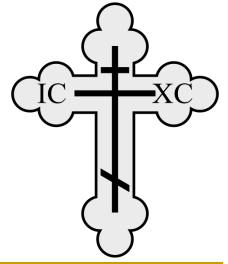




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SEPT 2017

Clothed in the Image by Fr Stephen Freeman (edited to fit the format)

Begging my readers' patience, I will take a small anthropologist tour through our culture. What I want to draw our attention to is the place of the image. We are not only fascinated with looking at images, we place them on our bodies as well: t-shirts, tattoos, hats, shoes, pants – in short, everywhere. There is nothing unusual in this. Were we to examine primitive tribes, we would notice a vast assemblage of image-markings. People cover themselves with colorful muds, distort certain parts of their bodies, do amazing things with hair, dress themselves in utterly impractical costumes. Something is at work in the human soul that is demonstrated in all of these behaviors. My suggestion is that it is an effort to live “according to the image.” Clothing is mentioned with an essential role in the Genesis account of human beginnings. Our sin plunges us into shame. We are “naked” and seek to “hide.” The theological unpacking of this reality is deeply important in Scripture, particularly in the New Testament. But it also reflects a simple human experience. The naked truth of ourselves is generally experienced in a shameful manner. That is to say that we feel exposed, vulnerable and in danger when various aspects of that truth are seen by others. And so, we cover up. God provided Adam and Eve “garments of skin” in Genesis 3. Those garments have been deeply elaborated on ever since. Perhaps the deepest commentary on this is found in St. Paul: ***For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal. 3:27)*** This would probably be more accurately rendered, “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ as a garment.” The word “put on” (ἐνεδύσασθε) specifically refers to “putting on” a garment. This “putting on” is the true and spiritual fulfillment of which all efforts to clothe ourselves are a mere reflection, and often one of deep distortion.

I take us back to my first observation: we universally seek to cover or mark ourselves with something. Our appearance is a canvas which we cannot help but disguise. And, following Genesis, we can observe that we desperately want to cover or mark ourselves in order to disguise our shame – in one form or another. It can be argued that we wear clothes because it is too sunny or cold. But our clothing long ago transcended the practical need of hairless animals. Our clothing, like most of our lives, reflects psychological and spiritual issues more than anything. The state of our soul is often on display for anyone who understands the nature of the great human cover-up. A frequent element of our covering is the projection of power. We use various symbols and clues as signals. Identifying ourselves with a team proclaims the power of a tribe: we are not alone. Much of our political signals are aggressive in nature, not surprising in a culture in which almost all citizens feel largely powerless. Our coverings can signal beauty, strength, anger, sexual desire, any number of things in the cultural dance surrounding inner shame. The modern fashion of tattooing (more prominent in America than Europe) is a deeper form of covering, at least in its permanence.

Please understand that I am not saying that our clothing and markings are themselves shameful. They are quite the opposite. They represent protective coverings that protect us from the shame we feel and the shaming we encounter in social settings. Our inner shame surrounds our sense of identity. Shame is about “who I am.” Our coverings represent an effort to publicly proclaim, “This is who I am,” regardless of what might be the case inwardly. As such, our coverings are an attempt to say, “This is who I want you to think I am.” Many times these same created coverings are used to hide our inner shame from ourselves. The modern selfie is a fascination with the image, an effort to proclaim an existence and identity in a world where social media has become a substitute ontology: “I’m online, therefore I exist.... And they like me!”

