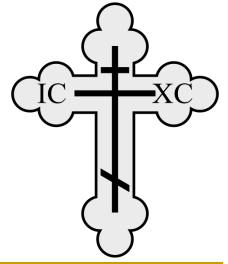




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MAR 2018

Missions Possible!

Jesus Christ valued many things, but at the top of His priorities was the salvation of each person. "The Lord does not wish that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." (2Pet.2:9) His love for each person is so great and unfathomable that He "emptied Himself, became a servant, born in the likeness of men, and humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." (Philip.2:7-8) Jesus' closest disciples, the Apostles who knew Him best, went out after His resurrection to the farthest ends of the world with this same love burning in their hearts. They carried Jesus inside them through the presence of the Holy Spirit, and they therefore hastened to carry out His desires and commandments. Out of love for their fellow human beings and a desire for their salvation, they endured every hardship, deprivation and even gave up their lives that others might hear the Gospel and find salvation. Motivated by the love of God, they continued to preach and teach the same message as their Lord Jesus Christ to their own disciples, the Christians of the next generation. Their actions witnessed the evangelical essence of the Christian Faith and Gospel. The Apostle Paul exemplifies this evangelical and mission-minded essence when he says: "How are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!'" (Rom.10:14-15)

This mission-minded and evangelical foundation of the Christian Faith and life were not only foundational in the early Church, but they have been a foundational aspect in every generation. It would be impossible to find a Saint of the Orthodox Church who did not embody the love of God and His desire that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. We cannot resemble Christ if we do not share His same burning love for others. It is a Christian necessity to believe that our Faith is good news and life saving and meant for every human person. We are not meant to become a Christian and a member of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, and then keep this good news to ourselves. We must consider that we have the fullness of truth, the antidote to death and the medicine of immortality, and then actively and lovingly share with those around us who, without it, will perish for all eternity.

This is why it is absolutely vital that every parish have a ministry team that works with the priest and Parish Council dedicated to missions and evangelism. To grow the Orthodox Faith everywhere means that we be willing to share our faith with our non-Orthodox family members, co-workers, friends, neighbors and acquaintances. This presupposes that we know our own faith well enough to realize what a priceless treasure we have. It also presupposes that we are living our faith enough to be excited about what Christ is doing in our lives to tell others. This is neither easy nor automatic. It requires intentional training, education, encouragement and leadership that a Missions and Evangelism Ministry can provide. Did you know that the Parish Regulations of our Archdiocese list by name this exact ministry as one that is required of every parish.

For too long, we have under emphasized this central and foundational aspect of what it means to be an Or-

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

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thodox Christian. For too long we as the Church have been indifferent to our apostolic calling. It's time for the status quo to change. The Missions and Evangelism Ministry team of our Metropolis, is dedicated to educating, equipping and engaging clergy and faithful in evangelism and mission. Let us support their work! Let us each grow in our own faith, and become more mission-minded. Let us share with the world the salvation Christ made possible by His glorious Resurrection!

Father Jerry

Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I had the pleasure of attending the Clergy Laity Assembly at the end of January where there were some great presentations and some honest updates with the Archdiocese financial situation. The keynote presentation this year was on leading the Church in the chaotic world around us. In how we have to strive to be more apostolic in nature of our Church leadership and strive to not get caught up in the chaotic culture of the world. This leads us to a greater service and Evangelism focus as Church. In being more supportive, compassionate and welcoming of our a Church family. The other aspect that was taken away from the Assembly was the explanation of the Archdiocese financial situation and looking towards the future how the lessons learned from it can be of use in our Metropolis and Parish. Finally was the presentation on the efforts to finalize and implement the Archdiocese youth protection program, that once implemented will be required for all adults working in the Church with our youth. This will, once finalized, fill a gap in our Parish Safety Plan that is still in development. With love, faith and hope as we continue to work towards the greater work of our Parish in our community.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian, President

Missions & Evangelism

With the onset of Great Lent, also begins the Metropolis Missions and Evangelism support drive. Last cou-

ple of years it was known as Mochas for Missions, and is now Missions Possible. We planning to raise \$2,000 this year after getting a little over that last year. This effort goes to support the Metropolis Missions and Evangelism ministry and it's support of the current and future mission parishes of the Metropolis. Our own parish of St George has received some support in the past. Keep an eye out for the display and for updates about our Missions Possible efforts and let us continue to give back to this program. It is truly a blessing for our parish to be able to support two mission parishes, many churches in parts of this country will not have the opportunity to even support one mission. Apologies as we are still setting up our next Welcome Team training, so you still have time to get involved. The Missions and Evangelism Committee will be back to meeting on the 4th Sunday of the month after liturgy and fellowship.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian

STEWARDSHIP 2018

There is nothing new to report pertaining to Stewardship.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are planning and preparing for our annual Evening in Greece dinners, to be held May 12th and 19th. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends and family. The events do sell out so get your reservations in early. Please see Presv. Maria if you'd like to help.

Presbytera Maria

Treasurer's Report

Operations balance at the end of February is \$24,309.

