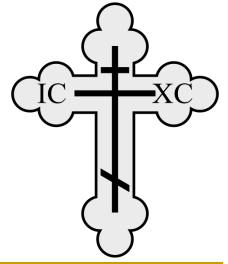




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH APRIL 2018

Greetings in the Risen Lord!

It always seems like the joy of the Resurrection quickly fades and we too easily forget its significance for our daily lives. The Resurrection of Christ really changed everything, including time and space. I wonder sometimes though if we live this change on a daily basis? For example, has the way we use time and space changed? I believe that one of the ways we can live this change and keep the joyous light of the Resurrection aflame is by having a Holy Corner in our home. It doesn't have to be a corner, it may be just part of the wall. But the meaning is that this place will be dedicated to God. The Holy Corner is a visible part of our home church. Here we bring to God our prayers, here we read the Holy Scripture. Here, in front of holy icons, the prostrations are made and incense is offered. This is the place where we stop for a moment before we leave the house: we put the sign of the Cross on ourselves and ask God's blessings for our way; and this is the place where we come first after our return home with a brief prayer. This is the place where we keep all the holy things (such as blessed oil and holy water), where we light candles and vigil lamps. The Holy Corner is the place where we learn to arrange the image of the temple with our own hands, and this becomes a beginning of organizing the invisible "not made by hands" temple of our soul. From visible we ascend to invisible, as the Apostle says: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead" (Ro. 1:20).

It is in the church where we learn how to organize our home church. By making one space holy (the church), we can make all other spaces holy (homes, workplaces, school). We look, we observe, and we bring what we have learned into our home. For example, the colors in the church change and the icons of the feast days are decorated. So too, should these things be brought home. Thus, the grace that we feel in the church, at least to a small extent, will dwell in our house, sanctifying and blessing it. But if instead of the Holy Corner we have the TV on the wall, then it "blesses" our house and fills our lives with the spirit of the world.

But what if you don't have a Holy Corner? If there is no Cross in the house? No icons of the feast days? Then you must take care of it, put your effort into organizing a Holy Corner, find and purchase a Cross and icons needed. Gradually take up the work of preparing your home church. If you don't have a wall Cross now, at least you must have a small Cross on your neck. Make three prostrations to the ground and kiss it.

Don't think that any of the things I've written to you about are unimportant things. From such things develops the spiritual life of person, mostly invisible, but also it has a visible part. And the invisible part, as we mentioned, can be judged by the visible one. Let us take care, my dear ones, that the life of the Church may enter our lives. It will change our lives, bring us closer to God, and are essential for our labors for our salvation.

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,

We are thankful to those of you who attended our spring Parish Assembly, and we remind everyone that the participation of all stewards in our Assemblies is vitally important for the church. We hope to see you at our fall Assembly.

Over the past month the Parish Council has been looking at providing direction regarding fellowship after liturgy through creating and disseminating a survey. This was done after some concerns were expressed and participation in hosting decreased. It has been 10 years since a similar survey was done. If you haven't already done so, please fill out either the paper copy of the survey available in the fellowship hall or the electronic version that Father emailed out the link to. Please do not fill out both copies of the survey.

We continue to make repairs and the requested health & safety updates to the women's restroom. These repairs & updates will be paid for out of available unrestricted donations from the dedicated account since they were not budgeted.

We continue to work towards ensuring the safety of the Parish, but also to ensure our Parish welcoming of our guests and inquirers as we work towards the future growth of our Parish together.

In Christ,
Greg Sebastian, President

Missions & Evangelism

The Missions Possible campaign is underway, (this replaces the Pennies for Prayers and Mochas for Missions campaigns of previous years). This donation campaign like previous years supports our Metropolis Missions and Evangelism Ministry in its efforts to grow Orthodoxy across the Metropolis. This includes all costs of this Ministry and its assistance to the several Mission parishes of the Metropolis, which is not funded by the Metropolis Operations budget. Kathryn Becker has stepped up to lead this campaign since joining our St George family from St John's in Beaverton. So come introduce yourself and donate to the campaign if you can. In addition Metropolis Missions and Evangelism Director Thomaida Hudanish will be joining us for a Missions and Evangelism retreat on Satur-

day the 21st. We would like all to attend this retreat to further our knowledge, gain a greater missionary insight, and share ideas of how we can be better evangelist to our community as God has called us all to do.