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It is possible to lose yourself in such a covering. We can clothe ourselves outwardly, but if the clothing only hides our shame and does not transform it, then it becomes part of the sickness in our lives that binds us to our shame. Just as our first experience of shame was our “nakedness” (the emptiness of our existence in the presence of God), so our salvation is expressed in terms of being clothed: *Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away falsehood, let every one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (Eph. 4:22-25)* The “new nature,” created “after the likeness of God,” is nothing other than the very righteousness of Christ, described as a garment. But this is more than a garment – it is a “nature,” meaning that it no longer represents a garment that hides us, but something that changes us, so that the inside (“nature”) matches the outside (“righteousness of Christ”). We can be seen exactly as we are – without shame. It is noteworthy that St. Paul completes the admonition with the commandment to “speak the truth.” This is the opposite of what takes place in almost all of our various cultural versions of clothing. What you see of others is never “who they are,” but what they want you to see, an effort that is rarely successful. However, our holy transformation (conformity to the image of Christ) begins in Baptism, and continues as we “speak the truth,” meaning as we “bear a little shame” in the truth of our confession and repentance and in our dealings with others. It is, admittedly, a most difficult thing. The greater our inward fear and the depth of our wounds, the harder it is to trust this work of salvation. By grace, it is possible. May God clothe us with the righteousness of Christ and conform us inwardly to His image.

Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your patience while the parking lot was being worked on. The work didn't take as long as we thought it might, but it will wear better and won't need any further repairs for many more years. The Parish Council wishes to thank those who donated to this effort, as a result we didn't need to borrow from the building fund as planned. Additional good news is that by the end of the year we will have paid off the car. We thank every steward for their continual giving what they can, it is your giving efforts and time that is the reason we've seen a growth in our ministries and activities. We still have further growth to achieve, and together we can continue to achieve that.

In Christ, Greg Sebastian, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we enter September and the new church year, the operations account has \$16,678. The dedicated account balance is \$8,019. The paving project has been paid off in full. The parish council would like to thank everyone who contributed to that project and everyone who has supported Saint George throughout 2017.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

A special thank you to everyone who has kept their stewardship giving up to date. Also, thank you to all of you who were behind in your stewardship at the beginning of July and have made the effort to get caught up. We are always hopeful the information we disseminate in July and October is helpful to you. Your response has been very encouraging.

Care Ministry

Looking for information on a specific resource in our community? The Care Ministry can help. There are two large, white binders in the St. George Library that contain resources for parents, families, & individuals. Many of the brochures are medically related to certain conditions. For example: Childhood Diseases, Dementia, Hearing & Vision Loss, and many others. We thank Bonni Sollars for organizing these resources. The Care Ministry makes calls and visits to those who are ill, provides meals, visits the homebound, and assists with other needs. If you become aware of a parishioner who is ill or hospitalized, please contact Gloria. Referral Forms can be found on the left table in the Narthex.

Care Notes

One way to cultivate an attitude of gratefulness is to acknowledge good things every day. Each night before bed, write down at least three things that went well that day. By putting your gratitude into words, you increase appreciation and memory of your blessings.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons
Care Ministry Coordinator

New from the Bookstore... a book review by Mark Lipson:

"Seeds of the Word, Orthodox Thinking on Other Religions" by John Garvey, 130pp. Forward by Peter C Bouteneff.

In this survey of non-Christian religions, we are taken, one chapter at a time, on an adventure through alien territory, then brought back home to Orthodoxy. This is done in a remarkably thoughtful and humble way, without polemic, and without recourse to anything like pluralism or relativism. It primarily focuses on Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism and briefly touches on a few others.

The forward gives a great overview of the balances that must be maintained, describing the slippery two-sided slope of intolerance versus relativism, and of the need to accept that firmness of belief must be decoupled from the assumption of fanaticism and violence. A little over half the book delves into what each religion believes. That is followed by some historical perspective, a survey of 'other Christian' approaches to dialog, and a chapter on present day relations.

One hears condemnation of ecumenism from some quarters, because they accurately perceive that some of those involved approach it in such a way that compromises essential truths. This book takes a refreshing perspective, acknowledging the need to stand firm in the truth and acknowledge the very real differences between religions, while steadfastly venturing into unfamiliar territory and allowing oneself to notice "seeds of the Word", the potential for goodness in such places. The terminology is explained surrounding how the similarities and differences may be understood. This book serves as a very wholesome introduction to comparative religion from a humble, and comfortingly Orthodox perspective.

This book gives us a head start toward applying the rule to love our enemies in the context of other religions. To only love the enemies we understand is not nearly so challenging as to love the enemies we don't understand. I use the word enemy here, intending it to reflect what the book teaches: that we must take the differences between religions seriously and not fall into the watered down pluralistic view that they are all of equal value, and also that if we truly love those who are substantially different from us we will find seeds that can sprout into real, legitimate reasons to love those people, and to see that God is at work even in the wildest and strangest places.

