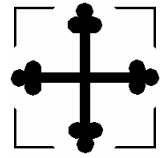




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH FEB 2017

Beloved in the Lord,

It's hard to believe but Great Lent begins on February 27th! To help you prepare for that Lenten journey, I'd like to share with you a list of ten suggestions for Great Lent given by Archbishop Demetrios. Unfortunately, I have to abbreviate his words to fit the space, but upon request I will send you the full article.

1. Meditate on the History of Salvation-Think of the Lenten period as a time of meditating on the history of salvation. Remember the history of salvation: From the fall of humankind, to the promise of redemption, the Incarnation of God as the new Adam, His Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Ascension into Heaven, and the Second Coming. Take time to reflect on God's divine actions through history.
2. Review the understanding of fasting-Take fasting seriously as a very important aspect of Lent. . Think of fasting not simply as an item of diet, but as something related to the fall of humankind, and at the same time as a victory through Christ.
3. Reconsider our life of prayer-Great Lent is a special time to pray and for community worship.
4. Be conscious of the gravity of sin-Sometimes we don't take sin seriously. Yet Scripture offers a very strong and unequivocal picture of the gravity of sin. Let's reflect on how sin has control in our lives, and how it has distorted the divine image within each of us.
5. Make Lent a season for repentance-Along with sin, we are called to reflect upon repentance. Repentance is not merely a shallow or superficial act, but a radical change of mind, soul, will and mentality. God is always ready to forgive, but first we must repent.
6. Reflect on our reading the Bible-We should try to make reading from the Holy Bible a daily practice during this Lenten season and beyond.
7. Be aware of the Christ-centric focus-Sometimes we can get caught up in fasting, in saying prayers, in going to Church, on our sins, or in all the rituals of this holy season; yet in the midst of all we do, we forget about Jesus Christ Himself. Lent is above all else a time to draw closer to Christ!
8. Cultivate human relationships-The season of Lent is also an opportunity to cultivate our human relationships in more authentic ways. We are called to think of any relationships that are not in the proper condition and make every effort to remedy them.
9. Practice almsgiving-Almsgiving is a vital aspect of the Lenten period.
10. Make this Lent a time for transformation-Ultimately, our Lenten season is a time of having a transformative experience. We are challenged to resolve that at the end of the Lenten period, when we celebrate Pascha, we are different from what we are today. The transformative aspect of Lent is an absolute necessity for spiritually enjoying this season. We are in the process of transformation if we steadily become Christ-centric in all things, through the grace and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Lenten season provides us with a tremendous possibility to prepare spiritually, to be constantly transformed, and to be with Christ in His Passion and Resurrection.

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,

The first month of the new calendar year is over. At the start of this month, with approval of the Parish Assembly, we stopped passing the collection trays. We placed a collection box at the rear of the nave. We did this in hopes of being more welcoming to our visitors, guests & inquirers, and to also bring our practices to match those of our sister churches in the local vicinity. We encourage everyone to continue to place their stewardship, and offerings in the collection box just as you would when a tray is passed. This will be on a trial basis through 2017. We will soon have a collection box in the narthex (on the table on the right as you enter) as a secondary. The Parish Council thanks Michael Creech for building these boxes. We also thank everyone for being a part of these efforts. You might have noticed 12 posts and beautiful landscaping between the picnic structure and the church. These will be for the icon housings of our memorial garden. We wish to thank Art and his employees for their work on this project.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian
President

Fundraising Committee

We are looking ahead to our annual Night in Greece dinners. There will be two, and the dates are: May 13th & 20th. Please mark your calendars and join us. Reservations will be required, as the seats fill up fast. These dinners have become community events, and our guests look forward to them all year. If you'd like to help work the dinners, please let Julie or Presbyteria know.

Our next committee meeting will be after church, Feb.19.

Presv. Maria

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The stewardship committee is happy to report forty-six (46) parishioners submitted stewardship cards for 2017. The amount pledged was \$127,232. This places our giving average at \$2,766 per family or individual. There were fourteen pledge increases; six new givers; six 2016 "free will" givers who will be stewards in 2017; and fourteen givers who pledged the same amount for the new year. There were three cards submitted with no amount. Your support of Saint George is overwhelming to our committee and most appreciated. Thank you very, very much!

With love in the Lord,
Your Stewardship Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we enter the month of February, the balance in the operations account is \$25,799. This is a great start for the parish financially. Obviously, we have benefited again from a very successful bake sale; but we also have had two families who have offered their entire 2017 stewardship commitment to the parish in January.

The balance in the dedicated account is \$13,893. This includes \$1,500, which was collected at the Vasilopita for Saint Basil's Academy, and a generous donation to the parish. More details will follow in next month's AGAPE regarding this gift.

