. After several bids the options were presented to the Parish Council along with recommendations. This has brought us to where we are today with work taking place to replace the siding that has long served its purpose and will be replaced with new siding and a fresh coat of paint on the whole building. I wish to thank Pete, Neal and Art for their work. Further I ask that all continue to pray for our parish as the work takes place and for the future to come. We are truly blessed by our family here at Saint George and its continuing growth.

In Christ, Gregory Sebastian, Parish Council President

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

As Father indicated in an electronic message last week or if you were at church on the last Sunday of June, you are aware our siding replacement project is in full swing. The siding on the older portion of the building has been removed and is being replaced with Hardieplank, a newer and improved type of siding. The project is being funded through donations, and the balance of the Dedicated Account reflects progress in that area. The balance of the Dedicated Account on May 1 was \$7,096; on June 1 \$9,596; and on July 1 the balance was \$20,846. The entire cost of the project is projected to be \$22,000, and we fully expect to cover that cost.

On the flip side, we begin each month with a little bit less than the month before in the operations account. Our balance forward on July 1 is \$11,347. On June 1, it was \$12,716. The semi-annual giving statements will be in the Narthex the first two Sundays in July. Please pick up your statement and check it to see if you are up-to-date in your giving.

Thank you very much for your support of Saint George!

### **Missions & Evangelism**

Glory to God! We exceeded our Mochas for Missions goal by \$100! Our goal was \$650 and we brought in \$750. Thank you to Pete Drakatos who hosted the Pentecost Luncheon and the folks from St. John's who joined us, we collected about \$400 for Missions on Pentecost Sunday. This program supports the work of C.O.M.E. and returns to us by the way of resources and support for our missions and evangelism efforts. For example, Thomaida Hudanish has drafted a post card for us to send to visitors as follow-up when they visit. We are receiving direct support for evangelism from Mochas for Missions. Thank you very much for your support.

We will share the follow-up post card with you soon. We also asked Thomaida to draft a post card to be sent to those members who we have not seen in some time. Keeping in touch with our parishioners lets them know how much we miss them.

Thank you to the greeters who welcome us and visitors each Sunday. There is always someone standing in the Narthex when I enter, ready to hand me the weekly bulletin and a Liturgy book. I recently visited an Orthodox church which did not have a greeter. No one shook my hand or gave me a smile when I entered. I had to figure out for myself where the weekly bulletin was located after watching other parishioners. I wondered, "How would a visitor feel coming to this church?" The Greeter Ministry is very important and we appreciate their time and effort. You may consider if you want to participate in this Ministry. If so, mention it to Melita or Father

### **In service, Melita Green**

### **Greetings Brothers and Sisters,**

We recently got in another order of books. Some are new, some old favorites that never stay on the shelf. In addition we have new items and books from St John's Monastery in the Bookstore. We be ordering more books that recently came out that will be arriving soon. Along with all of that Brett will also be helping with the Bookstore, thereby helping to foster the continued development of our bookstore to meet our needs, as well as making it easier for when you want to purchase. I look forward to this expansion of our Bookstore.

In Christ,

**Gregory Sebastian**

**Bookstore Manager**

## STEWARDSHIP and FAMILY

“When we speak of stewardship and family we must also consider stewardship of family. Most often, we stress the importance of stewardship of the great gifts of God’s material world, but which of God’s gifts is greater than family? Throughout our life’s journey, our family will take many forms. For a child, the family is parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins, godparents and individuals with significant roles in the child’s life. As we mature, we become stewards of our parents, as they also are of us. We are stewards of our siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and more. We are called to encourage and support our family members to grow in the faith. We are also called to encourage and support them in developing their God-given gifts and talents to the full for the glory of God. If we are blessed with a spouse, our concept of family expands and our stewardship of family expands with it. As our role within our family evolves, we become stewards of the authority and influence that we hold in the family. This requires balance tempered by love and respect. A spouse or parent with authority must also relate to family members with respect and humility. St. Paul writes to the Ephesians, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (5:21). St. Paul further instructs us, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (5:25). And in Colossians 3:21, St. Paul instructs, “Parents, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. We are stewards of our family through the influence that we have upon them. This influence may be for good or for evil. In *The Moral Intelligence of Children*, Robert Coles writes, “...the child is an ever-attentive witness of grown-up morality – or lack thereof; the child looks and looks for cues as to how one ought to behave, and finds them galore as we parents and teachers go about our lives, making choices, addressing people, showing in action our rock-bottom assumptions, desires, and values, and thereby telling those young observers much more than we may realize.” We exercise our stewardship of family by our actions more than our words.

