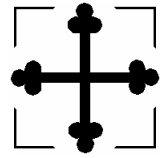




# Agape



## ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AUGUST 2016

Beloved in the Lord,

I had the great blessing in July of attending the Biennial National Clergy Laity Congress in Nashville, TN, and representing the parish as a delegate. The theme of this year's Congress was, "You are the Voice of Christ in a Changing World" and as always, Archbishop and Geron of America, Demetrios, gave an inspiring and instructive keynote address. He began by reminding us that if we are to be the voice of Christ in a changing world we must first and foremost know Christ. The Archbishop quoted from St Paul's letter to the Philippians where St Paul offers us guidance related to the absolute importance of knowing Christ. St Paul writes: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ (Phil 3:8). And he adds that the purpose of his life is to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and to share in Christ's sufferings (Phil 3:9). From his words we can see that it is essential to know Christ in order to be His voice. We must seek Him above anything else. He is the source of our life and hope.

If we know Christ, if we are constantly growing in His grace and knowledge, then as His voice we can offer hope, truth, grace and healing power to the world. Christ's voice engendered hope and it is our calling to spread that same hope to the hopeless environments in our changing world. Christ's voice, His words, offer divine wisdom and reveal the truth of God. Our voice and our words must also reveal the truth of God and offer divine wisdom. Many people today are victims of error or misguided by false ideologies. Our voice must illuminate truth and reveal the Gospel of Christ, remembering always that Christ did so in a graceful way. Christ's voice is also a voice of healing power. His voice can speak through us in a caring way in the face of adversity, persecution, and secularization, offering a witness of hope, truth, grace and healing power. Our world, it "is a changing", and the voice of Christ is needed in addressing these changes. And lest we feel overwhelmed, let us affirm that our changing world is also a world of opportunity. There is great need in the world but by God's grace, we can offer comfort, healing, restoration, stability and purpose.

Listening to the Archbishop's words I thought about how we are offering the voice of Christ here in Eugene, Oregon. I think that we offer His voice through worship and ministry in the parish. Through worship, the parish becomes the Body of Christ and listens to His voice. In words and actions the voice of Christ is spoken, heard, and experienced in our worship and little by little the parish becomes a home, a place of healing, a place of comfort, renewal and hope. We also offer the voice of Christ through the ministries of the church, especially through our Missions and Evangelism ministry. There are many people who have never heard the voice of Christ, others who are distracted by disparate and deceptive ideas, and still others who need a new invitation to return to Him. We must continue to strengthen our Missions and Evangelism ministry and fulfill our commission from God. We must continue to cultivate in each other a sense of urgency when it comes to the millions of people lost and confused in a changing world. We must also grow in our knowledge of and connection with God and His saving teachings, especially when faced with the tremendous challenges of a changing world. If you read the Gospels carefully you will not find any occasion in which the words of Christ were uttered and had not produced immediate results, be it healings, exorcisms, or extraordinary changes. You will also read that Christ promised His disciples that they would do even greater works than He did (John 14:12). As His disciples we are the recipients of this amazing promise. He says to us today, "As the Father sent Me, even so I send you. You are the light of the world. You are My voice in a changing world. Let us ask God to be with us in this awesome work which He is opening for us.

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

Thank you once again to our anonymous donor and those involved with the siding work, as our siding project has been completed. With that completed we as a Parish Council are focusing our efforts to guide our Parish's future growth further with this burden removed. As part of that future growth, is the continuing support and generosity of everyone that is a part of our St George family. It is truly each of you that keeps our Church going. With you our missions are set to grow to meet the needs of our youth & young adults and further our outreach. We on the Parish Council encourage all of our family here at St George to continue to further reach out to our Church family members we don't see regularly and give them our caring love and support. We also wish to express our thanks to those that helped with our annual Gyro Fest last weekend. Giving of one's time and talent is needed as much as one's treasure and in some cases more, you all are truly examples of the love that Christ wishes us to be.

