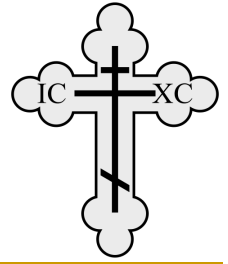




# Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH NOV 2017

Beloved in the Lord,

There are only three things we can do with our money; spend it, invest it, or give it. Of the three, the last is the most misunderstood.

First, most people believe that they are owners of their money. But the truth is that, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof". In other words, God is the owner and we are simply asset managers a.k.a. stewards. This is what the word "Stewardship" means. It is not a Christian term really. It comes from an Old English term for "one who manages another's financial affairs". The steward of the castle didn't own any of it, but was responsible for all of it, because the Lord of the house entrusted it to him.

The second misunderstanding is that God doesn't care about our giving. The truth is that the Bible talks about money more often than about love and grace. The Bible tells us about giving because giving makes us more Christ-like. A spiritually mature Christian gives. Giving helps us become less selfish and less selfish people tend to prosper in relationships and wealth. Because we are made in God's image, and God is a giver, we are happiest and most fulfilled when serving and giving.

A third misunderstanding is that to have more we have to hold on more tightly and so we make a fist around our money. But there's a problem with that. Yes it's true, with a clenched fist we can hold on to our money, but at the same time, a clenched fist can't receive any more money. When no money is flowing out (giving), no money can flow in.

The final misunderstanding is the meaning of the word "tithe". The word "tithe" isn't a spiritual word either. It's simply a math term meaning a tenth. The instruction to give a tenth of your income is biblical dating all the way back to Genesis where Abram felt God's call to give the priest Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had. There are many examples of tithing in both the Old and New Testaments. The tithe was given as the "first fruits" meaning right off the top, not whatever is left over. And the tithe is a tenth of everything, not just one thing.

Today the average Christian gives less than 3% of their money to the church. Only about 3% of Christians today tithe. Saddest of all, that means that only a few will be changed, only a few will become less selfish, only a few will mature spiritually, and only a few will become Christ-like.

We ask you to prayerfully consider giving a tithe of your time, talent and treasure to the work of the Church as a cheerful giver and a member of the Body of Christ. I am excited to see what God will provide us with in return for our faithfulness!

*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](http://www.stgeorgeor.org)  
Email: [frgerasimos@sntgrg.org](mailto:frgerasimos@sntgrg.org)

## Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Greetings as we begin our preparations for the coming year, in addition to continuing our work to growing our parish and it's ministry efforts. Firstly, thank you to those who were at the Parish Assembly on the 29th, our next Assembly will be in December to approve the 2018 budget, and vote for incoming Parish Council members. Secondly we are seeking individuals to run for Parish Council, we have 4 positions coming open, and a few candidates already. If you would like to serve our Parish in this capacity please contact our Parish Council Vice President Art Mehas and Father. We are looking to adopt some new tools in the management of our Parish daily activities that should ease and improve efficiency, particularly regarding financial management. It is with much love and excitement that we continue to work to expand our missionary efforts, grow our Parish and Orthodoxy in our community.

In Christ, Greg Sebastian, President

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As we enter the last two months of the year and as we consider a new budget for 2018, it is important to know the fiscal facts of our parish. Over the course of the last two years we have completed, not one, but two major maintenance projects. Siding was replaced on the older portions of our facility in 2016. In addition, the entire exterior of the church was painted. This year the repair and repaving of the parking lot took place. Because of your generosity, both projects were accomplished without having to borrow funds and incur additional debt. At the end of this year, the automobile we purchased for Father's use in 2015 will be entirely paid off. More importantly, the ministries of the church continue to grow, but so are our month-to-month expenses. Income is 4% over what we had budgeted, but expenses are 9% above what we had budgeted. We are sure most of you are experiencing the same squeeze in your

household budgets. As you are able, please make every effort to keep your stewardship giving up to date. Let's close that gap!

