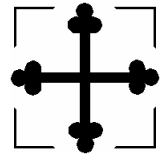




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OCT. 2016

Dear all,

Fr. Timothy wrote an excellent article for the September newsletter in Beaverton that's just too good not to share. Enjoy!

September is a month of transitioning from the close of some things and the beginning of others. We transition from summer to fall, from vacations to putting our nose to the grindstone, and from kids having time off to beginning a new school year. There are often mixed emotions regarding these. Some people are sad to see the sunny, warm days fade away. Others would love to have more vacation time visiting family and friends and most children are not eager to start another school year. As things start to pick up, our minds become inundated with thoughts about all we need to do as we make these transitions. During this month, it's easy to lose sight of another transition, the start of a new Ecclesiastical year. In the midst of our own clamoring about, the Church subtly has her own transition. Having celebrated the Dormition of the Mother of God in mid-August, the Church is already preparing for a new year, September 1st, and its first major Feast Day, the Birth of the Mother of God on September 8th.

In our day-to-day life we have many thoughts swimming through our head; work, children, finances, health, etc. Some experts estimate that the average person has around 45 thoughts per minute, which is mind-boggling, no pun intended. The point is, we can entertain a lot of thoughts in a day as our minds become occupied with many things. Within the Orthodox tradition, primarily our spiritual literature, we are taught to "manage" our thoughts by narrowing them down to just a few, with special attention given to one thought or rather one phrase, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." St. Paisios of the Holy Mountain use to say that thoughts are like planes that fly above us, you can see them, you know they're there, but don't give them a place to land. That is to say, though we will have a lot of thoughts, it's best not to engage them because they simply become a distraction for us as we attempt to be "God conscience" throughout the day. This is quite a challenge for most of us, because we are so inundated with information, and typically have so many things going on each day. In this, we can easily lose sight of the "one thing needful" (cf. Lk. 10:42).

As Orthodox Christians, being "God conscience" is an important goal. One sign of spiritual maturity is when a person thinks of Christ most of the time. Managing thoughts in such a way so as to not surrender the mind to meaningless, troubling or disturbing thoughts is an ascetic endeavor that all of us need to embrace if we wish to progress on the spiritual path of purity of heart. St. Paul emphasized the importance of managing thoughts in his letter to the Philippians when he said, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things (4:8). In other words, don't surrender your mind to just any and every thought that comes along, but choose wisely what you allow your mind to dwell on.

One way that the Orthodox Church assists us in this endeavor is through the Feast days of the Ecclesiastical year. These feasts are placed throughout the calendar year in such a way so as to help us be mindful of the salvific events of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like anything, however, having something available to us does no good if we do not make some effort to engage what's being provided, and the Feast days of the Church are no exception. As we begin the New Ecclesiastical Year, I encourage all of you to think in terms of the "living through" the Festal Cycle of the Church. That is to say, living from feast day to feast day, being consciously aware of each Feast prior to it happening, and more fully during its

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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observance. We begin this cycle of major Feast Days with September 8th, the Feast of the Birth of the Mother of God and September 14th, the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross. Part of developing a life that has at its center the Major Feast Days of the Church is preparing for them ahead of time through fasting (if the Church calls for this), by reading about them prior to attending, and, of course, by attending the services when they are offered.

Practical suggestions for observing these Festal days: Over time, obtain an icon of each of the Major Feast Days. The icons don't need to be full size, a 5x7 will be fine. Place the icon on a stand in a prominent place in your home a few days before, on and after the feast day so it can be seen by everyone in the home. Have a small vigil lamp in front of the icon. Learn something about the Feast each year. There is a lot to learn about each one. Learn the hymn for that Feast. Attend the services dedicated to the Feast (Great Vespers, Orthros & Liturgy).

Living from Feast Day to Feast Day has to be intentional and a priority, otherwise year after year will pass and we won't engage them in meaningful and edifying ways. One note of caution, don't force this practice on anyone else. Strive to do this yourself. We can all get a zealous streak in us and we want EVERYONE to jump on board. Not everyone will be where you are though, and so it's better to do this because of your love for Christ and because you want to be transformed by these feasts. Let your transformation speak for you, that way you won't have to use words to "convince" others to join you (cf. Mt. 5:16). May all of you have a blessed year of joy, good health, and spiritual growth!