Thank you to all for being an active participant in the Saint George community.

Care Ministry

Are you compassionate or empathetic? Do you enjoy visiting others? Do you like to prepare meals? Is organizing your skill? Does remembering others on special occasions bring you joy? If so, we are looking for you to join our Care Team. No experience is necessary.

Please see Kay Mehas or Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons for a Volunteer Application. We look forward to meeting with you.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons
Care Ministry Coordinator

Care Notes:

February is a month of LOVE. Thinking of Valentines' celebrations, we remember our loved ones whether they be our spouses, children, parents, or significant others. As Christians we are commanded to LOVE one another. Are we, at St. George, an example of this CHRISTIAN LOVE? Are we witnessing CHRIST'S LOVE? As parishioners, how can we share this LOVE with each other?

Imagine the ways we can exhibit our CHRISTIAN LOVE for one another. Keeping others in prayer is one of the first ways that comes to mind. A smile, a hug, a kiss on the cheek, a kind word of appreciation, a note of thanks, and an act of kindness are some simple ways to show our LOVE. We can also take the extra moments to greet an elder, play with a child, help a parent, and have a conversation with a teen or college student. Let's make St. George not only a welcoming church, but a loving church as well!

Missions & Evangelism

What is a healthy, growing church? The information in this article is taken from the presentation by Fr. Luke Veronis at the National Missions & Evangelism Conference in October 2016.

In America, 80% of churches are in Plateau or Decline, 20% are growing. The characteristics of a healthy, growing church are:

Worship

Fellowship

Spiritual Growth/Education

Witness

Service/Outreach to Others

We should consider these questions to examine if St. George is a healthy, growing church:

Worship: How can we make our worship more meaningful and relevant?

Fellowship: Is St. George a welcoming, loving, supportive close-knit Family where an outsider can feel comfortable?

Spiritual Growth/Education: Are we being inducted into a new way of life through worship, bible study, prayer, reading spiritual books, and regular confession?

Witness: Are we consciously trying to reach out and share God's love with the "other" locally, nationally, and globally?

Service/Outreach to Others: Are we creating opportunities to reach out to the community at large?

Please consider these questions on a personal level. We will only make St. George a healthy, growing church by living to reflect the above characteristics.

In service,
Melita Green

PHILIA

The Vasilopita Charitable Luncheon sponsored by Philia on January 15th, was a success. Philia purchased some items left over from the Pastry sale, added fruits and salads and more to the table and turned it into a tasty and festive event. St. Basil's Academy is the beneficiary of all the proceeds.

Our next project will be the World's Largest Garage Sale held at Lane County Fairgrounds on March 25th. If you have any smaller sized treasures which you would like to get rid of, please consider donating them to Philia. Adrienne is in charge of this so please see her if you have any questions.

Gloria will be heading the baking of Tsourekia, sometime in March. She will also have order forms available to all who are interested in purchasing this tasty, braided, traditional Greek Easter Bread.

Plans for the future:

- March 25 - World's Largest Garage Sale
- March - April - Tsourekia

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: February 12 and March 12, 2017

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 :

Just a reminder that while I try to re-supply the kitchen cabinets with the most commonly used items at coffee hours, if you need something other than what is there, please check the pantry.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

There are a variety of cleaning solutions on the pantry shelves, as well as in the storage closet by the restrooms. Vacuum cleaners and the like should also be found in either of those places. When mopping floors, please use whatever works best for you. We have mops and buckets available or you can bring your own favorite contraption or cleaning product from home. Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~
 Thank you for your continued prayers for Holy Cross. Believe it or not, we are entering the time of the Triodion, the preparation for Great Lent! For a mission church, this time presents unique challenges. A time of fasting is supported by the extra services that the liturgical cycle provides. While the mission will offer weekly Reader's Great Compline, this is no substitute for a Vespers Liturgy or a Sunday Liturgy. You have always been gracious to welcome mission parishioners who are able to attend Lenten, Holy Week, and Paschal services at St. George. While we long to offer a full cycle of services at Holy Cross, until then we are truly grateful to have the opportunity to worship with you! We would like to return that blessing by inviting you to join us in Roseburg. Father Jerry always has a seat in his car open for you to ride down and see what is happening at Holy Cross!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

This month's update continues with our Nave beautification efforts in our borrowed space. Once the Platytera icon was added, it was obvious that the southern side of the nave needed more thought also. Thanks to the creativity and woodworking skill of a parishioner, three large frames were made from which three new extra-large icons are hung. The icon of the Three Holy Hierarchs is in the altar area. St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom are honored for their leadership of the Church. Next is the St. Nektarios icon with scenes from his life. The third is Holy Martyrs St. Sophia with her daughters Faith, Hope, and Love.