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Preparations are being made for our annual Bake Sale & Craft Fair, which is Dec. 9th & 10th. Flyers for the event will be out soon, so please promote it to your friends, family and around town. This is our largest fundraiser. Our next baking session is Nov. 6th & 8th, when we are baking kouriabethes. The schedule is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. All are welcome to join in and the help is appreciated. If you would like to have a booth at the craft fair or know of someone who would, please contact Julie Lenkoff.

Fundraising committee meeting on November 19th, after church.

Presbytera Maria

## Mission & Evangelism

Our Missions and Evangelism Committee now meets every 4th Sunday after liturgy. We are looking for more committee members to help in the development of our Parish's missionary and outreach efforts. Work is being done to update our website. As part of that and other efforts, we've been working to create better continuity from our website, social media and printed media to one another. We are also still planning our next Welcome Team training for those that weren't able to attend our training earlier this summer. If you'd like to get involved with the committee or the Welcome team either contact me or come to our next meeting. If you'd like to get involved with our Greeting team please contact Larisa Lilies.

In Christ,  
Greg Sebastian,

## STEWARDSHIP 2018

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though working for the Lord." This is the theme of the 2018 stewardship drive. How appropriate this is because that is exactly what we are doing as practicing Orthodox Christians. Our work and our efforts at Saint George are precisely for the Lord - and for our salvation. It doesn't get any more important or better than that. By the time you read this, you should have received your 2018 stewardship packet. Please take the time to read all the material sent to you: Father's letter, the stewardship brochure, and the stewardship card. And then prayerfully consider what you can do to become more vested and active at Saint George. As we have mentioned before, the "Time and Talent" portion of the card is every bit as important as the tithing portion of the card. Please fill out both sides of the card and return it sometime during the month of November, but no later than November 26. Just deposit your completed card in the "Stewardship" collection box in the Narthex of the church. Your "Time and Talent" offerings will be passed on to Father and the respective chair people of those activities. Your "giving" offering will be kept by the stewardship chairperson.

If you did not receive a stewardship packet in the mail, stewardship brochures and stewardship cards are available in the Narthex. If you have any questions about stewardship at Saint George, please see Neal Zoumboukos. Get excited about what we are doing here at Saint George for the Lord. Be a triple 'T' Saint George steward with all your heart!

### Care Ministry

Remembrances - Co-Chairpersons: Ellen Specht and Cassandra Batterson

This committee sends hand painted personalized cards to those parishioners who are in need of special support or recognition. These cards are designed and created by Ellen Specht. They carry the themes of Congratulations, Thinking of You, Good Luck, Get Well, and Condolences. A second function of this committee is to provide gifts to the homebound or older parishioners on Christmas and Pascha. Volunteers are needed for this effort. If you would like to help, please contact Cassandra Batterson or Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons.

Referrals to the Remembrances Committee can be made by Fr. Jerry or directly to Cassandra or Gloria. Referral forms can be found in the narthex. Completed forms can be placed in the box provided for pick up by committee members.

### Care Notes

In recognition of Thanksgiving, you may wish to take time out before the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and write a note to a parishioner you admire - thank them and let them know you value him/her. This is also a great time to help your child write a note of thanks to their Church School Teacher. In addition, we can show gratitude to our Priest, Fr. Jerry, for his thoughtfulness, prayers, and guidance.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

### From the Bookstore

The bookstore is busy making preparations for the upcoming Nativity season as well as the Pastry and Gift Fair. Please think of us when looking for gift items for friends and family this Christmas. Our first shipment of holiday merchandise has already arrived and freshly displayed on the shelves. The new items include beautiful Nativity icons for the home altar. We also have a standing jeweled cross bearing an icon of Christ and the Theotokos. For tree ornaments there are wooden icon crosses, richly jeweled crosses, mini Nativity icon ornaments and a gorgeous, larger Nativity icon complete with 24k gilt. We will continue to get more festive holiday gift items in over the coming weeks so make sure to check out our shelves when you get a moment. Please remember that every bookstore purchase earns you a delicious coffee drink from the espresso stand (mochas and holiday flavors coming soon). Also, we do accept all major credit cards. Thank you all for your generous support of this important ministry, it has truly been a pleasure serving you.