Treasurer's Report

Late last year, the parish received an "unrestricted" donation of \$5,000. The parish council originally had the donation deposited in the operations account, but right after the first of the year the donation was transferred to the dedicated account and earmarked for this year's siding replacement project. As was reported in August, the siding project was completed under budget; and those funds were not used. The parish council has now returned those funds (\$5,000) to the operations account to address the cash flow issues the parish has this time of the year and to meet our October financial responsibilities. With the transfer, the operations account now has \$9,736 as we enter October. The dedicated account has been reduced to \$2,889 with \$293 earmarked for Holy Cross seminary.

It should be noted that the parish by-laws give the parish council the latitude to make those transfers only if the donation was "unrestricted" which the aforementioned \$5,000 was. Any "restricted" donation (other than one specifically for operations) is automatically placed in the dedicated account. To transfer a "restricted" donation to operations, the parish council must first receive permission from the donor, and secondly, approval from a parish assembly.

Thank you for your support of Saint George!

Fundraising Committee

Preparations are underway for our annual HOLIDAY BAKE SALE & CRAFT FAIR, which will be Dec. 10th & 11th. If you are interested in helping us bake or having a vendor table at the craft show, see Julie or Presv. Maria. Our first baking session is Oct. 11th & 12th. Soon we will have flyers out. Please distribute them to friends, family and businesses in your area. The more people attending the merrier!

The next committee meeting will be Oct. 16th.

Presv. Maria

St Nicholas Giving Book

Currently there are two items that need to be funded that are unbudgeted items.

- The first is the 2017 Ecclesiastical Calendars we get from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. The cost is \$158.40
- The second is a new Catechism tool produced by Faith Encouraged Ministries and Fr Barnabas Powell. We have a large number of catechumens currently and this tool would be well utilized in their catechism. The cost is \$179.99

Please consider helping out with these items.

Stewardship Report: All from God

September marked the beginning of the new Ecclesiastical Year in the Orthodox Church. I have been thinking about ways our parish can grow. One area of needed growth is in Christian Stewardship. I would like to challenge each of you to tithe. The word “tithe” literally means “ten percent,” and to tithe is to offer ten percent of all we have to God from our first and our best. In this article, I would like to help us all better understand this.

Right from the beginning, Cain and Abel, the first offspring of Adam and Eve, made offerings to God. Abel’s offering was from his first and his best. Cain’s offering, however, was neither his first nor his best, but came from what was left over. From this, we learn a valuable lesson about giving back to God. All things come from God and are given to us as blessings. Through our own free will, we become stewards or managers of the things in our possession. By offering back to God the first and the best, we show that we love God and are thankful to Him for all things.

The very first time we see someone offering ten percent of their possessions is also in Genesis. After Abraham had won an important victory over many kings, Melchizedek, an Old Testament type of Christ and representative of God, came out to bless him. After being blessed, Abraham offered Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had won. This act illustrates how Abraham understood that his victory was due to the power of God. His tithe offering was not commanded, but came from his heart as a joyful expression of love and gratitude to God for saving him from his enemies. Abraham’s tithe was another way of saying, “I can do nothing of my own accord, but only by the power of God and the will of God.”

Two generations later, Jacob received the blessing of his father, Isaac. After receiving this blessing, Jacob had a dream wherein he saw the famous ladder joining earth to heaven. Angels were ascending and descending the ladder, and the Lord stood above it and renewed the Covenant He had made to Abraham. When Jacob awoke from his dream, he constructed an altar of stone, consecrated it with oil, and made a vow to the Lord, saying, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house; and of all that You give me I will give the tenth to You.” (Gen.28: 20-22) We see the blessed Patriarch Jacob, inspired by the Holy Spirit, offering the tithe as a pledge of his own commitment to God. In each of the above cases, it should be noted that the offerings were not commanded, but were instinctive.

Should we tithe? Yes, but we should not be tempted to become legalistic in our giving. When asked the question, “What is necessary for salvation?” St. Justin Popovich replied, “God has already given us His all, and now He awaits our response.” Our giving must be seen as symbolic of our love for God and His place in the hierarchy of our priorities. This is the primary reason for God’s interest in our giving: it is chiefly for the spiritual benefit and salvation of the giver. Of course, a secondary reason is for the support of the Church and her ministries.