Dedicated Funds balance is \$10,509, which includes \$1,537 for Saint Basil's.

Care Ministry

In addition to providing Meals, Well-being Calls & Visitations, Remembrances, Emergency Transportation, the Care Ministry is beginning a new area of service to our parishioners. We are currently recruiting volunteers for emergency child care. It will be available in the cases of an ill child, family crisis, as well as meeting other family needs. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me.

Reminder: Care Ministry referrals can be made by a parishioner, friend, or family member. They can be made directly to Fr. Jerry or by completing a Referral Form found in the nave.

Care Notes

"If we make our goal to live a life of compassion and unconditional love, then the world will indeed be a garden where all kinds of flowers can bloom and grow." -Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

From the Bookstore... Dear all,

I hope that everyone is having a Blessed beginning to their Lenten journey. Although our bookstore is small we do have some edifying reading to encourage and strengthen you as you encounter the challenges that Lent brings. Whether you need support in fasting, prayer or encountering the Lenten journey here are a few titles to help you on your way.

* Food , Faith and Fasting: A Sacred Journey to Better Health by Rita Madden explores the relationship that we have to food in our 'food obsessed culture' and how the fasting rules of the Church can help us to grow in ways that are healthy to us body and soul.

* Fasting as a Family by Melissa Naasko . This mother of 11 walks you through the challenges of planning Lenten meals, stocking your pantry and preparing simple yet delicious fast friendly meals your whole family will enjoy.

* Courage to Pray by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom. In the Metropolitan's own words " Prayer is the search for God, encounter with God and going beyond this encounter in communion". Discovering prayer, of our relationship with God and the world , is what brings us hope. This book is a guide for those who wish to enter into this communion.

* Great Lent: A Journey to Pascha by Alexander Schmemmann. This lovely book will take you through the meanings of the Presanctified Liturgy, the Canon of St. Andrew , and the prayer of St. Ephraim among other treasures of Lenten worship. Schmemmann points to the use of liturgical and sacramental tradition and how the Church helps us to find the meaning of Lent in our lives. The aim of Lent being the remembrance of Christ and a yearning for the lost relationship with God. Lent offers us a chance to recover this relationship and this book is a wonderful tool for showing us how to situate Lent in our spiritual growth.

Happy reading everyone, hope to see you in the bookstore!

In Christ, Cassandra

TSOUREKI

Each year Philia members make Greek Easter Bread (Tsoureki) as a fund raiser with proceeds going toward the group's philanthropic projects. Baking will take place on Saturday, March 10th and Saturday, March 17th this year. All are welcome to join us in making this delightful treat. No experience is necessary. Order forms will be available on Sunday, March 4th. This traditional bread is offered at the bargain price of \$8.00 per 1# loaf.

These festive loaves are flavored with imported Greek spices and a hint of citrus. It is appropriate to be served as a meal accompaniment or as a snack or light desert. You won't want to miss out. Please contact me to volunteer for baking or for further information.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons

PHILIA

Philia's Augment Your Lent Event, a fundraiser for the Community Court Lunches went very well. We sold all of our Lenten food items, so perhaps next year we should make a lot more! Thank you to all who participated in it.

March 24 is this year's date for the garage sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds, with set up planned for Friday at 11:00 a.m. Please advise Adrienne if you have small items to donate. Baking of Tsoureki, the Greek Easter bread, is also slated for sometime in March with Gloria heading that project. Let her know if you are interested in helping.

Plans for the future:

- World's Largest Garage Sale - March 24
- Tsoureki Baking - March 10th & 17th
- Greek Dinners - May 12 and May 19

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: March 11, and April 15, 2018.

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 :

A reminder that March 25 is the Feast of Annunciation and a POTLUCK day. Fish, wine and oil are allowed. Please bring something to share. And the best way to prevent the spreading of flu is to wash your hands frequently and definitely prior to handling food. There is a hand washing sink in the kitchen.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

March 31 is Lazarus Saturday with a church-wide cleanup scheduled for that day. Various supplies are available in the pantry as well as in the closet by the restrooms and everyone is invited to participate. If you need to have the door opened for your own scheduled cleaning, please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com or 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 ~

It is time for 'Missions Possible', the annual fundraising campaign of our Metropolis' Missions and Evangelism Ministry. If you have wondered just what the funds are used for, let me share some of the ways this Ministry has supported Holy Cross (Roseburg):

- Financial grants for the starting of a bookstore and to help pay for Clergy/Laity attendance costs
 - Materials to help establish a Welcome Ministry
 - On-line resource library that we use constantly for ideas and handouts
 - Regular visits by ministry team leaders to advise and encourage
 - A choir workshop, the Missions Conference, and Webinars with hours of helpful instruction
- I could continue! This ministry has been incredibly helpful to Holy Cross, and we thank you for your faithful support of this campaign.