In Christ,
 Maria

February Celebrations Birthdays

February 5th-Gwen Knerl
 February 10th-Brett Batterson
 February 15th-Bill Lilles
 February 19th-Richard Green
 February 27th-Nikki Lenkoff
 February 28th-Cassandra Batterson
 February 29th-Debbie Hall

Feast Days

February 10th-St Haralambos
 Bob Graham

February 26th-St Photini
 Bonnie Graham; Debbie Hall

Wedding Anniversaries

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

February 25th-Alex Titus
 February 28th-Raphael Groomer

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in February are: food prep on Friday, February 3rd and the breakfast on Saturday, February 4th Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **2017 Parish Council:** At their January meeting the 2017 Parish Council elected officers for the coming year. We congratulate Greg Sebastian-President; Art Mehas-Vice President; Neal Zoumboukos-Treasurer; and Larisa Lilles-Secretary. We pray that God blesses them and their work for the parish.
- **Baptized in Christ:** On Saturday, January 14th, Janelle Williamson, Johanna Williamson, and Alauna Perry were received in to the Church through Holy Baptism. Janelle was given the name Mary and her sponsor is Pres. Maria. Johanna took the name Demetra and her sponsor is Ann Marie Kaelin. Alauna took the name Julianna and her sponsor is Joan Runday. May they live for us!
- **Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction:** Our annual Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction was a huge success due to the efforts of Philia and Pete & Froso Drakatos. We thank them and everyone who gave of their time and talents to make the event possible. This year we raised the most money ever, nearly \$1500.00! We also congratulate Janelle Williamson who found the coin in her piece of Vasilopita.
- **Offering Box:** As a reminder, we voted at the November Parish Assembly to do away with the passing of trays and instead we decided that we would place an "Offering Box" in the church for you to deposit your offerings. You may deposit your offering in this box whether it be stewardship, loose offerings, or a donation. The box is in place and ready for use.
- **House Blessings:** January is typically the month when we call for the priest to come and bless our homes, work places, cars, etc. Due to medical reasons Father Jerry was not able to do any house blessings in January, but there's still time before Lent begins so please contact Father Jerry if you would like to have a house blessing.
- **Great Lent 2017:** It's hard to believe but Great and Holy Lent begins on Monday, February 27th! Here are some important dates leading up to Lent. The Triodion period begins on February 5th. Meatfare Sunday (last day for meat products) is February 19th. Cheesefare Sunday (last day before the Fast) is February 26th as is Forgiveness Sunday. Please save the date and join us on Sunday, February 26th for Forgiveness Vespers. The church will be open on Monday, February 27th for prayer and quiet reflection. That evening there will be Great Compline and the first part of the Canon of St Andrew. I pray that you will take full advantage of the opportunities Lent offers for spiritual growth. May it be blessed!
- **A personal "Thank You":** I just wanted to say "Thank You" to all of you for your support, understanding, patience, concern, love and prayers, over these last few months, as I have been dealing with a medical issue. I especially want to thank those of you who have offered material support to help the parish pay for the additional medical expenses. It is a huge relief knowing that you stand with me at this time ready to help. I thank God for each of you!
- **Worlds' Largest Garage Sale:** Our parish will again have a table at the Worlds Largest Garage Sale thanks to the efforts of Adrienne Bonosevich. She is asking for donations of small items, clothing, books, household items, etc for the event in March. You can bring the items to church at any time. Unsold items will be donated to Goodwill.
- **"Pray for one another that you might be healed" (James 5:16):** The Prayer Circle at St George meets every Thursday at 11 am in the Conference Room. Everyone is invited!

KOINONIA

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26	
FELLOWSHIP	Lisa Lilles	Carmack	Carmack	Lenkoff & Bonosevich	
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	2/4 B & L Lilles	2/11 J & J Williamson	2/18 Bonnie S	2/25 A & L Lilles	

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	
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
CARE MINISTRY	Gloria Timmons

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

A good word from the Fathers...

“The Saints live in another world, and there, through the Holy Spirit, they behold the glory of God and the beauty of the Lord’s countenance. But in the same Holy Spirit they see our lives, too, and our deeds. They know our sorrows and hear our ardent prayers. In their lives they learned of the love of God from the Holy Spirit; and he who knows love on earth takes it with him into eternal life in the Kingdom of heaven where love grows and becomes perfect. And if love makes one unable to forget a brother here, how much more do the Saints remember and pray for us!”

St. Silouan the Athonite