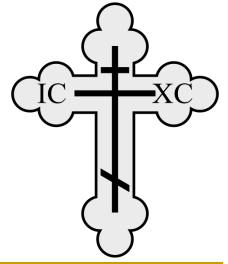




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OCT 2017

Beloved Ones,

I began a sermon I gave ten-years ago by quoting a church consultant who said, “85% of all churches are cruise ships that need to become battleships”. The consultant, in trying to put parish-based ministry into crystal clear focus, used this analogy of the cruise ship and the battleship and challenged readers to assess their parish-based ministries. It’s a good analogy for us Orthodox since we are use to understanding our churches as “ships”. We even call part of the church “ship” or better known as the nave. With so many reminders that we are a “ship” we should probably ask ourselves often, what kind of ship are we. Are we a cruise ship? When we are on a cruise ship we don’t do any work. Someone else does the work and takes care of every need and want. Every event, except for lifeboat training is optional. We can pick and choose what we want to do, kind of like a buffet. We have no responsibilities and no accountability. It’s the cruise director’s job and that’s what we pay him to do.

Then there is the battleship. The battleship has a mission and in most cases, it is a life or death mission. Every person on board has a job to do; a job that must be done to the best of their ability. Everyone must work together for the success of the mission, and in some cases, mutual survival. Everyone has responsibilities and everyone is accountable.

Anyone who has spent time aboard a cruise ship and battleship knows that the way of life onboard the two vessels are polar opposites. Cruise ship passengers are relaxed, tan, and well-fed. Battleship sailors are sleep deprived, grungy, and edgy. No one is his right mind would vacation on a battleship. Then again, no one is his right mind would confuse a battleship for a cruise ship. There are few things as satisfying as being part of a focused, disciplined, hard-working team that knows its mission, understands and fulfills its responsibilities, is well-trained, and strives constantly to improve and expand. The contrary... not so satisfying.

It seems clear to me that God is calling us to be a battleship and that each of us has a divine calling to find and fill his or her particular niche in the ministries of our parish. God is calling us to find our place among the crew and to do our role to the best of our ability. God is calling us to responsibility and accountability on this spiritual life or death mission. God is calling us to unity of mind and heart, to being focused, disciplined and hard-working. By working together our ministries will improve and expand for the glory of God and for the benefit of our souls. Please consider this divine calling and get on board! *Father Jerry*

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

Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the new Church year and the arrival of fall, comes our Parish Assemblies in efforts to plan for the next calendar year. There will be some positions opening for new or reelected Parish Council members, as such the Parish Council encourages our fellow stewards of St George to consider running to serve in one of these positions. In addition we encourage all stewards to attend the upcoming Parish Assembly this month as we seek your input. Last month work began to do some necessary repairs to our grill trailer to keep it functional for church activities and fundraisers. It is also with sadness that we report that the two homeschool groups have chosen to find new locations to meet, after it was determined they were not covered by our church insurance policy and they didn't have insurance of their own.

In Christ, Greg Sebastian, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The operations fund balance as we enter October is \$12,629. The balance in the dedicated fund is \$9,594. This includes \$543, which was collected at the fundraising luncheon sponsored earlier in September by the Drakatos family. Thank you, Pete and Katharine. There was also \$832 collected the subsequent Sunday for International Orthodox Charities and their Hurricane Relief effort. There have also been some cash donations for the hurricane relief hygiene kits. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up in this time of need for so many and for our Theological School and its students.

Care Ministry

Meals: One of the major services the Care Ministry will provides is that of Meals - preparation and delivery. This is appropriate for families of ill parishioners or the parishioners their selves. In the cases of hospitalized parishioners, their families may need meal assistance. When the parishioner returns home it provides another opportunity to offer meals. Those recuperating are often in need of meals as well. A new mother finds meals to be a big help as she and the family adjusts to a new baby. A time of loss provides an additional opportunity to provide meals.

Who can make a referral for meals? Referrals can be made by Father Jerry, another parishioner, or family member.

How is a referral for meals made? Referral forms can be found on the information table in the nave and submitted there as well. Referrals can be made directly to Father Jerry, Ann Marie Kaelin (Meals Coordinator), or Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons
How can I volunteer to help with meals? You may contact Ann Marie Kaelin or Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons
Care Ministry Coordinator

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are beginning our baking for the annual Bake Sale & Craft Fair, being held on December 9th & 10th. Please mark the event on your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be coming. Our first task is to prepare all the baked goods from now until December. We will be baking kou-lourakia on October 16th from 3:00-7:00. Please come and join us. No experience is necessary. Let Julie know if you'd like to help.

Our next Fundraising meeting is Oct. 1, after church.

Presbytera Maria

Mission & Evangelism

Our Missions and Evangelism committee is continuing our work to further the outreach ministries of our church. We have been working to tie our website, social media and printed materials together visually to improve the recognition of our church to visitors, inquirers and others of our community. We will be hosting another training for our Welcome Team members soon. If you are interested in being a part of our Missions and Evangelism Committee or one of its ministry teams please contact myself or Father.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian, Interim Chair

Journal entries from a pilgrim on her journey to fullness...

