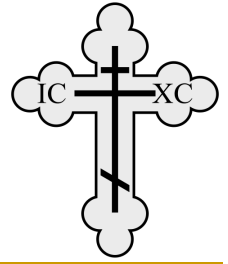




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AUGUST 2017

“Summer Pascha”

The feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos has a special place in the festal calendar of the Orthodox Church, and it is directly linked to the uniqueness of the person of the Panagia in the work of the "salvation in Christ" of humanity, making it the greatest of the festivals established by the Church in honor of the Mother of God. The first testimony for the celebration of the Dormition of the Theotokos appears in the fifth century AD, around the time the Third Ecumenical Synod in Ephesus (431) convened, which defined the dogma of the Mother of God which became the reason to further develop the honor towards the person of the Theotokos. The first time it seems to have been celebrated was in Jerusalem on the 13th of August and later on it was moved to the 15th of the same month. It had a general Marian character, without specific reference to the event of the Dormition, and it was called the "day of Mary the Theotokos". A "kathisma" (central church of a monastery) outside the walls of Jerusalem on the road to Bethlehem is mentioned as being the initial center of celebrations. The connection between this celebration and the Dormition of the Theotokos began in the Church of the Panagia found in Gethsemene, where her tomb was, and the feast was established by Emperor Maurice (582–602). According to ecclesiastical tradition, the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is preceded by a fast, which was established in the seventh century. Initially it was divided into two periods: before the feast of the Transfiguration of the Savior and before the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. In the tenth century they were merged into one fast, which includes fourteen days and begins on August 1st. During this fast we abstain from oil, except on Saturdays and Sundays, while on the feast of the Transfiguration of the Savior fish is allowed.

During the fifteen days of August we chant in the churches during the evening hours (except Sundays), alternatively, the "Small and Great Supplication Canon to the Most-Holy Theotokos", otherwise known as the "Supplications" or "Paraklesis". The Mother of Jesus Christ, according to ecclesiastical tradition, was informed of her impending death by an angel three days prior to it happening, and she began to properly prepare. Because on the day of her Dormition not all the Apostles were in Jerusalem, a cloud grabbed them and brought them near her. The only one absent was the Apostle Thomas. The Dormition of the Theotokos took place in the house of John the Evangelist, where he lived after the crucifixion of Christ. After having shut her eyes, the Apostles carried her deathbed to the Garden of Gethsemane, where she was buried. After three days the Apostle Thomas went to her tomb, and only found her grave clothes. Over the tomb of the Panagia a large church was built by Saint Helen. After its destruction, the Byzantine Emperor Marcian (450-457) together with his second wife Pulcheria built a new church, which exists until today.

Between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches there are doctrinal disputes concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos. The Catholic Church believes in the dogma of the bodily Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Assumptio Beatae Mariae Virginis), which was officially established with the apostolic encyclical of Pope Pius XII "Munificentissimus Deus" (1 November 1950). In contrast, the Orthodox Church speaks first of the

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

Dormition of the Theotokos, which was a real death (the separation of soul and body), and then of the translation of the Theotokos, which was a resurrection (the union of soul and body) and ascension near her Son.

Countless churches and monasteries have been built in honor of her Dormition, magnificent frescoes adorn each church behind the main entrance, together with amazing compositions for her sacred funeral, chosen hymns that decorate her Service, and with brilliant words and eulogies delivered by the Fathers and newer clergymen on the day of her memorial. In Greece, the Dormition of the Theotokos is celebrated with great brilliance, and is called the "Summer Pascha". In many Aegean islands (Tinos, Paros, Patmos) an epitaphion is decorated and paraded to honor the Panagia.

Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We continue our efforts to update our strategic plan. As part of that we are working on updating our mission statement from the one we currently have, and out of that updating we are developing a new vision statement which we have been lacking. This updated plan will serve to guide our Parish Council and ministries for our present and future efforts. I wish to thank those that have participated so far, and encourage all to participate at future discussions on the strategic plan. In addition the Parish Council has authorized the repaving project to repave our parking lot, which is showing its age after the years and the past few winters. This project was funded in part by anonymous donation and with approval of donors, borrowing the remainder from dedicated donations to be repaid before the end of next year. This is the second of large projects that we've had in the past year. Thankfully God has provided a way to meet the financial obligations of this project with minimal impact on our operational budget. Thank you to all who continue to support our Church through their stewardship and dona-

tion. We are blessed with the growing number of people willing to help with the activities and ministries of the Church, this greatly helps the Parish Council in our efforts.