Throughout our lives and the roles we assume within the family, we are stewards of the love, authority, trust and respect that exist among members of the family. Unlike material possessions, these are not diminished by use. But if mishandled, they can be lost. Love, authority, trust and respect require the most diligent stewardship, because once they are lost, they are most difficult to recover.” As Orthodox Christians, we are also stewards of our Church family – those with whom we worship, fellowship and serve the community. In the same way that we care for our immediate family, we also care for our Christian brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. In his book on the Eucharist/Divine Liturgy, Fr Alexander Schmemmann explains that in the early church, the Eucharistic sacrifice was offered by all the members of the Church. Each person coming to the gathering of the Church brought with them everything they could spare for the needs of the Church. This meant for the sustenance of the clergy, widows and orphans, for helping the poor, and for all the good works of the Church. This is the Church that we as Orthodox Christians claim to be. In the Gospel of Saint Matthew (6:19), Jesus instructs us, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal....” Often in life, we pursue and collect those things that do not last. We must ask, “One hundred years from now, where will our possessions be?” Our greatest blessing is our family. As Orthodox Christians, we are called to be stewards of this great gift. If we are faithful to this calling, perhaps our Lord will say to us as He did to the faithful steward, “Well done good and faithful servant” (Mt 25:23).”

-from *Oriented Leadership* by Williams & McKibben

**PHILIA**

Last December, Eleni Antonelli graduated from the U of O with a Masters in Architecture, got a job and moved to the San Francisco area. In June she returned to take part in the commencement exercises. Congrats, Eleni! Philia misses you!

We are now getting ready for the next parish fundraiser, the Gyro Fest. Due to the lack of physical manpower, the plan for this year is to move it indoors. It will start at 11:30 for the parishioners and 12:00 – 3:00 for the public. Flyers will be available in the fellowship hall.

A reminder to all that we are still collecting items for a garage sale to be held at Adrienne's on August 20. If you have anything you wish to donate, please let us know. Remember, your trash might be someone else's treasure!

Plans for the future:

- July 24, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Gyro Fest Fundraiser (11:30 for parishioners)
- 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:** August 14 and September 11, 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

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**COFFEE CHAT :****Reminder:**

There will be no coffee hour on Sunday, July 24 due to the Gyro Fest. However, please support our parish fundraiser and purchase a gyro or two!

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

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**CLEANUP CORNER:**

Reminder that July 16 and 23 will be "Everyone Tidy Up" days, and a church-wide cleanup is set for July 30. Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened. Various cleaning supplies can be found on the shelves on both sides of the washer and dryer as well as in the closet by the toilets.

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

**Greetings from the Salem Mission!**

We have been blessed to welcome several new inquirers this past year. There are currently two catechumens, Bejan Rejan and Zane Duval. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue the journey of their faith toward the Ark of Salvation.

We also joyfully announce that Carla Moberg was received into the Church on the Saturday before Pentecost, June 18. Even before she began to seriously inquire into the Christian Orthodox Church, she felt a particular empathy for Royal Martyr Tsarina Alexandra, and has taken her name. Thank you for your prayers for newly illumined Alexandra. Carla and Zane both attended the Pascha service at St. George this year, which they so loved and appreciated having the opportunity to carpool with a vanload of several other Salem Mission faithful.

In these days following Pentecost as we reflect on the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of the gift of the Holy Spirit at our Chrismation and each day of our lives!

**Glory to God for all things,**

**Maria Hauser**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

The recent Great Council in Crete has offered us many opportunities to learn more about our Faith. While researching the definition of "Conciliar" I came across this quote: "The Church is constitutive of Christian faith precisely because of its Trinitarian, relational nature. Human life in the image of God is life in relationship: relationship with the world, other people, and God. Human spiritual fulfillment is not a moral attainment or accomplishment, it is a way of being in relationship. The Church is the place where such relational fulfillment is (or should be) most realized. Indeed, a solitary Christian is a contradiction in terms. To be a Christian is to be part of a Christian community. Therefore, the qualities of the community are anything but incidental. The way of being as Church is the way of being as Christian. <http://www.edengrace.org/conciliar.html>

This has significant implication for us at the parish level! If we are to live a truly Christian life, we must improve how we treat our brothers and sisters in the Church. We cannot receive from the Church without in turn giving to her. We can no longer just talk about our parish's 'problems' without actively pursuing and participating in the solution. In other words, Christianity is not a spectator sport! We must follow our Lord, who was the very definition of "ALL IN".

