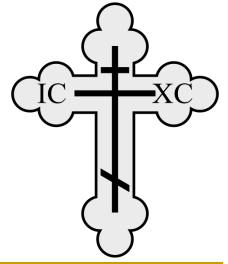




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AUGUST 2018

“All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ”

This quote served as the theme of the 2018 National Clergy Laity Congress, held in Boston, July 1st-5th, and is a good reminder to place our faith in Christ, not in ourselves, when we are faced with challenges. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios spoke about the challenges facing our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and urged us to undertake certain tasks to confront and overcome these challenges. His keynote address is always the highlight of these congresses for me and I encourage you to read it in its entirety on the Archdiocese's website (www.goarch.org).

Let me highlight a few of the challenges and a few of the tasks that I found to be “spot on”.

Challenge 1: The non-stopping change in everything. It is well known that changes happened throughout history. In today's era, however, changes do not occur every century or every year, or even every month. They occur every hour.

Challenge 2: Economic pressure and poverty. Economic pressure and poverty are universal phenomena with serious consequences not unknown to us. For instance, the need for adequate income causes people to work in two professions, in essence pushing family life to a marginal status. We have the sad experience of many family problems being caused by financial pressures.

Challenge 3: Disconnecting from the Church. People are not becoming atheist or agnostic, but rather they simply do not want to be connected any longer to any organized religious body.

Challenge 4: Attacks against Christianity. The attacks, frequently violent, against the Christian Faith and the proliferation of many religions like Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other religio-cultural variations are a major challenge.

In order to successfully confront the aforementioned challenges, we have to undertake a number of important tasks. First, we have to become fully aware of where we are and what we are. The current conditions need parishes which are not self-limited closed entities serving elementary religious needs and merely supporting survival. The conditions now require a form of a parish whose members, a) have a strong consciousness of an Orthodox identity and ethos, which make them different from our fellow Americans with whom, however, they fully share the big benefits and advantages of being citizens of this blessed country, and b) have an awareness that they have been called to an apostolic mission of sharing the truth, the light, the joy, and the peace of the Gospel with the non-Orthodox people, with whom they live in the same location or elsewhere. Such a strong consciousness of Orthodox Christian identity and full awareness of apostolic mission require proper cultivation, education, and methodical training. Therefore there is a need to develop programs for an adequate and attractive adult and youth education related to the Orthodox Christian Faith. The necessity of dealing systematically and intensely with issues of proper Orthodox training and education for adults and for children constitute an urgent priority. An equally urgent priority is the issue of dealing with the challenge of people disconnecting themselves from the Church and gradually distancing or even cutting themselves off. The phenomenon cannot be ignored, and the fundamental questions cannot be avoided, namely, what is the cause of distancing and disconnection? A central answer may be the dissatisfaction with the function and activities of a parish, or that the parish has nothing else to offer in terms of participatory engagement except the Sunday liturgy. Thus, here the question arises: What can be done in order to improve the life and activities of a parish?

Again, I urge you to read his keynote address in its entirety and reflect upon what he says. He concludes his comments by saying, “There is an open field inviting all of us to work together in order to confront all challenges and to respond to the call of the Lord Who says to us: As the Father has sent me, even so I send you (John 20:21). This sacred task is cer-

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

tainly exciting but not easy. For me, a soldier of Christ, and one under authority, the Archbishop's words are like "marching orders". Yes, we face serious challenges, but serious challenges are not unknown to us. I believe that with God's help, and by working together, we will overcome and will thrive. Who's with me?

Father Jerry

Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Like we have to take efforts to maintain the structure of our church building, we also have to take efforts to maintain the items used as part of our services, to include the altar server robes and icon stand covers. Fr Jerry's time away afforded the opportunity to have Pres. Krista West join us and consult on these items. The Parish Council has decided to seek donations to cover the cost of new robes for altar servers, as our current ones were handed down to us from another parish. While this has been a wonderful cost savings to us over the years; our robes are, in some cases more than others, showing the signs of their usage. Many are no longer serviceable, and in dire need of replacement. We will order a total of 8 robes from Pres. West. Fortunately we will be able to use our current orarions with the robes. Any of the usable current robes that are no longer needed will be donated to other churches and missions in need of them. In addition you might have noticed the the two icon stand covers in the nave. These are here for us to decide if we want to purchase these. Pres. West originally made these for another client, but they didnt work for them, and she is willing to sell these us for a reduced price and as we can pay for them. We are also seeking to eventually purchase a new set of regular covers for the 6 stands in the narthex. As a Council we are first looking to get the new robes, and then the decision on the nave stand covers. Information on the donation costs being sought for the robes and the 2 nave stand covers will be available shortly.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian
President

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship as an Inspiration to Our Budget

Very shortly we will working on and approving a new budget for 2019. Stewardship is a key element of that budget and should be an expression of the vision of our parish – its priorities, concerns and plans for the future. Members who see a church doing more than “paying the bills” will be inspired by the vision of a church that seeks to serve its parishioners, neighbors and people in need throughout the world. The parish should consider line-items for Charitable Programs, Missions, Outreach, Adult Education, Church School, Educational Outreach Materials and more. We should be inspired by a parish vision interested in improving and adding to our ministries. If we are unified in that vision, we CAN make it happen.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Thank you to our wonderful crew who helped on the Gyrofest. We had a nice event and great food. Our next fundraiser will be the annual Merry Greek Christmas Bake Sale & Craft Fair, in December. We will need many volunteers, so let us know if you'd like to help at the event. Also, all you crafty types, please let Presv. Maria or Julie know if you would like to show your craft items at the event. August 19th will be our next committee meeting, after church.

