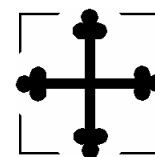




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH NOV. 2016

Dear all,

Repetition, repetition, repetition... *"As the Father has sent me, so I send you" ... John 20:21*

Are you a good and faithful servant? As Orthodox Christians, we have been given a sacred trust. We have received the treasure of the Gospel-the Good News of Jesus Christ. With this sacred trust comes the great responsibility to share it.

If we compare ourselves to the stewards in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), do we multiply the treasure for which we are responsible and for which we will be held accountable when the master returns? Or do we bury our treasure in the ground, offering back only that which was given to us? Will Jesus say to us, "Well done good and faithful servant"?

We live in a physical world that places great value on material possessions. Material possessions and wealth may bring power and status but wealth and material possessions can be fleeting. Circumstances change. It is only Jesus Christ and the truth of His Gospel that remain constant. We may live in a material world but through our relationship with Christ we come to understand the spiritual nature of things. We realize that we are called to be good stewards of His Gospel and to use our material, worldly possessions to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and meet the needs of others.

The base from which we do this is the parish. A vibrant parish provides opportunities for sharing the Good News of Christ, for welcoming those who are searching for a spiritual home, and is a place of healing and hope. The parish also provides a place for worship, community and education in the Faith. To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish. This requires the vision to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be. We are called to offer ourselves and our time, talent and treasure, to make our parish all that it can be.

By now you should have received your 2017 Stewardship Packet. So that we can develop a more accurate 2017 budget we ask that you complete and return the pledge card no later than December 4th. Before returning your pledge card please remember to fill out the backside of the card and also indicate which ministries you are willing to give of your time and talent.

We offer you our thanks for your dedication to our parish and your continued support. May God bless us all!

Yours in Christ,
Father Jerry N. Markopoulos, Priest

Neal Zoumboukos, Stewardship

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

202 Hillview #1 Eugene, Oregon 97408
Phone: (541) 683-3519

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

Treasurer's Report

Excluding Sunday, October 30th, the balance in the Operating Fund is \$9,755.

The Dedicated Account has \$2,596.

Thank you for your support of Saint George!

Fundraising Committee

Thank you to all those who came & helped bake for our upcoming Bake Sale.

We will be making kourambiethes Nov.8 & 10, beginning at 5:00 p.m. All help is welcomed.

Pete Drakatos will head up baklava baking later in Nov.

Annual Bake Sale & Gift Fair

Please join us December 10th & 11th for festive fun and great food & desserts. Stock up for the holidays!

Anyone who would like to help at the Gift Fair, please see Julie Lenkoff.

Presv. Maria

Annual St. Nicholas Project

We will be collecting warm socks - both men and women's - again this year. So appreciated last year, this project is a way of helping our homeless. Collection will begin right after Thanks-Giving and continue throughout the month of December. The socks will be distributed at the First Saturday Breakfast in January. If you unable to shop yourself, you can give your dollars to Ann-Marie Kaelin, Cassandra Batterson, or Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons and they will shop for you. This is a way of thinking of others during the hustle and bustle time of the Christmas season. You might take your children shopping and be surprised at the colors and designs they pick out!

CARE NOTES from the CARE MINISTRY

For what are you grateful? Practicing gratitude at Thanksgiving time is in the forefront of our mind when the month of November comes around. However, it is not always so natural during the rest of the year. How can you practice the theme of Thanksgiving throughout the year?

- Write a letter of thanks. Write and then deliver a letter of gratitude to someone had been especially kind to you expressing your appreciation for the person's kindness.

Describe how the actions made you feel.

- Acknowledge at least three good things every day. Each evening write down at least three good things that went well today. No event or feeling is too small to note. By putting your gratitude into words, you increase appreciation and memory of your blessings.

- Make a list of the things you take for granted. Count your blessings by being grateful for what is well with your physical body. For example you can celebrate a day in which you don't have a headache or backache.

If you have an illness that affects your lungs, be thankful that your kidneys are working.

Gloria Zeazeas Timmons

St George Prayer Circle

A new ministry is being launched this month called the "St George Prayer Circle". The ministry aims to provide our members an opportunity to gather regularly to "pray for one another".

This new ministry will help us grow spiritually both personally and corporately.

The circle will meet each Thursday after Bible Study (10-11 am), beginning on Thursday, November 10th.

Bonnie Sollars is the facilitator for this group so please contact her for more information.

May it be blessed!

