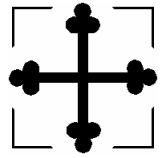




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MARCH 2017

Being a Lenten Apprentice

Great Lent is often called a time to return to basics because we focus on central dimensions of our Christian faith: we read from Scripture to remind us of the need for a Savior; we become more focused on matters of prayer and worship; we increase our philanthropic and charitable efforts; and, of course, we follow the ascetic discipline of fasting from certain foods. In some ways, we return to being novice Christians, doing things we were taught years ago. To borrow a concept, we become apprentices once again. According to the dictionary, an apprentice is someone who is “learning by practical experience from more skilled workers.” Parish life could and perhaps should be thought of as an “apprenticeship program” in Christian life. We learn how to be an Orthodox Christian by participating in the life of the Church with more experienced teachers. The experienced share what they have learned with new generations of participants. The wisdom of experienced people is really important. They have internalized the wisdom of the community through their practice of the Faith. This is best shared in face-to-face encounters.

Who are the “more experienced” in our parishes? First, of course, are the clergy. They have been educated in the Faith at a fairly high level and should be considered the chief teacher of the Faith in a parish (of course the bishop is the chief teacher in the Church). Second, there are the adults in the community who have years of experience living as Orthodox Christians. Don’t underestimate the influence of grandparents and senior citizens. Studies have repeatedly shown that grandparents have enormous influence on the religious lives of the young. Third, there are the teachers and youth advisors. They are a specialized group because of their focus on intentional instruction, class work, discussions, and activity. Who are the apprentices? First, the young. They are learning and need a great deal of guidance. Second, there are the new to the Faith. They may have read about Orthodox Christianity in a book, but are now trying to apply what they’ve read to their lives. Finally, all of us are apprentices to one degree or another. We are continually learning. We are always disciples – students -- of Christ and the way of life He invites His followers to observe.

How we do this? Work together, alongside one another. We don’t just bring prosforo to church; we can bake it together. It’s learning by doing. Advice and guidance. There’s a great deal that is learned “on the job,” especially what’s unwritten or can’t be explained easily. Apprentices are often observed performing their jobs by more experienced teachers, and if possible, being corrected or reminded of things along the way. To continue with the prosforo baking example, someone probably has to show us when the dough has been kneaded adequately. That part of the process can’t be found in a book. Small jobs, in time, become large jobs. Being a GOYA officer can lead to Parish Council membership. Serving on a committee leads to chairing the committee. Small liturgical roles can become larger ones in time. In this approach, the lived work of the Church is handed on to newer generations, little by little. Classes are useful. Apprentices often take classes, to learn the theory about their job and to deepen their knowledge of an area. It’s often in preparation for performing a new task. Let’s not underestimate the power of teaching groups. Jesus often His disciples, privately, apart from the crowds. He explained his teachings to them.

Great Lent offers opportunities to place all of these qualities into practice in our parishes, teaching one another, but especially the young and new to the Faith, the way of Christian living.

Rev. Anton C. Vrame, Ph.D., Director Department of Religious Education-Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

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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Phone: (541) 683-3519

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the second month of this year comes to close in seemingly a flash, and as we enter Great Lent together, we as a Parish Council wish to thank everyone for being a part of our parish and continuing in your efforts to work towards our common mission. It is truly everyone that is a part of our parish that completes the family and community that we are. As notification, our Spring Parish Assembly is scheduled for March 26th and we please ask that all stewards make every attempt to be there for this important meeting. Our memorial garden continues to take shape, nearing ever closer to completion. In addition Michael Creech at the request of the Council, has completed a lower height icon stand so that young children, and those otherwise unable to venerate icons on our other stands may now be able to venerate icons unassisted. A reminder from the Council, while we are no longer passing collection trays we do have the collection box in the aisle at the back of the nave before exiting to the narthex to collect all of the offerings. A second, smaller table-top collection for the narthex is still in the works and we hope to have that soon. May everyone have a blessed Lent as we go through this journey together to Pascha.

