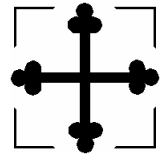




# Agape



## ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SEPT. 2016

*“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.”(Lk.10:41-42)*

*The following message was written by Fr Theodore Dorrance for their monthly newsletter. As we begin the New Ecclesiastical Year his message is a great reminder of what is most needful in our lives and what we should be doing. Let us resolve to put Christ at the center of our lives and commit ourselves and our whole life to Him.*

The one thing that is most needful in our lives is Jesus Christ. We need Him more than any other thing or person in the universe. When Jesus is at the center of our lives and first among our priorities, then we have everything! This is why Jesus taught that we could gain the whole world – all its riches, pleasures and glory – but forfeit our souls for all eternity. (Mk.8:35-36) While Jesus was certainly teaching Martha to put Him first, the “one thing needful” may also refer to the fact that we can really only be present at one moment in time. We can only really do one thing at a time well, or participate in one conversation attentively. Our task is to be attentive and present in each moment – focused on the one thing that God has placed in front of us. In this way, with an awareness of Jesus’ presence in our life, each moment has the potential to intersect with eternity. We can literally participate in the Kingdom in a “now , but not yet” manner through our communion with God in the presence of each moment, attentive to the one thing God has placed in front of us. This is vital for our salvation, since the only time and place that we can encounter God is in each moment, and only if we are present in it. This is why the ceaseless remembrance of God and watchfulness are held in such high esteem in the teachings of the holy Fathers of our Church. I would like to offer five helpful ways to keep Jesus on the throne of our hearts and minds and remember to be present and attentive to each moment and each activity. First, each of us should have a prayer rule. We refer to it as a rule of prayer, because we want it to become a consistent habit in our life; we want it to be foundational. Ideally, this rule of prayer would consist of both morning and evening prayer routines. They don’t need to be long periods of prayer; however, they do need to be consistent. Most Orthodox prayer books contain both morning and evening prayers. Many people choose to do the Small Compline as their evening prayers instead of the more generic evening prayers. An important addition to the prayers in a prayer book is the recitation of the Jesus Prayer with a prayer rope. The exact number or length of time should be worked out with one’s spiritual father. By starting and ending each day with a set routine of prayer, we show God and ourselves that He is first in our life. We receive much grace from this show of love and commitment. This also aids us greatly in our cultivation of the remembrance of God and watchfulness over our thoughts throughout the day. Secondly, it is imperative to our spiritual health to spend time daily reading the holy Bible. We should read the daily readings that follow the church calendar, and we should be regularly working our way through a book of the Bible. The Holy Scriptures are divinely inspired. They are the most authoritative writings we have in our Holy Tradition. We are on the front lines of spiritual warfare, but without the protection of the monastery. We are in

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the greatest need of the full armor of God and this includes the “sword of truth,” the Bible, and all its aids and remedies. The entirety of the Bible points to Jesus Christ, the “one thing needful.” When we study the Scriptures daily, we cannot help but imprint His presence and the powerful truths contained therein upon our minds and our hearts as we go through our daily lives. A third aid is to read the Saints of the day. Each day of the year, there is at least one Saint we celebrate. We celebrate their lives by remembering their biographies and applying their virtues, their commitment and their faith to our lives. Just as they imitated Jesus Christ, we too are called to imitate them. The Saints come from every walk of life. They each have their own unique personalities. This is extremely helpful for us when trying to identify with their examples and their situations. Another way to keep Christ first in our lives is to be readers of good, trustworthy spiritual books. By trustworthy, I am referring to the writings of the holy Fathers, of the Saints and of reputable elders and theologians. We should always have a book of this sort on our nightstand. Each day, we should devote at least a little time to this type of reading. Also important is the practical application of their teaching. We do not simply want to be hearers or readers of the word; we also want to be doers of the word. Orthodox theology and the expression of this theology into everyday action are equally important and necessary. Just as in prayer, it’s not the quantity that ultimately matters, but the quality and consistency that matters most. Finally, if we want Jesus to remain at the center of our lives, we must keep the Church, His Body, also at the center of our lives. This has always been important, but even more so recently due to the explosion of new demands for our time. Work, the gym, sports, entertainment, travel, hobbies, our households, social media, and many other things are trying to claw their way to the top of our priority list. As our society becomes increasingly secular, its message to us is to compartmentalize God and, therefore, His Church. The Services, fasting, the holy sacraments and fellowship with and service to our brothers and sisters all become optional. The temptation is to no longer see God as our Father and the Church as our mother. We forget that we are ill, and that the Church, as a hospital, is our only hope. Under secularism, we are urged to become so busy that we forget the important for the urgent, resulting in our forgetfulness of Christ as our Head and His Church as a part of our own body, our own