In Christ,

**Gregory Sebastian, Parish Council President**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The siding and painting project is complete and very special thank you should be extended by everyone to Pete Drakatos for supervising the project and getting it done under budget. The exterior of the building looks great, Pete. Thank you! Your contributions to Mochas for Missions, \$701, has been sent to C.O.M.E. Thanks to Melita Green for chairing the fund drive and thanks to all who contributed. We met and exceeded our goal. With those obligations met, the Dedicated Account now has a balance of \$7,596. Some of those funds are earmarked for specific items, while others are unrestricted donations.

We enter the month of August with \$9,177 in the Operations Fund. This is two thousand dollars less than we entered July. We are now entering the time of year when some of each month's first-

of-the-month's bills are being met with that month's income. As has been mentioned in the weekly bulletin, the parish's expenses do not go away in the summer time. There is no vacation from EWEB, Northwest Natural, Sanipac, Church Mutual Insurance, etc.; and Father Jerry's family has to eat, too. Please make every effort to keep your giving up to date. Thank you.

**Greetings Brothers and Sisters,**

Your desire for spiritual growth and that of the children continues to see our bookstore's growth from a sleepy collection of books and icons on the shelves of the bookcases, to an ever increasing need to order more frequently. With that desire in mind, new items and books that we haven't had before on the shelves are being sought to assist you in your growth. Please take a look as as new items are added and as always please feel free to contact Brett or myself with requests and ideas.

In Christ,

**Gregory Sebastian, Bookstore Manager**

### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

Our annual Gyro-Fest was a success! Thank you to all who supported the event and to our wonderful volunteers. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and it was a casual but festive atmosphere. We are getting quite a number of guests who have attended all of our fundraisers, and they look forward to each one. It is wonderful how our church is becoming more known throughout the community.

Our next meeting will be after church on Aug.21.

**Presvytera Maria**

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

A Christian steward is a person who responsibly manages his/her time, talents, possessions and self. The faithful and wise steward is the one who knows that the Master has set him in charge of His household and gives him his portion of food at the proper time (Luke 12:42). Stewardship embraces every area of life. It calls on us to realize that we are not owners of our time and talents. We are stewards, called to manage these gifts for a brief time, always responsible to the God Who entrusts them to us. It is inappropriate for God's Church to beg for offerings of time, talent, or treasury. Each of us should give because we need to give. We need to express to God our gratitude for His countless blessings to us. We give because we need to acknowledge practically in our lives with such concrete things as our time, talents and possessions that God does indeed come first; that He deserves the first and the best portion of all that I am and possess.

### Offerings of Time

The Greek word for time is "kairo." Its usage in the Septuagint suggests a "decisive point of time". As for the righteous of the Old Testament, they were blessed to wisely discern that all points of time are given by God. In its New Testament usage, "kairo" is given intensity by Jesus and the moral teachings of Paul. "Decisive points in time" are ever reoccurring in the Christian life and must be recognized and actualized. Our time should be wisely spent. We should find ourselves in Divine Services throughout the week (on time!) offering our supplications and our thanksgiving. We should find opportunities to study and grow in our faith. We should fellowship in filial love. We should minister to those in need. To neglect or deny the significance of our time in relation to our salvation is ultimately remaining blind to God's will.

### Offerings of Talent

Talent is best understood as gifts of the Holy Spirit, "charismata." Some of these gifts are spiritual manifestations, bestowed through the anointing with Holy Chrism, while others are gifts that are bestowed through the laying on of hands in the Rite of Ordination. It is this continuous presence of the Spirit that makes possible the constant, progressive, personal growth of the Christian into the image and likeness of God. In God's wisdom, we were all created to be different in our abilities and talents. The purpose of our unique, personal gifts, as attested by Scripture, is for the benefit of all. In this way the Church is built up as the Body of Christ of which we are all members. As for each member, each is equally as important as the next for the overall life and working of the body. The challenge is to not only discern God-given gifts, but also to employ them to His Glory.