Missions & Evangelism

The National Missions & Evangelism Conference last month in Beaverton was informative and inspiring. Over 150 participants came from every GOA Diocese and other Archdioceses including Canada, Kenya and Romania. Missions and evangelism is more important than ever as we learned the following statistics by a Study by the Public Religion Research Institute:

- Growing number of "NONES"
- 25% of Americans now identify themselves as unaffiliated with any religious community
- 13% call themselves atheist
- 58 % of Nones say "Religion is not important"
- 22% say "Religion is not important but not harmful"
- Only 18% say "Religion is important to them"
- 60% said they stopped believing in the Church's teachings
- 39% of millennials (ages 18-30) are now unaffiliated
- 60% of children raised in nonreligious homes remain non-religious in adulthood
- 80% of churches in US have reached a plateau or are declining in numbers
- 3000-5000 churches close every year (from 350,000 churches in USA)

How are we responding to these changing demographics and the unique challenges of our society?

The most common factor in declining churches is an Inward Focus where there are few attempts to reach out to the community at large (Thom Rainer).

Our M&E committee will be discussing these issues as they relate to our Community and St. George, forming a strategy. We invite you to join us on Monday, November 7th at 5:30pm.

To follow-up on Conference material, the Missions & Evangelism committees from the Roseburg and Salem Missions will meet monthly along with Eugene to share ideas and progress in implementation.

In Service,

Melita Green

P.s. **Hello from Ricky and Sandra:** Many of you remember our converts, Ricky and Sandra, who moved to Bend. I had dinner with them this week to catch-up. They send their love and appreciation to St. George, and they miss us! They are attending St. Jacob of Alaska Orthodox Church (OCA) in Bend. They are singing in the choir and will soon develop a Liturgy Booklet for Visitors, as they developed for St. George. They love their full-time priest, Fr. Damiam Kuolt, and Matushka Joanna. They invite you to visit when you are over in Bend. Information at <http://saintjacob.org>.

PHILIA

Please join us for the International Luncheon and Show on Sunday, November 6 at noon right after liturgy. Savor flavorful foods, browse through interesting displays and enjoy a fun musical performance. This is a fundraiser for Philia. Your generous donations will be greatly appreciated.

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: November 13 and November 27, 2016 (Please note there will be NO December meeting)

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 will be having a baklava making party on a Sunday at the end of the month. Check with us if you are interested in pastry for Thanksgiving as we should have most of it 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. Also, a reminder that November 27 is POTLUCK, so please bring something to share.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Please note that November 12 is a Nativity Fast Cleanup Day, and both November 19 and 26 are “Tidy Up” days, so it’s up to each of us to clean, wipe and mop wherever needed. Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened. And be sure to check your calendars to signup for the 2017 cleaning schedule.

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

Greetings from the Salem Mission!

Last month five lay people represented the Salem Mission at the C.O.M.E. National Missions and Evangelism Conference in Beaverton. Everyone said it was a wonderful and inspiring conference. Two major highlights were the presence of our Met. Gerasimos of San Francisco and Kenyan Bishop Athanasios Akunda.

We are seeing steady progress in the committees formed from our Strategic Planning. We have a new banner which we attach to Blanchet's perimeter fence at the main entrance before every service so that newcomers can be assured they are entering the correct place. It can get a little confusing when the school sometimes has multiple events going on, and all of the parking in front of the chapel where we meet is already taken by the time we arrive. We are also very excited to have just received our first order of beautiful church business/evangelism/outreach cards. One side has a three-barred cross with our location and contact information and the other an icon of Christ with Philip and Nathaniel, "We have found Him...Come and see." We would love to also have you join us in Salem and bring your friends that live in the Salem area. SalemOrthodoxChurch.org
With love and prayers in Christ, Maria

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

October was a busy month for us at Holy Cross! First, three representatives attended the first ever Metropolis Missions and Evangelism conference held in Beaverton, Oregon. The conference was mind blowing! Over the course of three days several speakers talked on topics ranging from church growth to social media. We left full of inspiration and motivation to bring Orthodoxy to Southern Oregon. Take the opportunity to listen to the conference recordings on Ancient Faith radio; you will not be disappointed!

This past Saturday we invited our host church, St. George Episcopal, to join us for Liturgy followed by a potluck. The intention was to introduce ourselves to our 'landlords' and to strengthen that relationship. Also, since we are small in number, we hope to partner with them in philanthropic endeavors in the future. The event was a resounding success! The Interim Priest at the Episcopal church was very supportive, and we look forward to increasing our ability to have services and minister to the county as a result.