flesh and blood. In historically Orthodox Christian villages, there was a reason why the Church was at the center of the village square. The life of the Church was at the center of the life of the village and all its households. For us to keep the Church at the center of our life, we have to fight against the current, go against the flow and be intentional and resolute in this purpose. It cannot be accidental. The truth is, we have to say no to some pretty great things in order to make room for the Church, but the same can be said regarding our relationship with Jesus Christ. If He is going to remain the “one needful thing” in our lives, we are going to have to say no to the competition if there is going to be enough room in our hearts for the One that most belongs there.

### **The Influence of One**

Our family just attended the Baptism and first Communion of our grandson, Basil Victorianno Sierra. Fr. Basil Summer was the Celebrant. Our history with Fr. Basil goes back to 1973 when he baptized and Chrismated my husband, Richard Green after about 2 years of instruction and friendship. He educated and encouraged me when the biggest issue regarding our future together was whether I would convert to the Orthodox Church. Fr. Basil married us in the Orthodox Church, although I had not yet converted. I made the decision to convert shortly after our marriage. Our children were born and Fr. Basil was the godparent for both Kyri and Philip. We spent many happy family vacations with Fr. Basil. He was a confidant and Confessor for each of us. When our daughter was dating her future husband, Fr. Basil introduced the Orthodox Faith to him. He had pre-marital counseling with them and performed the Sacrament of Marriage in 2013. Now he has brought their first child into the Church. Fr. Basil Summer, now 90, is a convert to Orthodoxy. He still enthusiastically expresses his love for the Church and those who have come to the Orthodox Church through his witness. By the influence of one convert, three generations in our family have come to the True Faith.

Glory to God for the life of Fr. Basil Summer. Who have we influenced to come into the Faith?

**In service, Melita**

## Parish Council Financial Report

As we complete the Ecclesiastical year and enter the final third of the calendar year, the Parish Council begins its review of the parish finances to date and initiates internal discussions for a tentative budget for 2017. That new budget will be submitted to the parish at the October general assembly. It will not be voted upon until early December leaving at least a month and a half for you to contemplate the budget and for the Parish Council to implement any helpful suggestions you might have. The Council believes the parish will be in the black when 2016 is over, and we will begin 2017 with a small operational reserve balance, probably between ten and twenty thousand dollars. This has been the case for the last several years. The range is effected by two variables: the success of the bake sale and the fulfillment of your stewardship pledges.

The biggest financial difficulty we face every year is one of cash-flow toward the end summer and into the fall. The spring and early summer months are buoyed by the Evening in Greece dinner(s) in May and mid-summer gets a boost from the Gyro Fest. We have tried several different remedies over the course of the last five years, but none have been embraced by the parish as a permanent solution to this cash-flow issue. Any thoughts you might have regarding this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please contact our treasurer, Neal Zoumboukos, with your ideas and/or if you have questions regarding parish finances.