The Church exists in the world, and therefore needs monetary support to fulfill her mission. A spiritually healthy church community that has learned to give sacrificially usually has the blessing of figuring out how to spend their money in a God-pleasing manner rather than how to raise sufficient funds to support a bare-bones budget that minimally keeps the doors open. Without exception, many Orthodox parishes and every Metropolis in our Archdiocese falls into the latter category. We have not yet learned to give sacrificially, and therefore we continually find ourselves in a financial crisis. Rather than giving Biblically at a ten percent or higher rate, we give minimally out of our abundance, often after we have taken care of higher priority items in our lives. Sadly, this is indicative of where God fits into our lives.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is easy to think that we are doing okay as stewards if we simply compare ourselves to contemporary standards in the Orthodox Church. But, if we compare ourselves to the Biblical standards God has set for us, we can see that we need to grow and make changes in our lives. We may not all be able to be in a position to make drastic changes overnight, but we are all in a position to better understand tithing and sacrificial giving and move in that direction. God expects more from us than we are offering in this important area of Christian stewardship. Our Orthodox Faith is anything but minimalistic. We are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind. At the same time, Jesus taught that “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Mt.6:21) Let us all ask the Lord to continue changing our hearts that we may deepen our love for Him and increase our sense of thanksgiving. As our hearts change, so will our desire and ability to give sacrificially of our time, talents and our treasure.

PHILIA

One month left until our next fundraiser, the International Luncheon and Show, scheduled for Sunday, November 6 at noon! Please plan to stay after liturgy and support our efforts. We've been dancing and prancing and hope to have a grand performance ready for your viewing pleasure, colorful costumes and all! Food, prepared by the ladies will be plentiful and international in flavor. Donations in any amount are welcome and the show is free.

We are now on the City of Eugene's calendar for their Community Court project. This will take place next summer on four consecutive Fridays. More info to come in 2017.

Connie Ninos, who stopped by for a visit on the day of our group photo, and who had ordered pastry for a local wedding, had this to say to all: "I have never been embraced by such a warm and welcoming congregation." Congratulations St. George! She loved our pastry, the parish was gifted \$500.00 and we gained a new friend in Illinois!

Plans for the future:

- November 6 - International Luncheon and Show
- December 10 and 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 zezeastimons@gmail.com. And see Melita if interested in Rada products.

Next meetings: October 9 and November 13, 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 :

We are entering into the pastry baking phase of our fundraising year. Baking dates are posted on the first refrigerator. Please be aware that there will be days when the kitchen will be in use and both freezers and second refrigerator filled with items for our Pastry and Gift Fair. Check with us if looking for sweet treats for Thanksgiving dinner. We should have most of our pastry available for sale by then. And, take a peek at your next year's calendars as I will be coming around in November with the sign-up sheet for the 2017 fellowship schedule.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

September 8th is a "Tidy Up" day, so it's up to each of us to clean, wipe and mop wherever needed. Please contact Neal at nealzouboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened. And next month, please be ready to sign up for the 2017 cleaning schedule.

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

Greetings from the Salem Mission!

A job like no other by Cindy Karos (Source: Orthodox Observer, September 2016)

Imagine the following employment opportunity: The position calls for working six days a week; however, the company could expect you to work on your day off should a situation arise. The job also requires that you be on call for all customers at any time, day or night, and to be in the office the next day, on time, for established appointments. You would be expected to be a powerful orator, a prudent businessman, a compassionate counselor, an engaging teacher, an inspirational leader of young people, effective with the elderly, a fantastic singer, a successful mediator, and a fundraiser...in three cities, two of which are one hour's drive from home base. More than once in your life, you would have to move your family to a new town without friends or family for support. The culture in this company is tough. You would be scrutinized regularly, compared to the last person who had the job and maybe even to others across the country on any given day. Your family would also be analyzed to gauge your job performance but would be expected to take this scrutiny without any response. Is this a job where you could succeed? Could anyone? Thank God there are those who try! It is probably obvious that this job description is that of an Orthodox parish priest. According to the Hallmark calendar October is National Clergy Appreciation Month. Let's use the month of October to appreciate, honor, and thank our clergy and their families.

****Thank you**** Fr. Jerry, Presv. Maria, Nick, Demetre, and Paras! We love and appreciate you!

With love and prayers in Christ, Maria

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

Holy Cross Mission celebrated our Patronal Feast Day on September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Orthros and Liturgy were followed by a fasting meal and a wonderful time of fellowship. Special thanks to Maria, Katherine, and Eliana Hauser who traveled down for the event!

We are also pleased to announce the baptism of Morris Gregory Lloyd, son of Jesse and Bren Lloyd and grandson of Morrie and Eugenia Lloyd. Please pray for Baby Gregory and his sponsors, Lenny and Michael Buck.