Sometimes we mission parishes can feel overwhelmed in the face of what seems like unending, insurmountable hurdles. Let's flip our perspective and see this for what it is: God's blessing to us, enabling us to jump in and participate in a way that is truly conciliar, truly Christian.

**In Christ ~ Lisa Buck**

Holy Cross Mission of Roseburg

## July Celebrations Birthdays

July 4th-Rosemary Buck  
 July 7th-Alex Titus  
 July 9th-Philip Green  
 July 17th-Judy Sebastian  
 July 20th-Dimitri Lilles  
 July 28th-Rebeca Groomer; Jerry Rundt  
 July 29th-Leda Litke  
 July 31st-Bonnie Graham

## Feast Days

July 17th-St Marina  
 Omilie Doran  
 July 20th-St Elias the Prophet  
 Erik Groomer; Lenny Buck  
 July 26th-St Paraskevi  
 Paras Markopoulos  
 July 29th-St Julia  
 Julie Lenkoff  
 July 31st-St Benjamin of Petrograd  
 Ben Hauser

## Wedding Anniversaries

July 22nd  
 Alex & Nina Titus

## Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

## News and Events

## What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** There will not be a First Saturday Breakfast in July due to St John's celebration of their feast day or "Slava", since it falls on Saturday, July 2nd. The breakfast will resume in August. Everyone is invited to the Slava but please RSVP so they can prepare enough seating and food for the reception.
- **Graduates:** We congratulate our members who are part of the Class of 2016: Eleni Antonelli (U of O); Emily Kaelin (NCU); Rachel Hauser (Linn Benton CC); Ben Hauser (West Albany HS); and Demetre Markopoulos (Marist HS). We wish them continued success!
- **Siding Project:** For the last several years the Parish Council (PC) has been deliberating on how to address the siding issue on the church building. Over the course of this year it became apparent that the work could not be put off any longer. The PC tasked Art, Neal and Pete to get bids and find a contractor, while it deliberated on how the project would be paid for. At our June meeting Neal presented the bids they had obtained and enumerated the projected costs. Several days later, the PC gathered for a special meeting requested by Art, Neal and Pete, who had new information to share. At the meeting we learned that an anonymous donor had stepped forward to cover the cost of the siding project. Based on this new information, the PC moved to go ahead with the project. The PC is grateful to God and we pray that God will bless the project and the contractor. The PC is also grateful to the anonymous donor. May it be blessed!
- **Summer, summer, summer:** The season of summer has arrived. 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](http://www.stjohnthewonderworker.org) for all you need to know. You might also be interested 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](http://www.goholytrinity.org)
- **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Coming up Sunday, July 24th is Gyro Fest! It will be from 12:00-3:00 for the public, but parishioners can enjoy a gyro lunch right after church. Please invite family and friends to join us that day. If you would like to help, please see Presbytera Maria. Our next committee meeting will be August 21st, after church.
- **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.



**Eleni Antonelli receiving a Master of Architecture degree from the U of O!**

# KOINONIA

	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24	7/31
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	POTLUCK	Batterson	Hutanu	Gyro Fest	Lenkoff Bonosovich
<b>GREETER</b>	Ann L	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	Melita G
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Hauser	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	Freezer
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	7/2 Julie & Adri- enne	7/9 Batterson	7/16 Everyone/ anyone	7/23 Everyone/ any- one	7/30 Everyone/ any- one

## GET INVOLVED!!!

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

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

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

### **A good word from the Fathers....**

"We Christians have been called to spread upon the earth the atmosphere of heaven, eternity, love, peace, truth, and stillness. But it is very difficult, since from our youth we have learned anger and disobedience; we have become accustomed to returning blows and to approaching everyone with distrust and reserve. We have accepted much evil into our hearts, and now we need to get rid of it."

"St. John Chrysostom teaches us that all evil comes first from ourselves and only secondly from the devil. If we keep our minds vigilant and our hearts strong in the Faith, the devil has no access to us. The devil only acts on our own evil thoughts and wishes. When we are angry or envious, or when we have violent feelings toward someone, often or over a long period, we ourselves open the window of our heart to the demons. Then they feed our sins and nurture them, and we cannot get rid of them easily. Sometimes we wallow in a certain sin for such a long time that it becomes second nature to us. In this case only God can save us, both from our own selves and from the claws of the demons."

From "Our Thoughts Determine our Lives: the Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica"