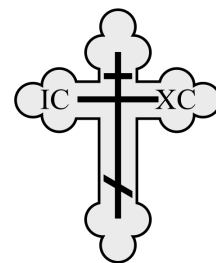




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JAN 2018

A Happy New Year: Receiving Grace by Reflecting God's Love by Rev. Father Luke Palumbis

"O Lord our God, who have placed times and seasons under your own authority; who in your infinite compassion and goodness, have counted us worthy to enter a New Year of your loving kindness, bless it and keep us in peace." From the Doxology on the 1st of the Year Service

The faithful begin each chapter of life with God. In glorification, at the beginning of the calendar year, we thank our Heavenly Father for allowing us to enter into a new year, and we make requests of Him. Active requests are made of God to bless the present time, and the time ahead. Furthermore, we request that He maintain us in His presence, which equates to peace for a person of faith. We often are consumed with the New Year's tradition of resolutions...a tradition that is coupled with a wink and a nod of disbelief. Perhaps this year an abandonment of this often empty tradition is wise, and a willingness to commit to the stewardship of the Church will yield more substance in our lives. In truly praying the words of the New Year's Doxology, His grace can be received and experienced, immediately transforming the world with divine substance and beauty. This transformation is the aim of the Christian life, yet it is not one that can be experienced by a spectator, it must be witnessed by an active participant. To receive the gifts that God has already offered to mankind, the faithful must engage an active Christian lifestyle. Saint Basil the Great, in his Homily for the Martyr Julitta wrote, "Prayer is a request for what is good, offered by the devout of God. But we do not restrict this request simply to what is stated in words...We should not express our prayer merely in syllables, but the power of prayer should be expressed in the moral attitude of our soul and in the virtuous actions that extend throughout our life...This is how you pray continually — not by offering prayer in words, but by joining yourself to God through your whole way of life, so that your life becomes one continuous and uninterrupted prayer." To receive the Lord's blessings in this New Year, and to maintain His peace, the faithful must find ways to share His blessings and presence with others. The words of the New Year Doxology Service are offered with superficiality if they are not made whole with efforts to share the Love of God. How can we, the faithful, truly enter 2018 with a desire to do better? In order for anything to be good, it must be connected to God. We the faithful should enter this New Year with a willingness to receive the Lord's blessings through an engaged Christian life that strives to share the Love of God. Beginning today, how can our neighbors witness the Love of God through our relationships with them? Better diet and exercise are indeed worthy goals. Receiving the blessings of God by virtue of sharing them with others is a worthy life. There is no experience more substantive than a life worthy of Christian title — such is true happiness!

May 2018 be a Happy New Year, filled with God's grace through our active choice to live Christianity each and every day!

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

Christ is born! Glorify him!

As we complete yet another year, it puts us on track for continuing our work from this past year while preparing for further work this new year. We are still looking for members of our safety committee, as the Parish Council works with committee chairman Michael Creech to develop our Parish Safety plan. It is important to be ever cognizant of what actions we can take to ensure the safety of our Church, its property, and our St George family. Further the Parish Council has established a Building Committee, under the Chairmanship of Art Mehas. This committee will work towards the planning of our future property development, and temple construction in line with our Parish goals with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. All the while striving to better serve God in hope, love and faith. It is in this service to God and our St George family that the members of the Parish Council serve. I encourage all stewards over this new year to consider how they can serve through their God given talents. Especially in mind of leadership, and continuing betterment of our Parish with respects to the Parish Council. It is through this service and hope for our future that we encourage you to consider next year's elections. As this year unfolds, we as the Parish Council ask for your continuing prayers for guidance, along with the continuing input from each and every steward. For all of us together make up our St George family.

In Christ, Greg Sebastian,

Missions & Evangelism

In January the Missions and Evangelism Committee will be hosting another training for members of our Welcome Team who were unable to make our last training earlier this year. This also gives opportunity for new members desiring to become part of this team and it's vital outreach work. The Welcome Team, works with our greeters to ensure that guests and visitors to St George after services are welcomed and introduced, while guiding them to the resources they seek, and answering questions they may have. We will announce the date of the brief training shortly. Further the Missions and Evangelism Committee continues to work to improve & widen our evangelism outreach efforts, all while ensuring the workload doesn't exceed

our capabilities. If you have a desire to be a part of the Missions and Evangelism Committee, even if just sharing ideas you have, we will meet every fourth Sunday after liturgy. Also we will be picking back up our periodic joint meetings with the Missions and Evangelism members at Salem and Holy Cross Missions. These usually take place on a Saturday afternoon. It is with excitement that we look forward to the continuing outreach and growth of our Parish in our wider community.

Greg Sebastian

Missions and Evangelism Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP 2018

As of the writing of this report, the parish had 40 stewards for the new calendar year. This includes four new stewardship families. Our members have offered just \$109,000 for the ministries of Saint George. Thank you very much!