Thank you for your continuing support of Saint George!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Parish Council is looking at ways to stabilize the income of summer/fall months for the future to reduce the impact of summer vacations and less people on our budget. Each steward continues to be an inspiration of how time, talent and treasure makes up stewardship, and for that we thank you. In addition Fr. Dorrance and Thomaida Hudanish with the Metropolis Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism will be visiting St George in a couple weeks. They will also be meeting with the Parish Council as part of offering input on how to help us grow our missions and evangelism and our Parish.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian

President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your support of our bookstore as we continue to grow our bookstore. Thank you also for your patience as we continue our development to meet those increases in the utilization of the bookstore. New books continue to be released, so keep an eye for new items. As always please feel free to contact Greg or Brett with ideas and requested items for the bookstore.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian

Bookstore Manager

## Fundraising Committee

Next Fundraising meeting will be Sept. 18, after church.

We will be discussing our December Bake Sale & Craft Fair.

**Presv. Maria**

**PHILIA**

Despite it being one of the hottest days of the year, our garage sale went on as planned and netted \$173.00. Thank you to Adrienne who headed this event, to all who donated their no longer wanted treasures, and to the ladies who contributed their time and effort to make it both successful and fun. Plans are underway for our next fundraiser, the International Luncheon and Show scheduled for Sunday, November 6. Please jot it down on your calendars.

We are also working with the City of Eugene on their Community Court project, by providing sack lunches four Fridays of the year. More information on this will follow.

Plans for the future:

- November 6 - International Luncheon and Show
- December 11 - Pastry and Gift Fair
- December 18 - White Elephant Party

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

**Next meetings: September 11 and October 9, 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 :**

Thanks to everyone's efforts, we are beginning to get the hang of the art of pot-lucking. We had three of them in a row in August and were treated to plenty of food! A little bit of sharing goes a long way; just remember how many were fed with five loaves and two fish! Now you can relax until November...

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

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**CLEANUP CORNER:**

September 10th and 24th are, once again, "Tidy Up" days. Feel free to mop, dust or sweep where any of those actions are required, until inventors in our midst conjure up a self-cleaning building. Something to think about... they already have self-cleaning ovens, toilets, litter boxes, vacuums, why not go bigger, like a house? In the meantime, please contact Neal at nealzouboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened for your regular maintenance 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!**

Thank you for your faithful prayers! Since our last newsletter, another catechumen has been enrolled in Salem, Annette Young. With an inquiring friend, she's attended a series of classes with Deacon David Cole at Holy Trinity, visited several area Orthodox parishes, attended the services and studies at the Salem mission, read some books, and met with Fr. Jerry. She watched her friend through her catechumenate and reception into the Orthodox Church, and engaged in many conversations. The confirmation for her that it was time to commit to being a catechumen came when she read the little Ancient Faith publication, the Mission of Orthodoxy by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, from our free literature rack. A little booklet taken from a speech given in 1968 that sat in the booklet rack in the narthex week after week, this is what God uses to affirm and proclaim, "Now is the time!" Every person's path toward the Orthodox Church is unique and special, and we are humbled to witness again and again our Lord's perfect timing and direction for each individual.

Glory to God for His rich mercy toward us as we continue to seek Him for our life!

With love and prayers in Christ,

Maria

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

We invite you to join us as we celebrate our patronal Feast Day on Wednesday, September 14th! Orthros will begin at 9 am followed by Divine Liturgy and the service of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. A luncheon will follow the divine services.

We are grateful to God for His many blessings and for our mission parish! Hope you can join us!

**In Christ ~ Lisa Buck**

Holy Cross Mission of Roseburg

## September Celebrations

### Birthdays

September 5th-Exenia Merritt  
 September 6th-Jerry Smith  
 September 7th-Kevin Kaelin  
 September 11th-Nikolai Lilles  
 September 18th-Sarah Knerl  
 September 21st-Rachel Hauser  
 September 26th-Katharine Drakatos

### Feast Days

#### September 7th-St Kassiani

Jessica Graham

#### September 13th-St Cornelius

Jerry Smith

### Wedding Anniversaries

#### September 1st

Father & Presbyteria

#### September 10th

Sean & Marci

#### September 13th

Michael & Liana

#### September 21st

Brett & Cassandra

### Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

September 12th-Michael Creech

September 25th-Brett & Cassandra Batterson

Many Years! Chronia Polla!