~In the last three years I guess I've read nearly 200 books on Christianity and Jesus, but I don't seem to remember much of it in detail. Father Jerry said that "reading won't get you there". When he said this to me, I felt a kind of despair because "getting there" by reading and studying things is mainly how I have lived my life. When I left him that day, I couldn't imagine any other way of following my Christian path if I stopped reading about it. And yet, I decided to take his comment seriously and stopped reading.

~I practiced the morning and evening prayers and began to sit in contemplation in the early mornings, going over my journey so far. I realized that I felt deeply changed from my short time at St George's. It was as though the liturgy and the teachings about Jesus were a guiding light leading me. I would often get thoughts or insights during my day that felt new and a bit surprising to me as though my "inner radio" has been tuned to a new channel. Praying, contemplating, and saying the Jesus Prayer felt like nourishment and sustenance. Going to church-just walking in and smelling the incense-was an experience in the hoped for, but as yet unseen, God.

~I have a hunger and a thirst for God, to love and know Him more deeply. I have a hunger and thirst for the Eucharist, that Mystery, that reality of the Living God. I am being drawn toward it in a slow and incremental way and experiencing more and more that He is with me. I can no longer imagine living in the fallen world without the joy of the Church. It is so embracing and comforting, not just spiritually, but in the fellowship of like-minded souls, that I'm just beginning to know. I began reading about the real Jesus, the one behind the Gospels, the esoteric core of Christianity. In the beginning it was mere curiosity but after awhile I began to think, "Something or someone is calling; something or someone is responding to me". I felt called but didn't know who was calling.

~I still have moments when I observe the demands on my time and think, "This is annoying!" or, "These services are too long" or, "This path requires too many hours per week!", and I thought, what am I doing here? I'm starting to look past all these thoughts-they don't seem to promise anything except a dead-end stop, whereas following this inner voice takes me past the institutional stuff of the church. I want the hidden kernel that I know is there. The Divine Light which I have seen in rare moments.

~The journey to fullness continues...

STEWARDSHIP 2018

As the Church year begins and the calendar year ends, we must begin to consider our goals and aspirations for 2018. Over the course of the past few years, the national stewardship ministry has offered us many themes:

"Let us commit ourselves and one another to building the Body of Christ"

"See the world as God's gift to you. See what the Church can become. See God work through you"

"Your gift to Him for His blessings to you"

"A rich man is not one who has much but one who gives much"

"You are the voice of Christ in a changing world"

Let any or all of these themes inspire you to get involved at Saint George. We have tried to emphasize to you the importance of being a participant in at least one or perhaps more of the ministries of our parish. There is room for everyone's talents; and as you are able to provide, there is need for everyone's time and treasure. Be vested in Saint George and bringing Orthodoxy to the un-churched and the seekers of faith in the Willamette Valley. When your 2018 stewardship card arrives, read both sides. Please take the time to prayerfully consider what you can do to make your family and you more committed to your faith and to your parish in the coming year. Then fill out both sides and return your completed card no later than December 2. May our endeavors be blessed.

PHILIA

We have completed our first four month commitment to Eugene's Community Court Lunch Program. It had been a positive experience, we now know what to expect and have signed up for the same time frame next year.

Our International Mini Luncheon, a fundraiser for our organization, will be held on Sunday, October 8 during the fellowship hour, with lots of delicious international dishes to choose from. Contributions of any amount will be greatly appreciated. You'll have a chance to enjoy Greek, Russian and Romanian music and join us in some Greek dancing as well.

We will start our Greek pastry baking in October. Please let Julie or Pres know if you are interested in helping and whether daytime or evening would work best for you.

Plans for the future:

- International Mini - October 8
- Greek Pastry and Gift Fair - December 9 and 10.

For info on wedding or baptismal items contact Gloria at 541-424-0575 or via email at zezeastimons@gmail.com.

Next meetings: October 15, 2017 and November 12, 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 :

Reminder that Sunday, 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. Please remember that we do need to take care of the fellowship floor as well. If you cannot perform a full fledged mopping, at least wipe down some of the stains. And if you have children who spill juice or drop food on the floor, a reminder that we do not have janitorial service, and your help in cleaning up after them would be greatly appreciated. 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 ~
Thy Cross do we worship, and Thy Holy Resurrection
we glorify!**

We thank you so much for your prayers for us on our Feast Day, Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept 14). Father served a lovely Great Vespers on September 13. The next morning we met for Orthros - a real treat as we usually only have pre-communion prayers before Liturgy - and Divine Liturgy followed by a special service of the Elevation of the Cross. All services were followed by a wonderful time of fellowship as we shared a fasting meal together (Special thanks go to Pres. Maria for providing us with such delicious soup on Wednesday!). We were also thankful to welcome guests from Ashland and Eugene, as well as COME director Thomaida Hudanish.

We do not take the name Holy Cross lightly! We learn from the church's hymnology that the cross is a weapon of peace and an invincible trophy. However the Cross also represents our ascetic struggle as we pursue the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. Please continue in your prayers for us, that we may be found worthy of the great name we have been given!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

We're still basking in the light of the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and want to share it with you. This year we were able to celebrate the feast day of the Holy Cross in anticipation Wednesday night, Sept. 13 with Fr. Ed Hillhouse celebrating the Orthros and Divine Liturgy services. It was a very special feast day for us as it was the first time we decorated our new festal icon frame, skillfully crafted by Lenny Elijah Buck at Holy Cross in Roseburg! The beauty of God's creation and His Church in this feast day with the flowers around the icon, bouquets in front of our iconostasis icons, the aroma of a full wreath of basil around the cross for the procession and the blessing of the four directions of the universe as we chant, "Lord have mercy" while the priest raises and lowers the cross in commemoration of its finding and exaltation along with truths communicated through the hymns is all so incredibly powerful and restorative to our souls! Many of our faithful had not attended this service before and commented their awe once again at the amazing treasure we have in our Orthodox Christian faith.

We also extend our belated greetings to the faithful at Holy Cross on their feast day!

With thankfulness,

Maria Hauser

October Celebrations Birthdays

October 2nd-John Lallas
October 5th-Fr Jerry
October 7th-Bob Graham
October 12th-Jo Ann Kluge, Felicity Merritt
October 16th-Stephen Kaelin, Linnea Tsiftsi
October 19th-Joshua Knerl

Feast Days

October 7th-St Thomas the Apostle
Ray Knerl

October 18th-St Luke the Evangelist
Luke Bentley

October 20th-St Gerasimos
Metropolitan Gerasimos
Father Jerry

October 26th-St Demetrios the Great Martyr
Jim Stephenson, Dimitri Kokkino, Johanna
Williamson, Demetre Markopoulos,
Dimitri Lilles

Wedding Anniversaries

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 October are: Food prep on Friday, October 6th and the breakfast on Saturday, October 7th . Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **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 began on Sunday, September 10th, with a blessing for the new school year. We thank Liana Creech, Ann Marie Kaelin, Emily Kaelin and Daniel Doran for giving of their time and talent to staff our Church School. We are happy to announce that a new class has been added this year namely the Moms, Pops & Tots class. We thank Mairi Tsiftsi for volunteering to teach the class.
- **Adult Education:** Just a reminder that there are several opportunities throughout the week for adults to learn more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. On Tuesdays we gather at 6 pm to read and discuss God's Word. At 7 pm, we dive deeper into the Faith in our Inquirer Class. On Thursdays at 10 am, we gather to read and discuss God's Word. I encourage all adults to make use of these opportunities to grow closer to God and mature in your faith.
- **Philia International Mini Luncheon:** Our International Mini Luncheon, a fundraiser for our organization, will be held on Sunday, October 8 during the fellowship hour, with lots of delicious international dishes to choose from. Contributions of any amount will be greatly appreciated. You'll have a chance to enjoy Greek, Russian and Romanian music and join us in some Greek dancing as well.
- **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
- **From the Bookstore:** Our Bookstore continues to grow thanks to your wonderful support! The shelves are filling out and we will continue to get in new items over the next few months including icon ornaments and other holiday gift items. If you are looking for a gift or book recommendation we will be happy to help you find that perfect item. We thought that we would try something new for the Nativity Season, namely offering gift certificates for purchase. We'll begin making them available in October. Please see me or Brett if you are interested in purchasing one. Also, just a brief reminder that the Bookstore does accept all major credit cards. Finally, don't forget to take advantage of our offer that all Bookstore purchases receive a free beverage from our espresso stand! In Christ, Cassandra Batterson
- **Home Sweet Home:** Our sister in Christ Melita Green made it to Chicago and has a new address. Her "home sweet home" is located at 2342 S. Leavitt Street, Chicago, IL 60608. Her email address and phone number remain the same for now.
- **"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!

"True hope seeks the one Kingdom of God and is sure that everything necessary for this mortal life will surely be given. The heart cannot have peace until it acquires this hope."

St Seraphim of Sarov

KOINONIA

	10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29
FELLOWSHIP	L. Lilles & Adrienne B	Philia Int. Luncheon	Batterson	Carroll & Kallianis	Markopoulos
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	9/30 Lenkoff & Bonosevich	10/7 Sollars	10/14 Carmack	10/21 Kaelin	10/28 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	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...

“People say that if you feel no inclination to pray, it is better not to pray; but this is crafty, carnal sophistry. If you only pray when you are inclined to, you will completely cease praying; this is what the flesh desires. ‘The Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence.’ You will not be able to work out your salvation without forcing yourself.”

“Never confuse the person formed in the image of God, with the evil that is in him; because evil is but a chance misfortune, an illness, a devilish reverie. But the very essence of the person is the image of God, and this remains in him despite every disfigurement.”

+ St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