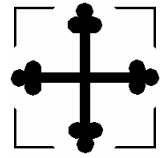




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH APRIL 2017

Paschal Homily by Bishop Nikolai (Velimirovic) 1934 - Ochrid

Each Christian feast raises hundreds of questions and gives hundreds of answers. The questions are from men, the answers come from God through the feasts. This is especially true with the feast of Christ's Resurrection. Here He opens for us with His keys hundreds of locked doors. For God has more answers than man has questions; He has more keys than man has mysteries. Let us, then, consider a few such questions. Here is a mystery: Why did Christ rise from the dead? The key: Because Life could not remain in the grave.

A thousand years before, the Prophet foretold concerning Christ: ...nor wilt Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption (Ps. 15:10) Christ revealed the living God, the Father, to the world; He revealed the heavens, the living realm of angelic hosts; He revealed life after death and the eternal heavenly kingdom. Would, then, the Restorer of life remain in the darkness of the grave and the embrace of death? Christ raised Jairus' daughter and the son of the widow of Nain and Lazarus of Bethany. Would He Who raised others not raise up Himself? Truly He arose; He could not do otherwise by virtue of His essence, His power, His greatness. Weak is the force of death that aspired to hold down the Giver of Life in its abyss. Small is the mouth of death that aspired to strangle the Bestower of resurrection. Only in the light of the Resurrection can one comprehend Christ's deeds on earth, His love for men and His divinity.

Here is another mystery: How has the belief in the Resurrection of Christ been preserved through so many centuries? The key: In the same way that a well rooted tree withstands the winds, as light is preserved in darkness, and as truth is preserved amidst lies.

A third mystery: Is the Resurrection of Christ still felt today? The key: It is powerfully felt, throughout the entire world, Gazing with the eyes of the spirit at the resurrected Lord, the weak are strengthened, the sorrowful are comforted, the sad rejoice, sinners repent, the wicked are corrected, the impure are cleansed, the persecuted are encouraged, the despondent hope, sufferers pray, and those on their deathbeds no longer fear death. Today the Master spoiled hell and raised the prisoners from all ages whom it had held in bitter bondage.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through the efforts of our ministries our parish continues to grow, and with our continuing efforts we will sustain that growth. This includes the efforts of all parishioners from our youngest to our oldest. Through that growth and with our parishioners we continue to add and grow our ministries. The Parish Council is continuing to work on improving our signage to make it easier to locate the church, and increase our visibility in our community along with the community engagement of our ministry activities. Through all of this we continue to show our love as a community drawing ever closer, with to eyes to achieving our goals. Thank you for your continuing support and involvement in the various activities and efforts.

In Christ, Greg Sebastian President

Fundraising Committee

Plans are underway for our annual Evening in Greece dinners, May 13th and 20th. These are wonderful events and good ways of getting to meet new friends in our Eugene community. Please plan on attending and bringing a friend or two! See Julie or Presv. Maria with any questions or if you'd like to volunteer.

Pres. Maria

Bookstore News

The icon housings for the Memorial Garden are in, they cost \$62.50 for the housing alone. The bookstore and also assist with ordering icons if you have questions or are looking for specific icons. In addition we will be ordering soon to stock new items and restock items that we are sold out of. If you want to order something specific please contact Brett or Greg, and we will add it to the order. Also if there are any suggestions or ideas please feel free to contact us. We still have work to do on the Bookstore area, so that will be coming along in the coming weeks, so thank you for your patience.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of the end of March, we have fifty (50) stewards for 2017. Those stewards have pledged \$130,500 to Saint George in addition to the their time and talents. In addition, the parish has six (6) "Free Will" givers who are supporting Saint George but have chosen not to fill out a stewardship card. The parish council and the stewardship committee would like to thank everyone who is helping to support our Orthodox faith here in the Willamette valley.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we enter the month of April, the operations account balance is \$22,278. The dedicated account balance is \$7,393. During the course of the last month, the parish has received two \$1,000 donations. The first is from the Batterson family to enhance and improve our bookstore and its inventory. The second was an anonymous gift to help cover those medical expenses Father has incurred which are over and above his insurance coverage. In addition, as was mentioned in an earlier AGAPE, the parish received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 in January. The donor asked that five (5) thousand dollars go to the building fund; four (4) thousand dollars go to reducing the amount owed on Father's car; and one (1) thousand dollars go for Father's medical expenses. We would like to thank those three families very much for their generosity to Saint George and to Father Jerry.

Personal Notes:

-Jan Schmidt and Melita Green thank all those who helped during Jan's recent move. We truly are a family coming together to help each other.

-Father Jerry thanks all of you for your prayers and support over these last four months. Thanks for standing with him and for your patience.