In Christ, Greg Sebastian President

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of February 28th, the balance in the Operations account is \$24,156. The balance in the Dedicated Fund as of this date is \$7,392

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

Fundraising Committee

Our next fundraisers are the Evenings in Greece dinners, May 13 & 20.

We are busy planning the details, and we can always use more volunteers. Please see Presbytera Maria if you would like to help. In April, flyers and posters will be available to you. We hope you will send flyers and post posters to advertise our event. Also, invite friends and family to share in these wonderful dinners. Opa! **Pres. Maria**

Bookstore News

Great news, the bookstore has received a generous donation in addition to our budgeted funds to purchase more books and items in an effort to help grow our bookstore ministry. As a result of this there will be new books and items soon. Also we have some new wall crosses crafted by a family member of the Batterson's on sale in the bookstore. And soon we shall be receiving the icon housings to be purchased for placement in the memorial garden. If you have any specific requests for the bookstore to order, we will be ordering icons, books, prayer ropes, and other items soon so please let Greg, Brett or Cassandra know.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian, Bookstore Manager

Missions and Evangelism

"Mochas for Missions is a grassroots campaign to raise money for the Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism, C.O.M.E., and inspire the faithful about the evangelistic vision of our Metropolitan. C.O.M.E. offers resources for welcome ministries, website revision, parish bookstores, adult education, introductory classes on Orthodoxy, and much more. We create opportunities for clergy and lay leaders to meet face-to-face and learn from another. With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, we provide guidance and mentoring to small parishes and communicate their milestones and successes for all the faithful to celebrate and be inspired."

The M&E committee at St. George has set a 2017 goal to raise \$1500 to support Mochas for Missions. We raised \$1500 for Saint Basil Academy. The Salem Mission raised close to \$2000 in 2016. Wow! We can do this.

In service,

Melita Green

Care Ministry

How appropriate that as we enter preparation for Great Lent, we are also preparing for the beginning of a new ministry in our church, noted as Care Ministry. It is a time of rediscovery - a time to understand and practice the Orthodox way of life. An overview of the St George Care Ministry and Volunteer Applications are available in the Fellowship Hall for your convenience. All parishioners who enjoy helping others are encouraged to participate in this ministry. There will be an Informational Meeting, to be announced, for all interested parishioners. At this meeting, we will be gaining further information and assess the need for specific training to meet the Care Ministry goals. A program update will be presented by Gloria Zeazeas Timmons. Fr. Jerry will speak about Hospital, Rehabilitation, and Long-Term Care Visitations. John Sovyak will introduce a Checklist for Home and Residential Care visits. In addition, Ann-Marie Kaelin will go over the process for meals. Time will be allowed for questions and answers with the meeting time-line of one hour. Medical professionals have previously been invited to participate in this ministry and the majority of referrals will come from Fr. Jerry. However, any parishioner can make a referral to the Care Team. A Referral Form is in process and will be available to parishioners. Representatives from the Roseburg, Holy Cross GOC, and Salem missions have been invited to participate in the Care Ministry. John Sovyak from Holy Cross has been a contributing member of our team.

Gloria Zeazeas Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The following families and individuals are supporting Saint George in 2017 through freewill giving or their stewardship commitment, including their offering of time and talent. Please remember your commitment of time and talent is just as important as your offerings of treasure. Get involved with our many ministries and feel the satisfaction of knowing you are growing Orthodoxy in the Willamette Valley.