In Christ,
Greg Sebastian

Treasurer's Report

Operations balance March 31: \$26,380

Dedicated Funds balance March 31: \$8,909 including \$250 for Missions Possible

From the Bookstore...

Dear all,

We do have a few Holy Week service books available if you don't already have one and would like to follow along with the beautiful services. There aren't many so get them while they last! Also available for Pascha are packets of Greek red egg dye (nontoxic of course).

There are some orders in the making that should be coming in over the next month so don't forget to stop by when you are at church. We hope to bring in some new releases from SVS Press as well as from Conciliar Press. Also, keep an eye out for more icons making their way onto our shelves. Lastly, if anyone is interested in volunteering in the bookstore please let me know. I would love it if we could have other people to 'run' the store when my family can't make it to church or to help dust the shelves, organize, etc. It is an important ministry for our church and we would love to see other people get involved.

Wishing everyone a most blessed Holy Week.

In Christ,
Cassandra Batterson

STEWARDSHIP 2018

As we enter Holy Week and prepare for Pascha, let us look at King David's words concerning the temple in 1 Chronicles, chapters 28 and 29. He tells us the temple (church) is not for us but for God. Our temple should not be built for bragging rights or to bring glory to us. David knew this was the place where God would come to meet His people. It was a place worthy of the Most High. We all should realize man cannot build a temple worthy of God. But we can build and maintain a temple that reflects our very best effort because God deserves our very best. God is the center of everything in the universe, including our lives. In the temple, we should set God above everything else, leaving our earthly cares and concerns at the door. The temple is the physical place where we can enter into the presence of God. He is the reason for the temple, not us. When we come into church, we need to keep in mind where we are and for whom we are here.

Another point worth pondering is the joy we should feel being in the house of God. Our zeal and enthusiasm for life shouldn't be extinguished but rather redirected toward God and toward His holy temple, our church, because this is where we receive the most precious Body and Blood of our Savior. King David tells us again in 1 Chronicles that when we enter the temple, we should be so moved to build and maintain our temple that we should give even more of our personal treasures than just a tithe. We should be putting our time and talents, which are also gifts from God, to use in His temple. It is our opportunity to show just how much we love God and His house by giving willingly in all three aspects of stewardship.

When we read these narratives and ponder what is said, we should speak to and from our hearts. We should ask ourselves, "How much do I love God, and how much do I love His house." Do we give out of love or do we give out of duty? How we give is just as important as what we give. King David loved God and he gave from his heart. Do we?

Let us pray we will come to church as often as we can during Holy Week and think about King David who showed his love for God by his actions, and in turn, ask God to nurture our love for His house.

(Note: This article was paraphrased from article written by Erik Chosvig, stewardship chair, of Saint John the Baptist in Beaverton.)

Care Ministry

Have you checked out the Care Ministry Resource Notebooks? Located in our Library, these notebooks contain valuable information about services and agencies serving the Eugene-Springfield area. You will find references to agencies serving children, teens, and adults as well as information on health topics, social services, and self-help programs. Thanks to Bonni Sollars for making these notebooks available to Parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Zezeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are in full swing, planning our Evening in Greece dinners. They will take place May 12th & 19th. There will be delicious Greek food, festive dancing and a raffle. Please invite your friends and family. Reservations are required and space is limited so get your spot early! Flyers for the event will be available in the Hall. Please see Julie or Presvytera Maria with questions.

Presbytera Maria

PHILIA

Our garage sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds was very successful this year! Thank you to Adrienne for heading this project, to all of our ladies who helped in various capacities and to all who contributed to this event.