In Christ,
Greg Sebastian, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The operations account has \$15,639 as we enter the month of August. This amount does not reflect any stewardship or offerings from July 30th, nor does it reflect any income from the Gyro Fest. All expenses for July have been paid excluding those from the Gyro Fest.

The dedicated account has \$12,092 in it at this time. \$5,000 for the repaving project is included in this amount. The remainder of the funds for the repaving have been pledged and should be received prior to the beginning of any work done on the parking lot.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the repaving project and thank you to all of our stewards and contributors.

Fundraising Committee

Thank you to all the volunteers who made our annual Gyro Fest a success! We served our parishioners and friends from the Eugene community and all enjoyed themselves. We even taught Greek dance to newcomers! As always, we appreciate your support of our fundraisers.

Presv. Maria

Care Ministry

As a way of making a coordinated effort and to better care for St. George Parishioners, the Care Ministry has several functions. Among them are Calls and Visits, Meals, Remembrances, and Resources. Any Parishioner can make a referral. Referral Forms are located on the Resource Table in the Narthex.

Care Notes:

“To show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much we put in the doing, that makes our offering, something beautiful for God.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

From the Bookstore

Dear All,

First off we want to thank you for your enthusiastic support of the bookstore. Because of you, we have exceeded our sales expectations over the last four months. Your support of this important ministry has allowed us to put close to \$2000 in merchandise back onto our shelves. We hope that this level of support will continue and we will be able to expand the bookstore further.

Secondly we would like to extend thanks again to our anonymous patron for the gracious donation of the espresso maker. The espresso sales have contributed to the ambiance of the bookstore nicely and we hope that you all have enjoyed the delicious beverages that Brett has been creating. A quick reminder to all that your coffee drink of choice is FREE with any purchase of \$10 or more in the bookstore.

And finally we would like to give a quick reminder as to the protocol for purchasing bookstore items when it is unmanned. Please jot down the date, your name, items purchased and payment form in the tiny pink notebook that is left out on the small circular table. During the week you may pay with cash or check, this can then be deposited into the cash box. Please, no IOUs as it makes it difficult for us to keep our inventory and ledgers balanced. We are more than happy to hold items for you until you can purchase them, just speak to Brett, Greg or myself about it during Coffee Hour.

We are continuing to get new items in weekly so ,if you haven't already , please be sure to stop by and see what's new on our shelves!

In Christ,

Cassandra Batterson

REPAVING THE PARKING LOT

The church parking lot will be repaved and re-striped from Wednesday, August 16 to Saturday, August 19. The main entrance to the church parking lot will be blocked off. Please use the gated entry at the far end of Hillview Lane to enter the property if you have an appointment with Father; have a ministry meeting or are just stopping by the church to pray. This entry is the gravel road we use for our outdoor processions during the ecclesiastical year. Please park off to the sides of the gravel lane behind the church and enter and exit the building through the kitchen. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

PHILIA

Thank you to those who supported our Sweet Treats mini-fundraiser. We came very close to reaching our goal of \$400.00. The money raised will help offset some of the costs of providing lunches for the Community Court program. This month Philia also contributed \$500.00 towards the expense of purchasing vestments for Father for the feast days of the Theotokos.

We were sad to have to say goodbye to Melita, who has been such a valuable member of our Philia group for so many years. Although we will miss her greatly, we wish her well, and hope she will come back to visit us soon.

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches June - September

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: August 13 and September 17, 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 the whole month of August will be POTLUCK! Summer months mean more vacations and therefore fewer hosts for fellowship. However, this provides us with an opportunity to share whatever we can with our fellow parishioners and, perhaps, even make new culinary discoveries in the process.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need the door opened for your scheduled cleaning days.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

We need to Grow! Though we have recently welcomed new visitors and have lovely inquirers in regular attendance, we recognize that church growth not only means new parishioners but also means growth within the life of every member. To that end, we are thoroughly enjoying our latest Orthodoxy 101 class: 'Journey to Fullness' by Fr. Barnabas Powell. This simple but deep exposition of the Faith is followed by our own Q&A session with Father Jerry. We love the sweet time with Father as he facilitates our growth in Christ. We are also 'growing' our service schedule; this month sees the addition of another weekly service: Thursday Readers Vespers. All kinds of growth are needed to be a fruitful parish, and we beg your prayers for Holy Cross Parish in Roseburg.