Care Ministry

Care Notes: Take a minute to tell those you love how much you appreciate them and how much they mean to you. It will brighten their day and you will feel better as well.

Care Ministry: There will be an important Informational Meeting on

Sunday, April 2nd, following Liturgy. Those who have signed up to participate are urged to attend. In addition, all interested parishioners are invited. If you like to help others, come see what this new ministry is about!

Care Notes: Take a minute to tell those you love how much you appreciate them and what they mean to you. It will brighten their day and you will feel better as well.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons

Coordinator

p.s. Please recycle your smaller Easter Baskets by donating them to the Care Ministry. We will use them for gifts to our shut-ins and for remembrances.

Missions & Evangelism: Mochas for Missions:

We have set a goal of \$1500 to support Mission and Mentored parishes in our Metropolis. We are asking that 30 individuals/families give \$50 each. There are four pay periods during between now and June 4th. You may consider giving \$12.50/month or \$4.00/week. Smaller amounts are also welcome. Thank you.

Welcome Packet: We are finalizing a new Welcome Packet for guests interested in the Orthodox Faith. It includes a guest information card, Father's business card, St George brochure which lists service times, and two Welcome brochures.

Follow-up: We have developed a post card, "Thank you for visiting us", to mail the guest the week after they visited. We also developed a post card, "We miss you.", for parishioners we have not seen for a while. Finally a "May God grant you many years." post card for those celebrating a special occasion.

Greeter Team: Thank you to our greeters and welcome to Helen Spears joining them. Thank you to Larisa Lilles who will be the lead greeter.

Welcome Team: We are asking for volunteers to comprise a "Welcome Team" to greet guests after Liturgy and invite them to join us for Fellowship Hour. The volunteer would visit with them and obtain the guest information card from their Welcome Packet. If you are interested, please contact Father or Melita.

In service,

Melita Green

PHILIA

The World's Largest Garage Sale held at the Lane County Fairgrounds on March 25th was deemed a success. A lovely sign hand-painted by the children from St. George proclaimed who we were and the tables were laden with items ranging from tiny Christmas ornaments and knick knacks to large printers, books and clothing. Thank you to Adrienne for organizing this event and to all who donated their treasures as well as their time towards this endeavor.

Gloria is heading the baking of Tsoureki and has order forms available in the fellowship hall to anyone who is interested in purchasing this tasty, braided, traditional Greek Easter Bread. The loaves sell for \$8.00. Baking started on March 18 and will continue on April 1.

And the Philia Ladies are currently busy tackling the overwhelming acolyte robes project. Hopefully, some of them will be repaired, redone, replaced or at least re-washed by Easter!

Plans for the future:

- March - April - Tsoureki
- March 26 - April -- Acolyte Robes Sewing Circle
- May 13 and 20 -- Greek Dinners

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

Next meetings: April 9 and May 7, 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 :

The pantry is in the process of reorganization. A few shelves have been added and some things moved around to allow for ease of storage and access. Please keep that in mind when looking for fellowship items.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Please be aware, when cleaning, that there is a janitor supply closet located by the restrooms. Buckets, mops, large brooms and even vacuum cleaners should be kept there instead of in the pantry. And, if you need to have the door opened for you on your scheduled cleaning day, please contact Neal at nealzomboukos@msn.com

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~
Thank you for your continued prayers for Holy Cross! Soon, many Holy Cross Parishioners will be joining you for the services of Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha. We are so thankful for your hospitality! We also plan to contribute by working together with you to prepare for the services and traditions of the season. Most importantly, we are excited to get to know you all a little better as we worship together.

We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for our annual Parish Picnic that will be held on Bright Saturday, April 22. We will gather for Bright Saturday Liturgy in our Chapel (9:40 am) and then caravan to the home of Stan and Meme Tenold to share food and fellowship (including some games and contests for the young and old alike!). Feel free to contact any of us for further details and directions. We hope to see you there!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

During the Lenten season this year, Fr. Ed Hillhouse has been celebrating most of our Wednesday night Presanctified Liturgies and weekend Divine Liturgies, with Fr. Theodore Dorrance coming down a few times instead. During Holy Week we will continue our tradition of having the second bridegroom service on Monday night and Holy Unction on Wednesday night.

The women of the Salem mission got together for a ladies tea in March for a time of fellowship and discussion of ideas for future events and women's ministries. The first event coming up will be our Bright Week celebration on Sunday, April 23rd. We will begin the day with pre-communion prayers at 8:40 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m. Then, we will gather in the Blanchet High School cafeteria for a brunch/lunch and fellowship. We would love to have you join us!

We hope you are having a fruitful Lenten season and that your Pascha will be very blessed.