### Offerings of Treasure

In making our financial gifts to the Church, we are not paying for something. Just like our homes, we don't pay for the meals we eat or the rooms in which we sleep; we don't pay wages to anyone for services. We simply provide all the things necessary for our home to function efficiently and respond to the physical needs of the entire family. The same is true with the Church. We provide all the things necessary for the Church to function efficiently, to respond to the spiritual needs of all the members of the Body of Christ. Our hope each and every year is to meet our operating budget through our financial gifts. In order to achieve this goal, we ask our families to follow the Biblical directive of tithing (10% of one's treasurers). It's important though not to forget that Jesus was not interested in 5%, 7% or even a tithe; He was interested in 100% of the person.

**PHILIA**

As always, the Philia Ladies plunged right into the next fundraiser, the Gyro-Fest. It was actually rather cozy indoors and customers hung around munching on gyros, tasting desserts, purchasing T-shirts, visiting and enjoying Greek music and dancing. And cleanup was a snap!

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:

- August 20 - Garage Sale at Adrienne's
- November 6 - International Luncheon and Show

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:**

Reminder: The first three Sundays in August are POTLUCK! Please remember to bring something to share. It need not be big or fancy, just edible.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

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**CLEANUP CORNER:**

August 27 is another one of the "Tidy Up" days, so if you notice an abstract design on the floor, it is probably a stain, not a Rorschach inkblot test. Feel free to ponder, but mopping it up would be more helpful. Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened for your regular cleaning schedule. Supplies are located 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've completed another busy third-weekend-of-July Salem Art Fair. The weather was beautiful with moderate temperatures which was a welcome relief as last year's heat wave is still a vivid memory. We had a good roster of workers for the preparations and staffing the booth, with several new people coming to learn how to assemble baklava, chop lots of vegetables, make gyros and Greek salads, and learn what we do to set up and take down the booth. The time spent working together gives us a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better outside of our regular times together in church and fellowship.

We were blessed to have Mother Nectaria McLees come to worship with us, being brought by friends who attend the Salem Mission from Oregon City. She is the lady who wrote the very thick, wonderful book *Evlogeite! A Pilgrim's Guide to Greece, a Child's Paradise of Saints* (which was my children's first favorite Orthodox book), and is one of the founding editors of the nonprofit journal *Road to Emmaus*. This journal always has very interesting articles relevant to our Orthodox Christian life and world today, accounts of pilgrimages, and those of a historical nature. Please consider visiting their website and supporting this ministry: <http://www.roadtoemmaus.net/index.htm>

In Christ,

**Maria Hauser**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

Thank you for your prayers for Holy Cross! We are continuing to put our energies towards Missions and Evangelism, with a focus on making sure people know who and where we are, and making sure they feel welcome when they visit. We are excited to incorporate all the amazing information that Father brought back from the National Clergy Laity Assembly to strengthen this vital ministry of our church.

**SAVE THE DATE:** We will be celebrating our first Feast Day with a Festal Liturgy on Wednesday, September 14. More information will be coming in the next *Agape*, but mark your calendars now as we would love to have you join us!

**In Christ ~ Lisa Buck**

Holy Cross Mission of Roseburg

## August Celebrations Birthdays

August 1st-Greg Sebastian  
 August 2nd-Gloria Zeazeas Timmons  
 August 4th-Hope Merritt  
 August 9th-Daniel Doran  
 August 10th-Liana Creech  
 August 20th-Michael Creech  
 August 28th-Nick Markopoulos

## Feast Days August 15th-Dormition

Panayiotis Katsoyannos, Pete Drakatos,  
 Presbytera Maria Markopoulos,  
 Peter Zoumboukos