There are still fourteen locals families or individuals who have supported Saint George the last two years but have not submitted a stewardship card for 2018. If you have not filled out and turned in your 2018 card, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you have misplaced your card, there are extras in the Narthex of the church right next to the "Stewardship" box. You can fill it out and submit it in one convenient location. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who helped out and supported our largest fundraiser. It was a very festive event, and we did very well, making over \$7000!!!

If you are wanting pastry, we have extra. Please see Julie or Presv. Maria.

Our next fundraisers will be the Greek dinners in May.

The next committee meeting will be January 28.

Presbytera Maria

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the December 17 parish assembly, a \$166,800 budget was approved. The 2018 budget is roughly \$600 less than the 2017 budget; however, it still contains a \$2,200 deficit in relation to anticipated revenues. The deficit can be offset if we have full participation in our 2018 stewardship drive. There are fourteen local families/individuals who have been stewards, free-will givers, or donors to the parish in the last two years, but who still have not submitted their 2018 stewardship card. In addition, there is still about \$8,400 which was pledged for 2017 but has not been offered to date. If you are unsure if you have fulfilled your 2017 stewardship, please feel free to contact Neal Zoumboukos at 541-344-4485 or at nealzoumboukos@msn.com. Your 2018 stewardship card or fulfilling your 2017 pledge can make a difference.

Care Ministry

December concluded with the Care Ministry sending cards and providing gifts for our Homebound Parishioners at Christmas time.

Please contact Fr. Jerry, Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons, or complete a Referral Form if you become aware of a Parishioner who would benefit from a visit, meals, or other special needs.

Care Notes

As Christians, we are to care for one another – a loving act. Mother Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that, “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.”

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons

Care Ministry Coordinator

Greetings from the Salem Mission, Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Thank you for joining us to welcome Capella Romana as we hosted them in Salem for their Byzantine Christmas: Sun of Justice concert December 14! It was such an encouragement to see those of you from Eugene and Roseburg. The pre-concert talk given to an overflowing group in our chapel shared the truths of who Orthodox Christians are and what the concert would be about. The concert itself was a beautiful gift to all as they shared our Orthodox hymns of the Nativity with those who said with tears in their eyes that they “felt like they were back home,” to those at the other end of the spectrum hearing them for the first time and everyone in between.

Please join us this month, Saturday, January 20 as we welcome Fr. Tryphon, Abbot of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island. The morning will begin at 9 a.m. with Divine Liturgy followed by a brief coffee hour. Two talks on the theme “Incarnating Christ in the Midst of the World” will be given by Abbot Tryphon, with lunch provided between the talks. Please check our website for more details <http://www.salemorthodoxchurch.org/>

With gratefulness in Christ,
Maria Hauser

PHILIA

Our Greek Pastry and Gift Fair was a success. Our Philia ladies worked very hard, as they usually do, and the Kafenion did especially well! Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. We still have about 20 boxes each of baklava and kourambiethes looking for a good home ... as well as spanakopita from Alexis. They make great hostess gifts for the New Year festivities, or you can just munch on them yourselves. These proceeds help our parish budget.

Philia's White Elephant Party is scheduled for December 31 and we are all planning to have a good time enjoying each others company, some wine and snacks and opening silly gifts. It's seldom that we get to do nothing and just have fun.

However, doing nothing is short-lived, and Philia will be back at work, hosting the Vasilopita Luncheon, a fundraiser for St. Basil's Academy.

Please let Adrienne know if you can have any small items you wish to donate to our Garage Sale coming up in March.

Plans for the future:

- Vasilopita Luncheon – January 14, 2018
- Lenten Auction/ Sale – February 18

For info on wedding or baptismal items contact Gloria at 541-424-0575 or via email at zeazeastimons@gmail.com. And if interested in Rada cutlery and products please ask Julie.

Next meetings: January 7, 2018 and February 11.

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 to those who signed up to host next year's fellowship. You should have received an emailed copy of the schedule and a hardcopy is posted on the bulletin board. Please also jot down all the potlucks on your personal calendars. Just a reminder, that with the cold and flu season around the corner, to please wash your hands just prior to handling food. There is a hand-washing sink by the freezers in the kitchen and hand sanitizers are also available.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

The cleaning schedule for 2018 has been emailed to you and a hardcopy posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thank you all for signing up. We do not have janitorial services so it is up to us to keep our church tidy and clean. There are a few days that were left blank and therefore everyone needs to chip in and sweep debris or mop up spills as you see them. 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 ~

Christ is Born!

Quite a bit of emphasis is given to family this time of year. For followers of Christ, the term 'family' extends beyond the commonly understood definitions. In Luke 8:21, we hear Christ say, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." Do we treat all members of the parish as our family? Fr. George Tosi, in his article on 'growing' a Missional mindset in our lives and in our parish, states: Know Your Community! Mission begins at home. We need to know the people who are around us and pray with us at each service so that "with one heart and one mind we may confess." So often in parishes we see the same people all the time but don't even know their names, their jobs, their joys and their struggles.