With Gloria at the helm, all the Tsourekia have been baked and are waiting to be purchased. Each one-pound loaf sells for \$8.00. Please see Gloria if you would like to buy some of this sweet braided Greek Pascha bread. We will be honing our Greek dancing on Sundays starting April 15, after church. Anyone interested in learning, practicing or just exercising is welcome to join in.

Plans for the future:

- Tsoureki Sale- March & April
- 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: April 15, and May 6, 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 request and suggestion has been made to those hosting at fellowship. Please remember that some parishioners have health or allergy issues. It would be good to include vegetables or green salads for those who are either diabetic or have gluten problems. And peanut butter causes allergic reactions in others. Also, please don't leave leftovers in the fridge other than juice or salad dressings, as the hosts for the next meal will probably have their own plans. If you do not want to take home what is left from fellowship, someone else might if you offer it to them. Otherwise, leftovers go unnoticed, unused and eventually spoil and are tossed.

April 8 will be Easter Potluck which will be different from our usual ones. The lamb will be provided so please bring your favorite side dish, or salad, or dessert. Please also pitch-in at the end with clean-up.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

A reminder that brooms, mops, buckets, vacuums and toilet bowl cleaners are in the closet by the restrooms. Other cleaning supplies, rags, rubber gloves, tissues, towels and garbage bags are in the pantry. Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com or plan to come during the week when the church is unlocked for your scheduled cleaning.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

As our Lenten journey winds its way towards Holy Week, we are brought face to face with Christ's determination to give Himself, without reservation, for the life of the World. Our response to that act can not be solely internal; how can we become like Him if we are not also offering up ourselves for others? Evangelism - bearing witness of Christ - is not an optional or comfortable task. In Greek, the word witness is μαρτυρία, *martyria*, from which English derives the word martyr. Let us love as we have been loved, step away from all our excuses and reservations, and bring the Light of Christ to a dark world.

The parishioners of Holy Cross are eagerly anticipating worshipping with you during Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Pascha! Please introduce yourselves to those of us you don't know yet, and do ask us to help with Holy Week tasks! We are so thankful for your welcoming church home, and we look forward to getting to know you better.

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

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

How often have we looked at a child and wondered, how did this happen?! She's grown up so much!" This is the collective mind of us at the Salem Mission and those that know us at the end of Great Lent 2018, even though the mission is 20 years old!

The Akathist hymn was chanted for the first time in Salem on March 23rd! We are increasing our Holy Week services from two evening services in the past to almost every evening service and then from Friday afternoon through the Pascal weekend services. We stand in awe of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ with thankfulness for the prayers of the Panagia and the saints. We're grateful for the loving service of our faithful priests and for your prayers and support that continues to nurture our growth as we work to make the faith of the Orthodox Christian Church known and available to the Salem area.