## News and Events

**What's New!**

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in September are: food prep on Friday, September 2nd, and the breakfast on Saturday, September 3rd. Please lend a hand!
- **Memory Eternal:** Our dear sister Eleni Radcliffe reposed in the Lord on Saturday, August 13th, at the age of 87. Her funeral and internment took place on Tuesday, August 23rd. May she rest in peace and may her memory be eternal.
- **New Ecclesiastical Year:** The new church year begins on Thursday, September 1st, and we will commemorate the event with Orthros & Divine Liturgy beginning at 9 am. Please join us in starting the new church year in prayer and worship!
- **Vicar Visit:** Fr Theodore Dorrance will be visiting St George the weekend of September 10-11th. Joining him on the visit will be Thomaida Hudanish, Assistant Director of C.O.M.E.. Please welcome them!
- **Feast Day in Roseburg:** Our mission in Roseburg will be celebrating their Feast Day on Wednesday, September 14th, (Exaltation of the Holy Cross) with Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9 am. See flyer.
- **New Ministries:** Several new ministries are in the process of being initiated here at St. George thanks to the initiative of several of our faithful parishioners. Gloria Zezeas Timmons and Ann Marie Kaelin are looking at ways of caring and supporting individuals and families in times of need and crisis. Greg Sebastian is working with Father Jerry to establish a ministry to Young Adults. Bonnie Sollars is working with Fr Jerry to establish a Prayer Ministry. You'll be hearing more about these new ministries in the coming weeks so stay tuned!
- **Young Adult Monastery Trip:** Arrangements have been made for a trip to the monastery in Goldendale the weekend of September 16-18th, thanks to the efforts of Macarius Monroe. Young Adults, ages 18-35, are invited to participate. Please contact Greg Sebastian if you are interested.
- **Church School:** The Church School year will begin on Sunday, September 18th with a blessing for the new year. We will keep with the same schedule and same number of classes (4) as last year.
- **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.
- **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. 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. Questions? Please contact C.O.M.E. Assistant Director Thomaida Hudanish, 503-277-3928 or come@sanfran.goarch.org.
- **Monastery Builders Benefit Dinner & Auction:** The 10th Annual Monastery Builders Benefit Dinner & Auction will take place on Sunday, October 9th, at 5:30 pm, at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center. For more information please see the flyer or visit the monastery's website.
- **In our prayers: "Pray for one another that you might be healed" (James 5:16)**-Jim, 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

	9/4	9/11	9/18	9/25	
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Kaelin	Charity Lunch	Rundt/Carroll	Mehas/ Katsoyannos	
<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>	9/3 Kaelin	9/10 Everyone	9/17 Carroll	9/24 Everyone	

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

"In this life we are in heaven one moment and in hades the next. You can see this for yourself and learn from it. When our thoughts are quiet and kind, when we forgive every slander and insult, we have Divine peace, joy, and stillness! But when we become angry because of someone's unkind words, we are at once in hades! Everything collapses, and we lose all the joy of living that we had before. Can you see how terrible living in hades is? Here, in this life, we are given the chance to taste both the heavenly life and the life of hades. We should choose that which gives us peace, the Heavenly Kingdom. We all desire this, without any exceptions, whether our lives are good or bad. All people long for peace and goodness, for ineffable love that never changes, and only God is this kind of love. He alone is unchangeable. He is always the same, and He is the basis of all things--preeminently of mankind. He is ever waiting for us to return to His embrace, but all we do is shy away from Him. He wants to give us peace and to comfort us so that we may experience the joy of living, but all we ever see are the cares and worries of this world."