In Christ,

**PHILIA**

Our International Mini Luncheon, thanks to the delicious dishes provided by our ladies, was deemed a success! Thank you to all who attended and contributed to this fundraiser. The next event on our list is the Greek Pastry and Gift Fair to take place on Saturday, December 9 from 12 to 3 p.m. and Sunday December 10 from 1 – 4 p.m. (noon start for parishioners). You can do your Christmas shopping at the vendor tables laden with gifts and our scrumptious pastry and enjoy a lunch at the Kafenion. The Pastry sale is the biggest fundraiser for the parish, and our ladies, as always, will be busy helping out.

Plans for the future:

Greek Pastry and Gift Fair – December 9 and 10.

Philia's White Elephant Party – December 17 OR December 31 - TBA.

Vasilopita Luncheon – January 14, 2018.

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

**Next meetings: November 12, 2017 and January 7, 2018. (No meeting in Dec.)**

**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

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**COFFEE CHAT :**

It is almost the end of 2017, which means that I will be working on next year's fellowship schedule. Please check your calendars and note which dates will work best for you. I will be coming around in November with sign-up sheets. Remember that you can do it by yourself, as a family or join forces with another parishioner. And you can choose what you wish to serve. Your culinary efforts are always greatly appreciated!

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

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**CLEANUP CORNER:**

Thanks to Richard Green our fellowship hall floors are looking spectacular! It has been a long time since they looked so good. It was a big undertaking to move all the furniture, strip, wash and wax them. Please try to keep them clean by mopping up spills which only takes a minute. We have no janitorial services and we appreciate everyone's help to keep the church tidy. The year is nearing its end, and once again I'll be passing around a cleanup sign up sheet. Reminder: toilet bowl brush and cleaners are located in the closet next to the restrooms. Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need the door opened. Or you can plan to come during the week when the church is unlocked.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

As we head into the season of the Nativity Fast, we are obliged to slow down and take stock of how our priorities play out in our lives. Father's homily at Holy Cross this past Saturday called us to choose the 'better part', Like Mary of Bethany, and not be worn down with distractions and cares, like her sister Martha. When you are member of a small parish, it is certainly easy to get concerned about all the things it takes to keep the doors open. While these cares are essential to church operation, may we not forget why we are actually here: to join ourselves with Christ and worship Him!

Holy Cross is excited to introduce to you our newest members! Chris and Shonna Barry of Roseburg joined the Church by Chrismation in October. Please include them in your prayers for Holy Cross!

**In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg**

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

The Greek Orthodox Mission Church of Salem will be presenting "Byzantine Christmas" performed by the world-renowned ensemble Cappella Romana, featuring John Michael Boyer and Reverend Deacon John (Rassem) El Massih, on Thursday, December 14, 2017, at 7:30 pm (Pre-concert talk is at 6:30 pm).

The concert will take place at Blanchet Catholic High School, 4373 Market St. NE., Salem, Oregon. Tickets are on sale now at: [capellaromana.org/salem](http://capellaromana.org/salem)

Hope to see many of you there!

