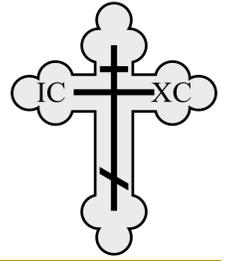




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JULY 2017

A sermon on the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter & Paul...

On June 29th of each year the Holy Church piously remembers the sufferings of the Holy Glorious and All-Praised Apostles Peter and Paul. St. Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, was the one who confessed Christ's divinity: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," was deemed worthy by the Savior to hear in answer, "Blessed art thou, Simon ... I tell thee, that thou art Peter [Petrus], and on this stone [petra] I build My Church" (Mt.16:16-18). On "this stone" [petra], is on that which thou sayest: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" it is on this thy confession I build My Church. Wherefore the "thou art Peter": it is from the "stone" [petra] that Peter [Petrus] is, and not from Peter [Petrus] that the "stone" [petra] is, just as the Christian is from Christ, and not Christ from the Christian. Do you want to know, from what sort of "rock" [petra] the Apostle Peter [Petrus] was named? Hear the Apostle Paul: "Brethren, I do not want ye to be ignorant," says the Apostle of Christ, "how all our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ" (1 Cor.10: 1-4). Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the final days of His earthly life, in the days of His mission to the race of man, chose from among the disciples His twelve Apostles to preach the Word of God. Among them, the Apostle Peter for his fiery ardor was vouchsafed to occupy the first place (Mt.10:2) and to be as it were the representative person for all the Church. Therefore it is said to him, preferentially, after the confession: "I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in the heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth: shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt.16: 19). Therefore it was not one man, but rather the One Universal Church, that received these "keys" and the right "to bind and loosen." After His Resurrection the Lord entrusted the Apostle Peter to shepherd His spiritual flock not because, that among the disciples only Peter alone was pre-deserved to shepherd the flock of Christ, but Christ addresses Himself chiefly to Peter because, that Peter was first among the Apostles and as such the representative of the Church; besides which, having turned in this instance to Peter alone, as to the top Apostle, Christ by this confirms the unity of the Church.

The Apostle Paul, formerly Saul, was changed from a robbing wolf into a meek lamb. Formerly he was an enemy of the Church, then is manifest as an Apostle. Formerly he stalked it, then preached it. Having received from the high priests the authority at large to throw all Christians in chains for execution, he was already on the way, he breathed out "threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord." And Saul suddenly undergoes a change and becomes a chosen vessel of Christ, to bear His name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9: 11, 15, 18). And actually the Lord did show the Apostle Paul what things he had to suffer for His Name. He instructed him the deeds; He did not stop at the chains, the fetters, the prisons and shipwrecks; He Himself felt for him in his sufferings, He Himself guided him towards this day.

On a single day the memory of the sufferings of both these Apostles is celebrated, though they suffered on separate days, but by the spirit and the closeness of their suffering they constitute one. Peter went first, and Paul followed soon after him. And so, brethren, celebrating now the memory of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, remembering their venerable sufferings, we esteem their true faith and holy life, we esteem the innocence of their sufferings and pure confession. Loving in them the sublime quality and imitating them by great exploits, "in which to be likened to them" (2 Thess 3: 5-

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9), and we shall attain to that eternal bliss which is prepared for all the saints. The path of our life before was more grievous, thornier, harder, but "we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses" (Heb 12: 1), having passed by along it, made now for us easier, and lighter, and more readily passable. First there passed along it "the author and finisher of our faith," our Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Heb 12: 2); His daring Apostles followed after Him; then the martyrs, children, women, virgins and a great multitude of witnesses. Who acted in them and helped them on this path? He Who said, "Without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15: 5).

Parish Council

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On June 17th we had met to revise our strategic plan, which has not been updated in several years. Part of this is refining our mission statement and establishing a vision statement. This plan will serve to guide the Parish Council and ministries. There will be a second session soon and the Parish Council encourages all to attend and give input. Our hope is to have a revised strategic plan in place soon to continue our growth and development. In addition to these efforts the Parish Council is looking into the costs to have the parking lot repaved, as it is starting to show its age and break down after the winter weather we've had the past few years. This will be another big project, but once we get an idea of the cost we will work to put in place a plan to ensure it's covered while still meeting our budgetary needs. As always, the Parish Council thanks each and every parishioner for their support and growth of our Saint George family.

In Christ,
Greg Sebastian, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we enter the month of July, the parish operations account has \$16,074. The parish dedicated account has \$9,096, which includes \$2,004 for the missions. That amount will be mailed to the Metropolis right after the first of the month.

This coming Sunday and the following Sunday stewards who give to the parish on a weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis will find their semi-annual giving statement in the Narthex of the church. Please take a moment to pick up your summary. We hope you will find the information useful.

Thank you to everyone for your support of Saint George. Always remember it is your time, your talent, and your treasure that are making a difference and spreading Orthodoxy in the southern Willamette Valley.