With Love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

We anticipated the beginning of Great Lent with the beautiful hymn, "Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life..." and we in the Salem Mission community have truly had the gates of repentance opened to us even more fully. We are excited to announce that we are able to increase our Lenten services this year. Monday nights we have Great Compline at 6 p.m., Wednesday night is Presanctified Liturgy at 6 p.m. followed by a potluck, and then Sunday Orthros at 9 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. followed by coffee hour. As we begin the second week of Great Lent we will have been able to have services six days out of nine! It was almost shocking to hear the words, "See you tomorrow," coming out of our mouths two days in a row this weekend!! As Fr. Jerry must be in Eugene for these services, we are blessed to have the continued support and encouragement of our other serving priests: Fr. Ed Hillhouse, Fr. Alban West, and Fr. Timothy Pavlatos.

With gratefulness to God,
Maria Hauser

March Celebrations

Birthdays

March 2nd
Ann Leith, Vivian Merritt
March 4th
Alexis Drakatos
March 6th
Stephanie Carroll
March 8th
Michael Creech Jr.
March 10th
Joan Rundt
March 14th
Jan Schmidt
March 23rd
Presvytera Maria
March 27th
Bonnie Sollars, Mark Hauser

Feast Days

St Lidia
Leda Litke

St Larisa
Larisa Lilles

Wedding Anniversaries

Jim & Angel Stephenson on March 3rd

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

March 21st-Jan Schmidt

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in March are: Food prep on Friday, March 2nd and the breakfast on Saturday, March 3rd. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Women's Lenten Retreat:** There is still time to attend the biannual Women's Lenten Retreat, organized by Holy Cross Antiochian Orthodox Church in Yakima, WA. The retreat dates are Friday, March 2nd thru Sunday, March 4th. The place again this year is St John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA. The retreat speaker will be the V. Rev. Fr. David Hovik, pastor of St Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church in Arlington, WA. His talk is titled, "Preserving the Divine Likeness: Lessons from the Life of St Mary of Egypt." For more information or to register please speak with Lisa Lilles or Fr Jerry.
- **Welcome:** We warmly welcome Michael & Kathryn Becker who recently moved to Eugene and have joined our community. We also welcome William "Vasilios" Light, who recently moved to Cottage Grove and has joined our community.
- **Missions Possible:** This campaign, formerly known as Mochas for Missions, supports our Metropolis Missions & Evangelism Ministry. Last year we raised over \$2000 dollars in support of their work to grow Orthodoxy. Let's try to exceed that amount this year! We thank Kathryn Becker for volunteering to coordinate this year's campaign!
- **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.
- **SAVE YOUR SKINS! THANK YOU FOR SAVING YOUR SKINS!** We need lots of onion skins to make the 150+ eggs that we enjoy at Pascha. As you make your Lenten meals, please set aside the dry, outer layer of yellow onions (no onion 'flesh' attached). These are most easily kept in a paper bag. Please bring bags of onion skins to Father Jerry's office by Thursday, March 22.
- **Congratulations:** Congratulations to Jim Radcliffe, Strength and Conditioning Coach, for the U S Hockey National Team on their Gold Medal Olympic win!
- **"Thank You!"** We received a huge "Thank You" from Church World Service for the 55 Hygiene Kits we provided through IOCC. The letter sent to us says in part, "They have helped individuals and families touched by disaster feel a little more 'normal' - and a lot less alone - by providing some of the basic essentials for everyday living." We also received a letter of thanks from International Orthodox Christian Charities thanking us for our support in providing the Hygiene Kits. "Please know that you have personally touched the lives of people in need and have brought to them the love of Christ," the letter stated.
- **40 Days for Life.** From February 14 through March 25, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life - 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. If you'd like more information - and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Eileen at etmoregon@yahoo.com or 541-543-7168 or our Website page 40DaysforLife.com/Eugene. We are also having an initial prayer service at St. Mary's Church at 1062 Charnelton St. in Eugene on Tuesday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m. Please join us. Thanks!
- **Missions & Evangelism Workshop:** Save the date of Saturday, April 21st, for a "won't want to miss" Missions & Evangelism Workshop. Thomaida Hudanish, Director of the Metropolis Missions & Evangelism Ministry Team will be the presenter. I urge every member of the parish to make plans to be at this workshop. Details to be provided in the April AGAPE.
- **"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

	3/4	3/11	3/18	3/25	3/31
FELLOWSHIP	Kaelin	Lisa Lilles	Batterson	POTLUCK	
GREETER	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Helen S	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Freezer	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	3/3 Mueller	3/10 A & L Lilles	3/17 Markopoulos	3/24 Batterson & Lipson	Lazarus Saturday Clean-up

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 & Cassandra 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 541-852-9496
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
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A good word from the Fathers...

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works!

- If you see a poor man, take pity on him.
- If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.
- Do not only fast with your mouth, but also with your eye, ear, feet and hands.
- Let the hands fast by being free of avarice.
- Let the feet fast by ceasing to run after sin.
- Let the eyes fast by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.
- Let the ear fast by not listening to evil talk and gossip.
- Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.
- For what good is it if we abstain from food, but bite and devour our brother?

May He who came into the world to save sinners strengthen us to complete the Fast with humility, and have mercy on us!

St John Chrysostom