Though Holy Cross is small in number, we are dedicated to creating and maintaining an Orthodox presence in Roseburg. The above events are huge milestones for us, and a great encouragement to persevere! Thank you for your prayers on our behalf!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

October Celebrations

Birthdays

October 2nd-John Lallas
 October 5th-Fr Jerry
 October 6th-Bonnie Doran
 October 7th-Bob Graham
 October 12th-Jo Ann Kluge, Felicity Merritt
 October 16th-Stephen Kaelin

Feast Days

October 7th-St Thomas

Ray Knerl

October 20th-St Gerasimos

Met. Gerasimos, Fr. Jerry

October 26th-St Demetrios

Jim Stephenson, Dimitri Kokkino, Demetre Markopoulos, Dimitri Lilles

Wedding Anniversaries

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in October are: food prep on Friday, September 30th, and the breakfast on Saturday, October 1st Please lend a hand!
- **Note from recent visitor Connie Ninos-**Father Jerry, Julie, and the St George congregation -First let me thank you for the sweets. We had a family tasting on Friday night and scores were right up there with my mother, my Thea Eleni, my cousin Ria (Stephanie's nona), and Cousin Marge - all of whom were guiding me through to find you all and are certainly smiling down on the results. It was such a pleasure and honor to meet all of you. I have never been embraced by such a warm and welcoming congregation. I will certainly be back whenever I visit Eugene. You have helped complete a wonderful wedding and I am so grateful! Love, Connie Ninos
- **Holy Trinity Greek Festival:** The largest and oldest Greek festival takes place Friday, September 30th-Sunday, October 2nd in Portland. Details at www.goholytrinity.org
- **OCF Sunday:** The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America had designated Sunday, October 2nd, as Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Sunday. Please be praying that this ministry to college students will succeed in keeping college students connected to Christ and His Church.
- **Bringing Orthodoxy to America Conference:** The first GOA National Missions & Evangelism Conference, will take place October 3rd-5th, in Portland, Oregon. St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Beaverton is hosting the conference. Several of our faithful are attending the conference together with Fr Jerry and representatives from both of our missions. Please be praying for them and that the conference may be fruitful!
- **Meet Jennifer Rice, OCMC Missionary to Guatemala:** Missionary Candidate Jennifer Rice will be joining us for the divine services on Sunday, October 9th, and update us about the newly Orthodox Mayan faithful in Guatemala. Jennifer is seeking prayers and support for a two-year commitment in Guatemala where she hopes to establish a music ministry and to offer catechetical instruction on the hymns of the Church. Please make sure to stay and hear her during Orthodoxy 101 on that Sunday.
- **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. Maria Papaioannou, Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies at the University of New Brunswick, will be the guest speaker this year and will speak on "From House to Church; from Villa to Monastery". For more information please see the flyer or visit the monastery's website
- **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. You'll be hearing more about these new ministries in the coming weeks so stay tuned!
- **Young Adult Retreat:** The Metropolis of San Francisco is sponsoring a Young Adult Fall Retreat, October 21st-23rd, at St Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. Deacon Michael Tishel will be the retreat leader. Deacon Michael is the director of the Crossroads program and will be speaking on the topic of vocations. For more details please visit the new Metropolis of SF website.
- **Iconography Workshop:** Hagia Theodora School of Byzantine Iconography announces a one-day workshop, "Writing the Holy Face", on Saturday, October 22nd, from 10am-2pm. See flyer for more details.
- **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

| | 10/2 | 10/9 | 10/16 | 10/23 | 10/30 |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| FELLOWSHIP | Markopoulos | Larisa Lilles | Batterson | Green | Julie & Adrienne |
| GREETER | Ann L | Larisa L | John & Gloria | Jerry R | Melita G |
| PROSFORON | Hauser | Lilles | Creech | Freezer | Freezer |
| FLOWERS | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN |
| READERS | Brad Thomas | Brad Thomas | Brad Thomas | Brad Thomas | Brad Thomas |
| CLEANING CREW | 10/1 Carroll | 10/8 Everyone | 10/15 Batterson | 10/22 Markopoulos | 10/29 Kaelin |
| | | | | | |

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 541-343-7283 |
| 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...

"Communion with God is a constant receiving from God, and not a giving of anything to Him." He describes what this process is like: "I begin to feel the joy of a small child who has found his father, after believing that he'd lost him forever. Having found his father, the child claps his hands, laughs, and shouts for joy. So too do we experience primordial joy when we discover that, like Adam in paradise, we are walking with God. The soul now lives as if every day it were celebrating a feast. Such a soul becomes festal, celebratory, joyous. It acquires a different kind of piety, based on its experiences, and which is consequently more powerful, more authentic."

Archimandrite Aimilianos of Simonopetra,