Fundraising Committee

We are planning of our annual Gyrofest, which will be at the church on Sunday, July 23rd, after church. Please plan to join us for lunch and tell your friends to come also! If you would like to volunteer for the event, please contact Julie or Presv. Maria

Our next committee meeting will be July 16, after church.

Presv. Maria

Care Ministry

We have been visiting a 93 year-old, Orthodox woman who lives in an Assisted Living Facility. She is a lovely woman and enjoys making knitted hats. The hats are donated to various groups in need, even to IOCC for refugee children. She is requesting donations of yarn so that she can continue to contribute these hats. The yarn can be brought to church and placed on the back tables in the Fellowship Hall.

We are collecting resources for our Resource File. These items can be brochures, articles, or booklets that would be useful to St. George parishioners and their families. Examples: Brochures on Care Facilities, Information on Attention Deficit Disorder, Special Needs, Specific Diseases, Healthy Eating. There is a Care Ministry box on top of the File Cabinet in the Library.

If you know of any St. George parishioner who is ill, please contact Gloria. The Care Ministry is equipped to visit the sick, provide meals, visit the home-bound, and assist with other needs. Referral Forms can be found on the left table in the narthex.

Care Notes:

Spiritual and practical support from the faith community can be a vital component towards the well-being of our children, families, and seniors. It is our calling as Orthodox Christians to reach out and minister to the needs of our parishioners wherever and whenever we can.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

Missions & Evangelism:

We more than tripled our contribution to Mochas for Missions in 2017. Our goal was to raise \$1500.00, but we raised \$2004.00! Speakers from Holy Cross Mission in Roseburg and the Salem Mission gave inspiring personal presentations about what their Missions have meant to them. Thank you for generously supporting this Ministry.

A Welcome Team has been trained to greet guests new to Orthodoxy after the Liturgy and invite them to Fellowship Hour. A Welcome Team member listens to the guest and learns about their interest in Orthodoxy. They obtain guest contact information and offer a free book, *The Orthodox Way*, by Bishop Kallistos Ware. The guest is introduced to the Bookstore and a parishioner having a similar religious background. They are informed about the Inquirer's Class every Tuesday. Thank you to Brett Batterson, Greg Sebastian, Lisa Lilles, Gloria Timmons, Presv. Maria, Joan Rundt and Janelle Williamson for volunteering for this Ministry.

It has been a joy for me to be part of the Missions & Evangelism Ministry at St. George. Thank you for supporting me in developing this Ministry.

**In Service,
Melita Green**

PHILIA

Philia has joined several local parishes and organizations in providing 45 scheduled bagged lunches for the Community Court Lunch program. Last year, the City of Eugene was one of ten recipients nationwide to receive a federal justice grant to deal with non-violent and minor offenses by rehabilitating the offenders. Instead of simply incarcerating them, the Eugene municipal court sentences them to community service like painting over graffiti or cleaning up neighborhood parks and offers them programs like mental health treatment or job training. Individuals under the supervision of the community court are required to check in weekly and follow through with the service providers. Volunteer organizations provide lunches. We are committed to the fourth Fridays in June, July, August and September, and had just finished our first one. This endeavor will cost Philia around \$400.00. To offset some of the expenses, Philia members will stage a "Sweet Treat" mini-fundraiser on Sundays July 9 and 16. We will offer baked goodies like cookies, brownies or pies as well as scoops of refreshing ice cream. Please come and visit our dessert booth! Extra donations are certainly welcome and will go towards the support of this community venture.

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches June - September
- Gyrofest - July 23

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: July 9, and August 13, 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 summer months mean more vacations and less commitments which translates into fewer hosts for fellowship. Please check the calendar for potluck dates as there will quite a few of them. No need to bring anything fancy, just something to share. Sometimes a peek into the fridge or pantry will produce wonderful results.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need the door opened. And a reminder that Saturday, July 29 will be our church-wide cleanup day for the Dormition Fast.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

The Mission Statement of Holy Cross emphasizes 5 areas of growth for our church: Worship, Service (Philanthropy), Witness (Evangelism), Fellowship and Discipleship. Our bookstore is Ministry touches on each of these areas! Sarah Callaway has taken on the important job of expanding and managing the store. She has ordered books that inspire and educate parishioners in all stages of spiritual development, as well as prayer corner items and gifts. The expansion of the store also means there are items available for the Care ministry to provide as gifts for those in need. The store also offers a wide selection of 'introductory' books, and new visitors to the Church are able to select one as a free gift. Last but not least, the bookstore has become a place for people to mingle and share book reviews and insights over a cup of coffee. Please keep us in your prayers as we work to develop our ministries in such a way that they fulfill our Mission Statement: Attaining to the Likeness of Christ, through Worship, Service, Witness, Discipleship, and Fellowship.