**Maria Hauser**

## November Celebrations

### Birthdays

November 1st-Peregrine Groomer  
 November 5th-Ellen Specht  
 November 10th-Omilie Doran  
 November 14th-Luke Bentley  
 November 20th-Julie Lenkoff  
 November 23rd-Pete Drakatos  
 November 24th-Eileen Chanti, Katie Hauser  
 November 25th-Alauna Perry  
 November 27th-Emily Kaelin  
 November 30th-Ann Marie Kaelin

### Feast Days

November 8th-Archangel Michael  
 Michael Buck, Michael Creech, Michelle Creech, Mikey Creech, BaiLeigh Moling  
 November 9th-St Nektarios  
 Nektarios Kaelin, Diane Monger  
 November 11th-St Theodore Studite  
 Theodore Lipson  
 November 14th0 Apostle Phillip  
 Brad Thomas, Richard Green  
 November 25th-St Katherine  
 Kay Mehas, Katharine Drakatos, Katie Hauser, Marci Moling  
 November 26th-St Innocent  
 Leo Hall  
 November 30th-St Andrew  
 Andrew Lilles

### Wedding Anniversaries

Panayiotis & Ann-November 15th  
 Dimitri & Elena-November 19th

## Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Bridgid Groomer-November 4th

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

## News and Events

## What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in November are: Food prep on Friday, November 3rd and the breakfast on Saturday, November 4th . Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **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.
- **Hurricane Hygiene Kits:** Thanks to your donations, we were able to send 60 Hygiene Kits to the IOCC for distribution to recent hurricane victims. The estimated value of these kits was approximately \$1,500.00. A special thank you is extended to our Church School Students who assisted us by assembling these kits.
- **Fireside Chats and Stitch-in-Time:** We will be beginning two new ministry groups: Stitch-in-Time is a gathering of girls, ages 9 - 15, who will learn embroidery and other crafts. There will be discussions facilitated with poetry and story-telling, along with focus on various themes. The group will meet at the home of Ellen Specht. Meeting date is Nov. 12, 4:00 p.m. Fireside Chats is a gathering of women, ages 18 - 24, who will learn skills in art, cooking, crafts, communication and relationships. Based on the girls' areas of interest, themes will be discussed through an Orthodox perspective. The group will meet at the home of Presbyteria Maria. Meeting date is Nov. 30, 7:00 p.m.
- **Fall Women's Retreat:** St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church invites all women to the bi-annual fall retreat, Friday, November 10th-Sunday, November 12th, at the Canby Grove Christian Center. The retreat leader will be Fr Paul Jaroslaw from the Prophet Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Christian Mission in Ellensburg, WA, and his talk is titled, "Saint Innocent of Alaska & the Way of the Cross". Register online at [www.StJohnGOC.org](http://www.StJohnGOC.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!

OCF Gathering at the U of O

Michelle Creech riding the bull @ Detering Farm



# KOINONIA

	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26	
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Mehas & Katsoyannos	Lisa Lilles	Hauser	Potluck	
<b>GREETER</b>	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	Helen S	
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Hauser	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	11/4 Sollars	11/11 Everyone	11/18 Carroll & Kallianis	11/25 Carroll & Kallianis	

## GET INVOLVED!!!

Look through this list of organizations, programs, and ministries at our parish, then call the contact person and get involved!!!

<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
<b>BOOKSTORE</b>	Brett Batterson 541-345-5248
<b>PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
<b>CHANTER/CHANT GROUP</b>	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
<b>FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN</b>	Art Mehas 541-485-8671
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>GREETERS</b>	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
<b>1ST SAT. BREAKFAST</b>	Volunteer needed
<b>PRAYER CIRCLE</b>	Bonnie Sollars 541-726-3606
<b>MISSIONS &amp; EVANGELISM</b>	
<b>FUNDRAISERS</b>	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112
<b>CARE MINISTRY</b>	Gloria Timmons 541-484-0575

<sup>ies</sup>  
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church  
202 Hillview 1  
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

## **A Good Word from the Fathers...**

“A man who is wrathful with us is a sick man; we must apply a plaster to his heart – love; we must treat him kindly, speak to him gently, lovingly. And if there is not deeply-rooted malice against us within him, but only a temporary fit of anger, you will see how his heart, or his malice, will melt away through your kindness and love – how good will conquer evil. A Christian must always be kind, gracious, and wise in order to conquer evil by good.”

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“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.”

+ St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