With love in Christ,
Maria Hauser

April Celebrations**Birthdays**

April 2nd

Raphael Groomer

April 3rd

Georgia Lallas

April 4th

Mark Lipson

April 8th

Jeremy Mueller

April 9th

Sarah Shafer, Demetre Markopoulos

April 11th

Panayiotis Katsoyannos

April 15th

Melita Green, Nektarios Kaelin

April 20th

Eliana Hauser

Feast Days

St Mary of Egypt

Melita Green, Janelle Williamson

St Nearchos

Neal Zoumboukos

St George

Georgia Lallas

Wedding Anniversaries

Nektarios & Ann Marie Kaelin-April 3rd

Neal & Yvonne Zoumboukos-April 4th

Leo & Debbie Hall-April 29th

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Eileen Chanti-April 8th

Daniel, Aftasie & Omilie Doran-April 11th

Mark Lipson, Jason Taylor, Clementine & Eu-

lalie Sizemore-April 15th

Bonni Sollars-April 30th

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in April are: Food prep on Friday, April 6th and the breakfast on Saturday, April 7th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Welcome!** We welcome Sean Surlow and his family to our "Family" here at St George. Sean and his family moved from California to Corvallis recently, and are in the process of being received into the Church.
- **Tsoureki:** Don't forget we have loaves of Tsoureki for sale in April. These delicious breads will be a perfect accompaniment to your celebration of Pascha, so please get yours now! Thanks Gloria for coordinating the baking and selling again this year!
- **Great & Holy Week:** We invite you to join us for Great & Holy Week, (**Sunday, April 1st-Sunday, April 8th**) and especially for the beautiful and profound Holy Week services. Holy Week begins with the first of three *Bridegroom Services* on **Sunday evening, April 1st (6 pm)**.
- On **Holy Monday & Tuesday evening, the *Bridegroom service* begins at 7 pm.**
- On **Holy Wednesday, there will be *Presanctified Liturgy* beginning at 10 am. That evening, Fr Sera- phim and the Faithful at St John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church will join us for *Holy Unction*, beginning at 7 pm.**
- On **Holy Thursday morning at 10 am, there will be a *Vesperal Liturgy with the Institution of the Eucha- rist, and the service of the Washing of the Feet*. Then that evening, beginning at 7 pm, the *Passion of Christ and reading of the Twelve Gospels* will take place.**
- On **Holy Friday, we will begin at 9:30 am, with the *Royal Hours of Pascha*. Following that service we will decorate the tomb of Christ. We thank Katharine Drakatos for volunteering to coordinate the flowers for Holy Week! At 3:00 pm on Holy Friday, the service of *the Taking down from the Cross* will take place. Then that evening, we will gather at 7 pm for the *Lamentations service*.**
- **Holy Saturday** begins with *Vesperal Liturgy* at 10 am, also known as the *First Resurrection*, as you will understand when you experience it. At 11 pm that evening we will gather for the *Paschal Vigil, fol- lowed at midnight with the Resurrection Service*. The celebration of Pascha continues with *the Paschal Orthros & Divine Liturgy*. Then we'll break the Fast and celebrate the Resurrection into the wee hours of the morning, with delicious Avgolemeno soup, eggs and bread! Thanks again Pete!
- On ***Pascha day***, we will gather for *Agape Vespers* at 11:30 am. This is followed by the Egg Hunt for the kids, and our annual Pascha Potluck Picnic Panagia! Thanks to an anonymous donor the lamb will be provided free of charge again this year. Please bring your favorite side dish, or salad, or dessert, for everyone to taste and enjoy. Then afterwards, lend a hand in the clean-up effort. May it be blessed!
- **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!
- **Missions & Evangelism Conference:** Save the date of Saturday, April 21st, from 10am-3pm, for a "won't want to miss" Missions & Evangelism Conference, right here at St George. 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 conference.
- **St. George Feast Day:** The feast day of our patronal Saint will be celebrated on Sunday & Monday, April 22nd (Great Vespers) & 23rd (Orthros & Divine Liturgy). Please "save the dates" and join us!
- **"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

	4/1	4/8	4/15	4/22	4/29
FELLOWSHIP	Parish Council	Pascha Potluck	Larisa Lilles	Muresan	Mueller
GREETER	Larisa L	Pascha	Helen S	Jerry R	John & Gloria
PROSFORON	Freezer	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	Freezer
FLOWERS	OPEN	Pascha	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
READERS	Brad Thomas	Pascha	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
CLEANING CREW	3/31 Church-Wide	4/7 Sollars	4/14 Zoumboukos	4/21 Muresan	4/28 Open

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
202 Hillview 1
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. Your Cross, O Christ, we venerate, and Your holy Resurrection we praise and glorify. For You are our God; apart from You we know no other; we call upon Your name. Come, all faithful, let us venerate the holy Resurrection of Christ; for behold, through the Cross, joy has come to the whole world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us praise His Resurrection; for having endured the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death.

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Dance now and be glad, Zion, and you, O pure Theotokos, rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son.

O voice divine, beloved and most sweet! For you, O Christ, have promised in truth to be with us unto the close of the age, and we faithful rejoice, having this anchor of hope.

O Christ, our Pascha, most sacred and great: wisdom, Word, and power of God. Grant unto us to partake of You more profoundly in the unending day of Your Kingdom.