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

We invite you to come visit us at our food booth at the Salem Art Fair this month! The dates for the fair this year are Friday, July 21 through Sunday, July 23. We serve three types of gyros: beef/lamb strips, chicken, vegetarian, and falafel; Greek salad; and baklava. Be sure to check out information about the fair at <http://salemart.org/art-fair/>. In May, one of our catechumens, Annette who takes the name of Anna for the mother of the Theotokos was Chrismated. On the same day, five members of a family were made catechumens: Don and Joy with sons Joshua, Zach, and Titus. Our McMinnville catechumens are being joined by some inquirers for sessions with Fr. Jerry and a couple of parishioners viewing the Journey to Fullness series. We've heard they have great discussions and continue for hours even after Fr. Jerry has gone home! We're also watching the Journey to Fullness series in Salem on Wednesday nights after our service and potluck. The series evokes good discussions there as well! Thank you for remembering us in your prayers! Glory to God for all of His love and mercy to us!

Maria Hauser

July Celebrations

Birthdays

July 4th-Rosemary Buck
 July 7th-Alex Titus
 July 9th-Philip Green
 July 17th-Judy Sebastian
 July 20th-Dimitri Lilles
 July 28th-Rebeca Groomer, Jerry Rundt
 July 29th-Leda Litke
 July 31st-Bonnie Graham

Feast Days

July 17th-St Marina
 Omilie Doran
 July 20-St Elias the Prophet
 Erik Groomer, Lenny Buck
 July 26th-St Paraskevi
 Paras Markopoulos, Paris Newton-Jones
 July 29th-St Julia
 Julie Lenkoff
 July 31-St Benjamin of Petrograd
 Ben Hauser

Wedding Anniversaries

July 22-Alex & Nina Titus

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in July are: Food prep on Friday, June 30th and the breakfast on Saturday, July 1st. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **St John Oratorical Festival:** Congratulations to Stephen Kaelin who took first place at the National St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in Boston last month. Stephen is the 2017 Junior Division National Champion and the first from our parish. All of us at St George and the Metropolis of San Francisco congratulate you Stephen! And on to next year!
- **Class of 2017:** We congratulate Timothy Kaelin on his graduation from high school and church school, as a member of the Class of 2017. Timothy will be attending George Fox University in the fall and running track for them. Congratulations Timothy!
- **Strategic Planning:** We met to revise our Strategic Plan on Saturday, June 17th, and eight parishioners participated. There was discussion around: our mission statement; needing a vision statement; our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; our core values; and the goals we established back in 2013. We plan to continue these discussions and invite everyone to join in.
- **Baptized in Christ:** On Saturday, June 24th, the child of Trenton & Francis Newton-Jones, was baptized. We congratulate Trenton & Francis on the baptism of their son Paris. Liana Creech is his sponsor. May he live for us!
- **A Fond Farewell:** On Sunday, July 2nd at Fellowship Time, we will be honoring our dear friend and sister Melita Green. Melita will be moving to Chicago in mid-July. Melita has been actively at St. George from the beginning. She has served on the Parish Council, taught Church School, and most recently has done an incredible job chairing the Missions & Evangelism Committee. We will all miss her dearly! As it is a potluck that Sunday, please bring something special to share. We will have a cake in her honor.
- **Community Court Lunches:** On Sundays, July 9 and 16 Philia will be staging a MINI-FUNDRAISER for a specific cause. We are providing 45 bagged lunches on four scheduled dates to the City of Eugene / EPD rehabilitation court for minor offenders. This endeavor will cost around \$400.00. To offset some of the expense, Philia will be offering home-baked goods and scoops of ice-cream for sale. Donations of any amount are also very welcome. Please support our efforts!
- **Save the Dates:** Summer is a great time to experience an Orthodox camp program. Check out Holy Trinity's Summer Camp, July 9-14th; and St John's Family Camp, July 17th-21st. Father Jerry will be helping out at both camps this summer. He will be in Portland at Camp Angelos, July 9th-12th, and be giving a talk at Family Camp, the morning of Tuesday, July 18th.
- **St Nicholas Giving Book:** Thanks to all those who helped fund the recent items in the St Nicholas Book!
- **"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

	7/2	7/9	7/16	7/23	7/30
FELLOWSHIP	Potluck	Hutanu	Hutanu	Gyro-Fest	Zoumboukos
GREETER	Ann L	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	Helen S
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	7/1 Bonnie	7/8 Hutanu	7/15 Hutanu	7/22 Hutanu	7/29 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** 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** Presbyteria Maria 971-678-5112
- CARE MINISTRY** Gloria Timmons 541-484-0575

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Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
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Eugene, OR 97408-5018

A Good Word from the Fathers...

"Prayer, fasting, vigil and all other Christian activities, however good they may be in themselves, do not constitute the aim of our Christian life, although they serve as the indispensable means of reaching this end. The true aim of our Christian life consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. As for fasts, and vigils, and prayer, and almsgiving, and every good deed done for Christ's sake, they are only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God."

Saint Seraphim of Sarov