## Wedding Anniversaries August 18th

Andrew & Larisa Lilles

## Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

August 13th-Marci Moling

August 31st-Olivia Fimple

**Many Years! Chronia Polla!**

## News and Events

**What's New!**

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The First Saturday Breakfast resumes in August with food prep on Friday, August 5th, and the breakfast on Saturday, August 6th (new calendar celebration of Transfiguration). There will be Orthros & Divine Liturgy here on Saturday, August 6th, beginning at 9 am. The sixth is also the day of the Whittaker Neighborhood Block Party so be aware!
- **Siding Project:** The siding project was completed in July, ahead of schedule and under budget! Special thanks to Pete Drakatos who oversaw the project. May it be with health!
- **Dormition Fast:** The fourth major Fast period of the Church year begins on Monday, August 1st. This is a time of preparation for the Dormition of the Theotokos which we commemorate on August 15th. In addition to fasting, I encourage you to join us for the beautiful supplication services (Paraklesis) to the Mother of God. May it be a blessed time and a time for growth!
- **Potlucks:** According to the Fellowship Hour calendar the first three Sundays in August (8/7, 8/14, 8/21) are Potlucks. The first two also fall in a Fast period although wine and oil are permitted on those days. We need everyone to participate so dust off your Lenten cookbook and bring something to share!
- **Bringing Orthodoxy to America Conference:** The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism, together with the Metropolis of San Francisco Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism (C.O.M.E.), and with the support of Leadership 100, invites you to the first GOA National Missions & Evangelism Conference, October 3rd-5th, in Portland, Oregon. Speakers include Fr. Luke Veronis, Fr. Theodore Dorrance, Fr. Evan Armatas and Fr. Barnabas Powell. Topics include renewing the established parish's missionary zeal, overcoming obstacles to parish growth, understanding and utilizing social media in the parish, and evangelism resources for parishes both small and large. The conference will begin with dinner on Monday evening and conclude Wednesday mid-morning. The conference will take place at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Beaverton. The cost for the conference is \$50 through September 1st, then \$100 after that date. Payment will be accepted by credit card through PayPal, or by check payable to C.O.M.E.. Questions? Please contact C.O.M.E. Assistant Director Thomaida Hudanish, 503-277-3928 or come@sanfran.goarch.org, or Fr. Jim Kordaris at the Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism, frjkordaris@goarch.org.
- **Greek Open:** The 21st Annual Greek Open Golf Tournament & Dinner takes place on Monday, September 19th, at Langdon Farms Golf Club in Aurora. Proceeds benefit Agia Sophia Academy, an Orthodox Christian private school. Please see Father Jerry if you are interested in playing.
- **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 and those displaced from their homes because of war.

# KOINONIA

	8/7	8/14	8/21	8/28	
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	POTLUCK	POTLUCK	POTLUCK	Zoumboukos	
<b>GREETER</b>	Ann L	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Hauser	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	8/6 Green	8/13 Zoumboukos	8/20 Markopoulos	8/27 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**

## **Four Ways Fasting Helps You Love God and Neighbor**

We're just a few days away from the start of the Dormition Fast, two weeks of preparation before we celebrate the falling asleep of the Theotokos.

As with any fast, this period is an incredible opportunity that can help us in at least four ways:

1. Fasting helps us be mindful of what we say. It's about more than what goes into our mouths, it's also about what comes out of them.
2. Fasting helps us develop discipline. Choosing to avoid certain foods helps strengthen us to avoid other temptations and instead choose Christ.
3. Fasting helps us develop gratitude. When our stomachs grumble with hunger, it's a reminder of the many blessings we may take for granted.
4. Fasting puts us in a position to better serve our neighbors. The Church has always taught that any money we save by eating simple foods should be given to those who are hungry.

And that's perhaps the most important point to remember. Don't simply spend the first two weeks of August worried about what you can't eat: use those weeks to fast, of course, but also to pray, to attend services, to live with kindness and joy.

Use those two weeks to get better at loving God and neighbor with all your heart!