Tom & Shirle Adams	Emiley Jensen	Diane Monger
Diane Banos	Kaelin Family	Trento & Frances
Brett & Cassandra Batterson	Stella Kallianis	Newton-Jones
Kimberly Bentley	Panayotis Katsoyannos	Alauna Perry
Adrienne Bonosevich	& Ann Leith	Pos Family
Arin Carmack	Jo Ann Kluge	Joan & Jerry Rundt
Charlie & Stephanie Carroll	Dimitru & Elena Kokkino	Walid Saleeby
Marie Cominos	John E. & Georgia Lallas	Jan Schmidt
Michael & Liana Creech	Julie & Nikki Lenkoff	Bonnie Sollars
Nick & Elena Diamond	Andrew & Larisa Lilles	Greg Sebastian
Daniel Doran	William & Lisa Lilles	Judy Sebastian
Violeta Draghici	Mark Lipson	Chris & Barbara Skrepetos
Froso Drakatos	Leda Litke	Helen Spears
Anna & Joe Drakatos	Morris & Eugenia Lloyd	James Stephensen
Peter & Katharine Drakatos	Markopoulos Family	Bradney Thomas
Robert & Leah Essa	McGlade Family	John & Gloria Timmons
Melita Green	Art & Kay Mehas	Janelle Williamson
Carl & Sharon Hauser	Sonia Merritt	Johanna Williamson
Monica Hutanu	Gus D. Mikilas	Neal & Yvonne Zoumboukos

PHILIA

Pink and black were the colors of the day as we decided that it would be fun to match Nikki on her birthday, since she likes that kind of stuff. But then we plunged into another venture, sorting, mending and sewing the acolyte robes which apparently are falling apart. The goal is to get them all spiffy by Pascha. Our next big project will be the World's Largest Garage Sale held at Lane County Fairgrounds on March 25th. If you have any small sized treasures which you would like to donate, please see Adrienne. Setup will be March 24, 10:30 - 2:00.

Gloria is heading the baking of Tsourekia and will have order forms available to all who are interested in purchasing this tasty, braided, traditional Greek Easter Bread. Baking dates will be Saturdays, March 18 and April 1. Times TBA and Philia Ladies are donating all supplies.

Plans for the future:

- March 25 - World's Largest Garage Sale
- March - April - Tsoureki
- March 26 - Acolyte Robes Sewing Circle

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: March 12th and April 9th

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 :

Thank you to all who are continually presenting us with wonderfully tasty dishes at our fellowship hours. While the choices of foods are entirely up to you, I would just like to remind you as we enter the Lenten period, that while peanut butter is a good source of protein, it is not an appropriate item to bring to church as a few of our parishioners are allergic to peanuts.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

If you notice that we are low on some basic items, please jot that on the clipboard hanging in the pantry and I will be happy to resupply our shelves with what is needed. However, someone else will need to be in charge of buying the rolls of towels that are used in the kitchen dispensers. I can get the regular paper towels, but this huge box is a bit much for me to handle. Let me know if you would like to volunteer. And, if you need to have the door opened for you on your scheduled cleaning day, please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@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! We are grateful for gift of the Lent this year. In addition to our regular services we will be meeting every Thursday for Readers Compline. We are also looking forward to celebrating the Feast of Annunciation with you this month. Although the Feast falls on a 'Mission Saturday', we are planning to drive to St. George with the anticipation that we will celebrate the Feast together with you and the Salem Mission. We look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

In the past at the Salem Mission we have had inquirers, catechumens, and people received into the Orthodox Church through Baptism (travelling to another parish) and Chrismation. Last month we celebrated another first-time-ever event. Bejan Rejaian was received through baptism at the Salem Mission where we meet at Blanchet Catholic High School's St. Patrick Chapel! Bejan received the name Menas and Wayne (John) Zaiger is his sponsor. May God grant him many years! Some of you may remember Menas' mother-in-law Mary Pannas, his wife Stacy, and his sister-in-law Eulia (who attended St. George in the early 2000's), now Sister Savina at the Monastery of the Life-Giving Spring Monastery in Dunlap, CA. Our thanks to Fr. Jerry and Michael Creech for helping make this event happen.

Please forgive me a sinner, and may you have a blessed Lent.