Quotes:

"Indeed, the earliest Christian apologists taught that the Word (Logos) of God, identified by Christians with Jesus Christ, is accessible in 'seed form' in non-Christian and pre-Christian faiths and philosophies. Truth is truth, wherever it is found, and while Orthodox Christianity does claim uniquely to teach the fullness of truth, it does not claim a monopoly on truth." - from the forward by Peter C Bouteneff

"We do not know, or claim to know, God's will for those who do not accept the gospel, except to say that God is a merciful and loving God Who draws all people toward eternal life, and we can leave it to God to do that, in God's own way. But we are obliged to bear witness to the gospel by living it and by preaching it."

"Our situation today can be seen as not all that different from the world the early apologists had to address. Orthodoxy must now make itself known and understood in a world where no religion has a privileged place. Some may mourn this fact, but it may be a new and profoundly important opportunity."

PHILIA

This year, we will not be having our annual International Luncheon and Show. We were planning to change it to International Nights, an evening affair open to the public, but didn't have enough time to form a concrete plan. It is still in the discussion phase, but hopefully will come to fruition next year. In the meantime, since we depend on it for our funds, we will host an International Mini on Sunday, October 8. It will be held during fellowship, on a contribution basis but not as elaborate as before. We will still present you with our delicious international dishes, some music and maybe even a dance or two, but we will not put on an hour-long show as we had done in the past.

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches June - September
- International Mini - October 8

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

Next meetings: September 17, 2017 & October 15, 2017 - (note neither is on 2nd Sunday)

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 for remembering that all of August was potluck. We had plenty of food to share. Just a reminder that on September 10 we will have the Holy Cross Charity Luncheon, and that October 8 has been changed from Potluck to Philia's International Mini, a fundraiser lunch to be held during the fellowship hour.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Thank you to all who continue to clean our church on your scheduled days. Just a reminder that the fellowship floor should also be part of your cleaning endeavors. If you are able to mop, we have a string one and a big bucket available as well as a smaller sponge version. Or feel free to bring your own. If you cannot mop, then please spot clean. It's easy. Just spray a cleaning solution on the stain and wipe it clean with a rag. You can even use your foot for that.

Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need the door opened.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

You are cordially invited to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with us! Services will be followed by Food and Fellowship. We are grateful for the prayers of you, our family, and we look forward to sharing this special day with you!

Here is the "When":

Wed. September 13th-Festal Great Vespers 6 pm
Thu September 14th-Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9 am.

Here is the "Where":

1024 SE Cass Avenue Roseburg, OR

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

September marks the beginning of a new Church year, and the Salem mission parish continues to be busy working on our preliminary Strategic Planning goals and projects. The Discipleship Committee has designed and produced a beautiful catechumen booklet. The Missions and Evangelism Committee is developing the Greeters ministry group and working on planning for a special speaker. The bookstore has expanded with new bookshelves and items to fill them. The parish lending library has more shelf space, just in time to receive a generous gift of wonderful Orthodox books from a new parishioner who is downsizing their personal library. The Fellowship Committee is organizing plans for honoring and celebrating new babies, marriages, and the 20 year anniversary of the mission. This month the parish will meet with Fr. Jerry again to evaluate and refine goals for our next steps.

We are also in the early stages of planning to host Cappella Romana presenting their Byzantine Christmas concert Thursday night, December 14, 2017. Save the date! As always, we ask and are ever grateful for your prayers for, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." (Psalm 127: 1a NKJV)

Maria Hauser

September Celebrations Birthdays

September 5th-Exenia Merritt
September 6th-Jerry Smith, BaiLeigh Moling
September 7th-Kevin Kaelin
September 11th-Svetlana Zotoff, Nikolai Lilles, Ronald Harvel
September 18th-Sara Knerl
September 21st-Rachel Hauser
September 26th-Katharine Drakatos