A community of God rallies around each other and prays for each other. And each of our communities is unique with its own dynamics and demographics. As the Gospel of John states, "I know my sheep and am known by My own." And if we know our flock, then we can minister to them most effectively. In this way, we are evangelizing our own people, thereby strengthening our parish to receive whomever God brings to us.

Please continue in your prayers for Holy Cross, that we would emulate the love of Christ by truly loving each other!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg

(Excerpts taken from the wonderful article: 'Ten Simple Ways to Encourage Missions' by Fr. George Tosi)

January Celebrations

Birthdays

January 4th-Nikolas Jon Pos
January 9th-Jack Buck
January 10th-Dimitri Kokkino
January 18th-Lenny Buck
January 22nd-Lisa Buck
January 25th-David Shafer

Feast Days

January 1st-St Basil the Great
Bill Lilles
January 2nd-St Juliana the Righteous
Alauna Perry
January 7th-St John the Baptist
Joan Rundt, Jan Schmidt, John Timmons, Jack Buck, John Lallas
January 18th-St Athanasios the Great
Art Mehas
January 19th-St Mark of Ephesus
Mark Hauser
January 22nd-St Timothy
Timothy Kaelin
January 25th-St Gregory the Theologian
Greg Sebastian

Wedding Anniversaries

January 3rd
Charlie & Stephanie Carroll

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

January 9th-The Buck Family
January 14th-Johanna Williamson, Janelle Williamson, Alauna Perry

Reposed in the Lord

January 27th-Angel Stephenson
Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in January are: Food prep on Friday, January 5th and the breakfast on Saturday, January 6th. 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.
- **Baptized in Christ:** Madison Rae Campbell was received into the Church by baptism on Saturday, December 30th. Madison is the daughter of Jared & Heather Campbell of Texas. Madison was given the name Johana and her sponsor is Lisa Lilles. May she live for us!
- **Holy Theophany Services:** Services for Holy Theophany are as follows: Royal Hours of Theophany-Friday, January 5th beginning at 9 am; Great Vespers-Friday, January 5th at 6 pm; Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the feast, Saturday, January 6th, beginning at 9 am followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters. Please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating Christ's baptism!
- **2018 Parish Council:** Congratulations to Art Mehas, Larisa Lilles, Greg Sebastian and Ron Muresan, who were elected to the Parish Council! The newly comprised Parish Council will be sworn in on Sunday, January 8th. Please be praying for them as they begin a new year of ministry.
- **Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction:** Our annual Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction will take place on Sunday, January 15th, following the Divine Services. You are invited to prepare Vasilopita for auction and help Philia host the event. Proceeds from this event support St Basil Academy, a home for children in need. Please join us!
- **Abbot Tryphon Talks:** Please join us in Salem on Saturday, January 20 as we welcome Fr. Tryphon, Abbot of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island. The morning will begin at 9 a.m. with Divine Liturgy followed by a brief coffee hour. Two talks on the theme "Incarnating Christ in the Midst of the World" will be given by Abbot Tryphon, with lunch provided between the talks. Please check our website for more details <http://www.salemorthodoxchurch.org/>
- **House Blessings:** January is typically the month when we should call for the priest to come and bless our homes. Please contact Father Jerry and arrange a time for the blessing.
- **Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly:** The Metropolis' annual Clergy Laity Assembly will take place on Monday & Tuesday, January 29th and 30th, at St Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center. Please be praying that the Assembly is blessed and for the safe travel of the attendees.
- **World's Largest Garage Sale:** Adrienne is beginning to small donations for St George's table at the World's Largest Garage Sale. Please see Adrienne if you want to donate items for the table. The event takes place in March. Any unsold items will be donated to Goodwill. Items can be brought to the church.
- **"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

	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28	
FELLOWSHIP	Mueller	Vasilopita Luncheon	Carmack	Carmack	
GREETER	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Jerry R	Helen S	
PROSFORON	Hauser	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	1/6	1/13	1/20 Carmack	1/27 A & L Lilles	

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
SAFETY COMMITTEE	Michael Creech 541-603-0361
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	Volunteers needed
PRAYER CIRCLE	Bonnie Sollars 541-726-3606
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
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

From the Baptismal Instructions:

Now he who repents, no longer touches the same matters of which he repented. On this account, also, we are bidden to say, I renounce you Satan, in order that we may never more return to him.

How then will you laugh this fancy to scorn? If you will remember that word, which you sent forth when thou were initiated, I renounce you, Satan, and your pomp, and your service. For the frenzy about pearls is a pomp of Satan. For you received gold not in order that you might bind it on to your body, but in order that you might release and nourish the poor. Say therefore constantly, I renounce you, Satan. Nothing is safer than this word if we shall prove it by our deeds.

And after all these things, he does not require of us witnesses, or registration, but is content with the single word, if you say it from your heart. I renounce you, Satan, and your pomp, has included all. Let us then say this, I renounce you, Satan, as men who are about in that world at that day to have that word demanded of them, and let us keep it in order that we may then return this deposit safe. But Satan's poms are theatres, and the circus, and all sin, and observance of days, and incantations and omens.