Maria Hauser for the Salem Mission

April Celebrations Birthdays

April 2nd-Raphael Groomer
April 3rd-Georgia Lallas
April 9th-Demetre Markopoulos
April 11th-Panayiotis Katsoyannos
April 15th-Brian Kaelin, Melita Green
April 20th-Eliana Hauser

Feast Days

April 1st-St Mary of Egypt
Melita Green, Janelle Williamson

April 22nd-St Nearchos
Neal Zoumboukos

April 23rd-St George
Georgia Lallas

Wedding Anniversaries

April 3rd-Brian & Ann Marie Kaelin
April 4th-Neal & Yvonne Zoumboukos
April 29th-Leo & Debbie Hall

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

April 11th-The Doran Family
April 23rd-The Knerl Family

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in April are: food prep on Friday, March 31st and the breakfast on Saturday, April 1st.
- **Lazarus Saturday:** Please join us on Saturday, April 8th, for our celebration of Lazarus Saturday. We'll begin with Orthros & Divine Liturgy at 9 am, followed by a hosted Pancake Breakfast. Following breakfast we'll clean the church in preparation for Holy Week. We will also be tying palms. This is very joyous "community" day so please don't miss being here.
- **Palm Sunday:** Please join us on Sunday, April 9th, for our celebration of Palm Sunday. Orthros will begin at 9 am followed by Divine Liturgy. You are then invited to join us for a hosted meal in the Fellowship Hall. We thank the Parish Council for hosting us that day!
- **Pascha:** Please join us on Sunday, April 16th for our celebration of Pascha. The vigil will begin at 11 pm on Saturday, April 15th, followed by the Anastasis and Orthros service at midnight and the Paschal Divine Liturgy at 1am. We'll break the Fast following liturgy with Avgolemeno soup, eggs and bread. Then we'll gather back at church for Agape Vespers at 11:30 am followed by the Egg Hunt and our annual Pascha Potluck.
- **Parish Feast Day:** Our Parish Feast Day falls on a Sunday this year so please join us for the divine services and a special luncheon.
- **Pascha Offering:** As we near Pascha we incur expenses that are not budgeted expenses. Please consider making a "Pascha Offering" to help us cover those additional expenses.
- **Tsoureki Fundraiser:** Philia will again be making Tsoureki (Greek Easter Bread) for Pascha. You can purchase this annual treat for yourself or as gifts. Order Forms are available in the Fellowship Hall. For questions, please contact Gloria Zezeas Timmons at: zezeastimmons@gmail.com or 541-484-0575.
- **Almsgiving Project:** Once again we are going to put together food bags for the homeless that will be distributed at an upcoming First Saturday Breakfast. Cassandra will be collecting monetary donations through Sunday, April 2nd. The bags will be filled on Saturday, April 8th (Lazarus Saturday). Let Cassandra know if you want to help.
- **Egg Hunt:** We are accepting donations of individually wrapped and nut-free candy for our upcoming Egg Hunt. There is a box in the Fellowship Hall to drop off your donation or you can give it to Cassandra Batterson directly.
- **Mochas for Missions:** Our Mochas for Missions campaign is in full swing and we've raised \$dollars towards our goal of \$1500 dollars. The math is simple: 30 of us give \$50 each (\$12.50/month or \$4/week). Please help us spread Orthodoxy in the West!
- **St Nicholas Giving Book:** Thanks to all those who helped fund two of the three items in the St Nicholas Book. The third item is a set of books that we want give to Inquirers. The St Nicholas Giving Book is located in the Narthex. Please consider helping us fund these unbudgeted items.
- **Offering Box:** As a reminder, two boxes are in place and ready for use, one in the Nave and one in the Narthex. You may deposit your offering in this box whether it be stewardship, loose offerings, or a donation. We thank Michael Creech for designing and constructing the box!
- **Save the Dates:** Our Greek dinner event, "An Evening in Greece", will take place on Saturday, May 13th & 20th, beginning at 6:30. Tickets are \$20 per person and reservations are required. Please see the flyer for details.
- **"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

	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23	4/30
FELLOWSHIP	Batterson	Palm Sunday Luncheon	Pascha	Mehas & Katsoy-annos	J & J Williamson
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	4/1 Markopoulos	4/8 Church-wide	4/15 Church-wide	4/22 Bonnie Sollars	4/29 Larisa 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	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
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	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
1ST SAT. BREAKFAST	Volunteer needed
PRAYER CIRCLE	Bonnie Sollars 541-726-3606
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Melita Green 541-543-8792
FUNDRAISERS	Presbyteria Maria 971-678-5112
CARE MINISTRY	Gloria Timmons 541-484-0575

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

Have you heard the Good News?

**Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling death by death,
And to those in the tombs,
Bestowing life!**

**Jesus having risen from the dead,
as He foretold,
Has granted us eternal life,
And His Great Mercy!**