We are thankful for your prayers for us! Please continue to pray that we grow, both in numbers and in maturity. We would love to have you visit us; please see our website for service times, or catch a ride with Father Jerry!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

November Celebrations Birthdays

November 1st-Pergrine Groomer
November 10th-Omilie Doran
November 11th-Jordyn Knerl
November 20th-Julie Lenkoff
November 23rd-Pete Drakatos
November 24th-Katherine Hauser
November 27th-Emily Kaelin
November 30th-Ann Marie Kaelin

Feast Days

November 8th-Archangels

Michael Buck, Michael, Michelle & Mikey
Creech, Ashley Knerl

November 9th-St Nektarios

Brian Kaelin, Diane Monger

November 14th-St Philip

Richard Green, Brad Thomas

November 25th-St Katherine

Kay Mehas, Katharine Drakatos, Katherine
Hauser, Ann Campbell, Marci Moling

November 26th-St Innocent

Leo Hall

November 30th-St Andrew

Andrew Lilles

Wedding Anniversaries

November 15th
Panayiotis & Ann

November 19th
Dimitri & Elena

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

November 4th-Bridgid Groomer

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in November are: food prep on Friday, November 4th and the breakfast on Saturday, November 5th. Please lend a hand!
- **Fall Women's Retreat:** In today's world, women face a dizzying array of conflicting messages on beauty and femininity. Through her work in the field of Orthodox Aesthetics, Khouria Krista West brings a fresh perspective to this important topic and will discuss how the Church's understanding of beauty can instruct, inform and inspire women today. The Sts Mary & Martha Philoptochos group at St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Beaverton, invites you to their Fall Women's Retreat, **Saturday, November 5th, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm**. This talk is suited for all women, including high-school and college-age women. Please call or visit the website of St John the Baptist GOC to register.
- **International Luncheon & Show:** You are invited to join the women of Philia for their annual International Luncheon & Show, this Sunday, November 6th, beginning around noon. This event is months in the making and much work goes into making it an enjoyable event. Come savor foods from all over the world and enjoy a variety of songs, dances and music. Proceeds from this event support Philia's philanthropic efforts so please come and generously support them!
- **Young Adult Book Group:** Another new ministry in the process of being launched is the Young Adult Ministry. One activity of this group will be to gather twice per month for a Book Study. Beginning in November, this group will meet on the first and third Sunday evenings of each month, from 6-7 pm, at the home of Father Jerry & Presbyter Maria. Our first book study will be "The Gurus,, the Young Man, and Elder Paisios". For more information please speak with Greg Sebastian.
- **Nativity Fast:** The Nativity Fast begins on Tuesday, November 15th. The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a *joyous* fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. That is the reason it is less strict than other fasting periods. If you have questions please see Father Jerry. May it be blessed!
- **Save the Date:** Our annual Greek Pastry and Gift Fair will take place the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, December 10th and 11th. Enjoy Greek Pastry such as Baklava, Kourambietes and Koulourakia, all of which make great presents or wonderful additions to your holiday table. Browse through tables of handmade crafts for unique gifts and stocking stuffers. Savor rich Greek coffee at the Kafention, or choose from a selection of menu items like Gyros, Dolmathes and Spanakopita. Don't miss this event!
- **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

	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27	
FELLOWSHIP	International Luncheon	Lisa Lilles	Hauser	POTLUCK	
GREETER	Ann L	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Hauser	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	11/5 B & L Lilles	11/12 Everyone	11/19 Everyone	11/26 Everyone	

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	Volunteer needed
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...

From "Counsels from the Holy Mountain: Selected from the Letters and Homilies of Elder Ephraim"
(Florence, Arizona: St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery, 1999)
(from page 307)

Compel yourselves in the Jesus prayer;* this will become everything for you--food and drink and clothing and light and consolation and spiritual life. This prayer becomes everything for him who possess it. Without it, the emptiness of the soul cannot be satisfied. Do you want to love Christ? Long for the prayer and embrace humility, and then you will realize that the Kingdom of God is within us.

Do not let evil thoughts rule over you; drive them out immediately with the prayer. Oh, this prayer--what miracles it performs! Cry out the prayer, and your guardian angel will send you spiritual fragrance! The angels greatly rejoice when a person prays with the prayer of our sweetest Jesus. May Jesus be the delight of your soul.

Cry out the prayer without ceasing. May God grant you a blessed beginning! May it not abandon you, or rather, may you not abandon the prayer--the life of the soul, the breath of the heart, the sweet-scented springtime which creates a spiritual spring in the struggling soul.

My children, prayer and humility are the all-powerful weapons which we must keep continuously in our hands with sleepless attentiveness, because these, with God's help, will give us the victory over the demons.