Feast Days

September 9th-St Anna
Ann Marie Kaelin

September 13th-St Cornelius
Jerry Smith

Wedding Anniversaries

September 1st
Father Jerry & Pres. Maria
September 10th
Shawn & Marci Moling
September 25th
Brett & Cassandra Batterson

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

September 12th-Michael Creech
September 15th- Octavian Moling
September 25th-Brett & Cassandra Batterson

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in September are: Food prep on Friday, September 1st and the breakfast on Saturday, September 2nd. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Baptized in Christ:** On Sunday, August 20th, Sebastian Sizemore-Chanti was received into the Church. Sebastian is the child of Drew Sizemore & Eileen Chanti. His sponsors are Jeremy & Ashli Mueller. On Sunday, August 27th, Theodore Lipson was received into the Church. Theo is the child of Mark & Amy Lipson. His sponsor is Brett Batterson. May they live for us!
- **New Ecclesiastical Year:** Friday, September 1st marks the beginning of the new Ecclesiastical Year or Indiction. Wishing you and yours a very blessed new church year!
- **Phone Directory & Database:** We've grown a bit and so it's time to update our phone directory and database. Please check with Father Jerry to make sure we have things like your correct address and phone numbers, and things like birthdays, anniversaries, and name days.
- **Church School:** The 2017-18 Church School year will begin on Sunday, September 10th, with a blessing for the new school year. On Sunday, September 17th, there will be an Ice-Cream Social to kickoff the year in style. We thank Liana Creech, Ann Marie Kaelin, Emily Kaelin and Daniel Doran for giving of their time and talent to staff our Church School. Plans are in process to add a Moms, Pops & Tots class this year. Details are forthcoming. May it all be blessed!
- **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross:** Please join us **in Roseburg** for the divine services, for the feast day of the mission church in Roseburg. Great Vespers for the feast will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 13th at 6 pm. Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the feast will be celebrated on Thursday, September 14th, beginning at 9 am. May it be blessed!
- **Repaving Project:** A very special "Thank You" to those who made it possible for us to repave the parking lot!
- **Monastery Benefit Dinner:** Gerontissa Efpraxia and her Synodia cordially invite you to an evening of fine dining at the 11th Annual Monastery Builders Benefit Dinner & Auction. This blessed event will take place on Sunday, October 15th, beginning at 5:30 pm. The venue again this year is the Fort Dalles Readiness Center in the Dalles. Please visit their website to RSVP or learn more at www.stjohmonastery.org
- **"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!

"Everything you do, all your work, can contribute towards your salvation. It depends on you, on the way you do it. History is replete with monks who became great saints while working in the kitchen or washing sheets. The way of salvation consists in working without passion, in prayer...."

May God give you the strength to keep your spirit, your mind, and your heart in the spirit of Christ. Then everything that happens to you can very quickly be radically transformed. What was tiresome and discouraging will disappear, transfigured by your desire to be there where Christ your God is...."

Elder Sophrony

KOINONIA

	9/3	9/10	9/17	9/24	9/30
FELLOWSHIP	Carroll & Kallianis	Holy Cross Charity Lunch	Lenkoff	Rundt	
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	9/2 Bonnie S	9/9 Hauser	9/16 Markopoulos	9/23 Julie & Adrienne	9/30 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

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

A Good Word from the Fathers...

Continually Before the Face of God-Beautiful Words of St. Isaac of Nineveh

Be mindful of God, so that in every moment He may be mindful of you. If He is mindful of you, He will give you salvation. Do not forget Him, letting yourselves be seduced by vain distractions. Do you want Him to forget you in your times of temptation? Stay near Him and obey Him in the days of your prosperity. You will be able to rely on His word in difficult days, because prayer will keep you safe in His continual presence. Remain constantly before His face, think of Him, and remember Him in your heart. Otherwise, if you only meet Him from time to time, you risk losing your close friendship with Him. Familiarity between people comes about through physical presence. Familiarity with God, by contrast, is built on meditation and self-abandonment to Him during prayer. Those who see the Lord should purify their hearts with the continual remembrance of God. They will reach the contemplation of God in every moment, and within Him all will be light.