Maria Hauser for the Salem Mission

March Celebrations Birthdays

March 2nd-Vivian Merritt
 March 4th-Alexis Drakatos
 March 6th-Stephanie Carroll
 March 8th-Mikey Creech
 March 10th-Joan Rundt
 March 16th-Jan Schmidt
 March 17th-Jessica Graham
 March 23rd-Pres. Maria
 March 27th-Mark Hauser
 March 30th-Alethea Groomer

Feast Days

March 23rd-St Lidia
 Leda Litke

March 26th-St Larisa
 Larisa Lilles

Wedding Anniversaries

March 3rd
 James & Angel Stephenson

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

March 21st
 Jan Schmidt

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in March are: food prep on Friday, March 3rd and the breakfast on Saturday, March 4th Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Thanks!:** Two-hundred sixty-six feet are warmer because of all of you! Cozy, comfortable socks are something we all take for granted, but for the homeless, our annual St. Nicholas Project was much appreciated!
- **Saturday of Souls:** Please join us on Saturday, March 4th, for the Saturday of Souls. Pre-Communion Prayers will begin at 9:40 am followed by the Divine Liturgy and memorial prayers. Please bring Koliva and a list of names of departed loved ones (Orthodox) for commemoration.
- **Sunday of Orthodoxy:** Please join us on Sunday, March 5th for the Sunday of Orthodoxy. We will be joined that day by the Faithful from St John the Wonderworker for the divine services and fellowship.
- **Great Lent 2017:** I pray that you will take full advantage of the opportunities Lent offers for spiritual growth. Please check the weekly bulletin for the schedule of services. Wishing you and yours a very blessed 40-Days!
- **Tsoureki Fundraiser:** Philia will again be baking Tsoureki (Greek Easter Bread) for Pascha. Our fundraising goal will be 100 loaves of this beautiful, symbolic, and super delicious, traditional bread. You can participate by donating ingredients/supplies and assisting in baking & packaging of the bread. To volunteer, please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Baking dates are: Saturday, March 18th and Saturday, April 1st. Morning and afternoon shifts will be available - times to be announced. Last, but not least, you can purchase this annual treat for yourself or as gifts. Order Forms will be available Sunday, March 5th, in the Fellowship Hall. Prepaid order deadline will be Sunday, April 2nd. For questions, please contact Gloria Zezeas Timmons at: zezeastimmons@gmail.com or 541-484-0575.
- **Annunciation:** Please save the date and join us on Saturday, March 25th for the Feast of Annunciation. A luncheon will follow the divine services.
- **Men's Lenten Retreat:** St John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale will be hosting a Men's Lenten Retreat, March 31-April 2nd. Fr John Bethancourt will be speaking on the topic of, "The Imaginative Faculty in Man". A flyer with the details should be posted soon.
- **St Nicholas Giving Book:** There are several items needed that are not budgeted and they are listed in the St Nicholas Giving Book. The first item needed is a substitute priest on March 19th to cover for Father Jerry after his surgery. The second item is a new projector for the classes we do and other events. 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, 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. We thank Michael Creech for designing and constructing the box!
- **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 on March 25th. 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

	3/5	3/12	3/19	3/26	
FELLOWSHIP	Markopoulos	Kaelin	Hauser	Green	
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	3/4 Carroll & Kal- lianis	3/11 Zoumboukos	3/18 Larisa Lilles	3/25 Batterson	

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
FLOWERS	Diane Monger 541-530-3210
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Melita Green 541-543-8792
FUNDRAISERS	Presbytera 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

A good word from the Fathers...

“Let us cheerfully begin the season of Lent, and undergo the spiritual struggles. Let us purify and cleanse our souls and bodies. As we fast from foods, let us also abstain from giving in to any of the passions, and instead delight in the virtues of the Spirit. May we persevere in them with love, and then be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and to celebrate holy Pascha with spiritual joy”

“Your grace has shone forth, O Lord; the illumination of our souls has shone forth. Behold, this is the acceptable season; behold, this is the season of repentance. Let us put away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, so that we may navigate the immense ocean of Lent, and arrive at the third-day Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.”

Hymns from Forgiveness Vespers