We would love you have you join us for a service; please visit our website for the service schedule. We also hope you'll 'Save the Date' for our Feast Day, Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sept. 14. I look forward to worshipping with you soon!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

Due to various issues in the thirteen years our family has been involved with the Salem Mission, we have not experienced a true church family funeral in Salem until last week. Many, from founding members to brand new catechumens were able to attend and participate in this service of our Church for Steve, one of our faithful founding members. For quite a few, this was their first Orthodox Christian funeral and their comments were very similar: "Beautiful," "The most peaceful funeral I've ever seen," "Amazing, so much is Scripture," "The whole service is the Gospel!" May his memory be eternal!

"The death which You have endured, O Lord, is become the harbinger of deathlessness; if You had not been laid in Your tomb, then would not the gates of Paradise have been opened; wherefore to him, now gone from us give rest, for You are the Friend of Mankind."

(Funeral Hymn by St. John of Damascus)

Maria Hauser

August Celebrations

Birthdays

August 1st-Greg Sebastian
 August 2nd-Gloria Zeazeas Timmons
 August 4th-Hope Merritt
 August 9th-Daniel Doran
 August 10th-Liana Creech
 August 20th-Michael Creech
 August 25th-Janelle Williamson
 August 28th-Nick Markopoulos

Feast Days

August 15th-Dormition of the Theotokos
 Panayiotis Katsoyannos
 Peter Drakatos
 Pres. Maria

Wedding Anniversaries

August 18th
 Andrew & Larisa Lilles

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

August 13th-Marci Moling
 August 31st-Olivia Fimple

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in August are: Food prep on Friday, August 4th and the breakfast on Saturday, August 5th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Baptized in Christ:** On Saturday, July 15th the child of Angus Mullins & Mairi Tsiftsi was baptized. We congratulate Angus & Mairi on the baptism of their daughter Linnea (Maria). Erika Fundelius from California is her sponsor. May she live for us!
- **Potluck Month:** Every Sunday in August is a Potluck so please remember to bring a dish to share. On Sunday, August 6th fish is permitted because it is the feast of Transfiguration. Sunday, August 13th, only wine and oil are permitted. The last two Sundays are fast-free.
- **Dormition Fast & Feast:** Please join us for the beautiful Paraklesis services during the first 15-days of August on Tuesday, August 1st & 8th at 5 pm; on Friday, August 4th & 11th at 6 pm; and Monday, August 7th at 6 pm. Great Vespers for the feast will be celebrated on Monday, August 14th at 6 pm. Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the feast will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 15th, beginning at 9 am. May it be blessed!
- **Repaving Project:** The church parking lot will be repaved and re-stripped from Wednesday, August 16 to Saturday, August 19. The main entrance to the church parking lot will be blocked off. Please use the gated entry at the far end of Hillview Lane to enter the property if you have an appointment with Father; have a ministry meeting or are just stopping by the church to pray. This entry is the gravel road we use for our outdoor processions during the ecclesiastical year. Please park off to the sides of the gravel lane behind the church and enter and exit the building through the kitchen. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.
- **"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!

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God. With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

KOINONIA

	8/6	8/13	8/20	8/27	
FELLOWSHIP	Potluck	Potluck	Potluck	Potluck	
GREETER	Ann L	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Hauser	Freezer	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	8/5 Bonnie S	8/12 Zoumboukos	8/19 Kaelin	8/26 Julie & Adrienne	

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	Brett Batterson 541-345-5248
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	
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...

“The fact that I am a monk and you are a layman is utterly beside the point. What God requires is true faith in Him and in His only-begotten Son. The Lord seeks a heart filled to overflowing with love for God and our neighbor. This is the throne on which He loves to sit and on which He appears in all His heavenly glory, for in the human heart the Kingdom of God can be contained.”

Saint Seraphim of Sarov