Presbytera Maria

Treasurer's Report

Balances:

Operations: As of July 7/31: \$28,526

Dedicated: As of 7/31: \$11,573

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

Fr. Timothy Pavlatos and family have moved to Ohio to be with his mother and to be nearer Presvytera Vicki's doctors in New York treating her Lyme disease. Please increase your prayers for them during this transition time and for Prez's health. We will greatly miss them.

We completed another successful three days at the Salem Art Fair in July. We increased the amount of baklava we baked to 9 pans and sold out early on Sunday! People really love the food and look forward to seeing us there every year.

We will be hosting a Saturday retreat with Presvytera Krista West in October, and hope that you can all come. She will be speaking on beauty in the church. Many more details will be coming next month!

Glory to God for all things!

Maria Hauser

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

"The world is my parish". I am not sure who said this, but I first heard it from Father Jerry. He was talking about re-thinking mission, re-thinking our place in the community, re-thinking...well, pretty much everything. I tucked it away in my mind, finding it interesting but not really applicable at the moment. However, the sentence has been echoing in profound ways lately. When I let a call go to voicemail instead of picking up. When I avert my eyes from the guy in front of the grocery store holding a sign. When my annoyance rises up while listening to the news. The world is my parish. As a follower of Christ, I must love who He loves, how He loves, which is pretty much everybody, always. Holy Cross faces a challenge that is not unique: If we want to be Christ in the world, we are going to have to stretch the walls of our mission to include 'the other'. It is not comfortable, and yet it is not even a fraction of the extraordinary lengths that Christ goes for those He loves.

Please continue to pray for Holy Cross, that we could truly see the entire county as our parish, and that we would abound in love for each other! We would love to have you as our guest at one of our services; please check our website RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org for the schedule.

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

Greetings from the Missions and Evangelism Ministry Team:

The biggest news I want to share with everyone is that our Missions Possible campaign raised \$2617.47!

Thank you so much to everyone who shared in this cause.

Thomaida sent us a wonderful note expressing the gratitude from the Metropolis. Here are some of the areas our funds support:

- Launching of the We Read Together online book study.
- Presenting missions and evangelism retreats at parishes (like ours in April)
- Developing an ongoing relationship with Hellenic College/Holy Cross and those who serve in the field of evangelism nationally.
- Gathering and sharing meaningful programs, and improving and increasing ministry communication with all the parishes.

As you can see, there are many areas that Thomaida is able to continue and expand with the funds raised through Missions Possible. Glory to God!

The Missions and Evangelism team is looking for more members! Please let me know if you'd be interested.

Kathryn Becker (971-506-7161 or at beckerettes@msn.com)

PHILIA

By the time you read this, the Gyrofest will be part of history, and hopefully successful. While it is a fundraiser for the parish, our Philia ladies are always the ones carrying the biggest load. I am so grateful to have such hardworking and lovely people in our group! And Liana is one of them. In June we celebrated her UO graduation with a dinner at BJs and in August we will be taking her and the rest of the family out to pizza, to bid a fond adieu for a few months while they all re-discover Romania. We wish them well, but we'll miss them. October will bring the International Mini, our fundraising luncheon which features dishes from all over the world.

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches -August 17, September 21
- August 11 - Fond Adieu @ 12:30 at Pizza Hut on Willamette (for the Creeches)
- October 7 -International Mini

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

Next meeting: August 12 and September 9, 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 :

Reminders: Please bring something to share on August 12 and 26 as these are Potluck days. It need not be fancy, just edible. You can check your fridge or pantry for any contribution you can make to our fellowship meal.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Our old vacuum cleaners both working and not, seemed to have wandered off somewhere. In light of that, Philia purchased a brand new modern one for us to use at St. George. It resides in the janitorial closet next to the restrooms and works very well. 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)

What's new from the Bookstore...

The bookstore is filling up with books of every category. To round out our offerings we will be increasing our incense and icon supplies this summer.

Items we have coming in....

- Beautiful large icons of the Theotokos.
- Travel sized diptychs and triptychs imported from Greece.
- Small guardian angel icons, perfect for remembering a child's name day.
- Feast day icons including Transfiguration, Theophany, Annunciation and the Birth of the Theotokos
- 20 new types of incense

We hope you stop by and browse when you get a chance. Have a most blessed rest of your summer!

**In Christ,
Cassandra Batterson**

Care Ministry - Care Notes:

"Kindly words, sympathizing attentions, watchfulness against wounding men's sensitiveness-- these cost very little, but they are priceless in their value."

F.W. Robertson

Please contact Fr Jerry or the Care Ministry Team if you or another Parishioner need meals or visits in the case of illness or emergency.

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

August Celebrations Birthdays

August 1st-Greg Sebastian
 August 2nd-Gloria Zezeas Timmons
 August 9th-Daniel Doran
 August 10th-Liana Creech
 August 20th-Michael Creech
 August 25th-Janelle Williamson
 August 28th-Nick Markopoulos

Feast Days

August 15th-Dormition of the Theotokos
 Panayiotis Katsoyannos, Pete Drakatos, Presbytera Maria, Pete Zoumboukos

Wedding Anniversaries

August 18th-Andrew & Larisa Lilles

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

August 13th-Marci Moling

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in August are: Food prep on Friday, August 3rd and the breakfast on Saturday, August 4th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Baptized in Christ:** Charlie Carroll was received into the Church on Sunday, July 29th, by Chrismation. His sponsor is Michael Creech and he took the name Kyriakos. May he live for us!
- **Wildfires in Greece:** If you would like to make a donation towards relief efforts for those impacted by the devastating wildfires in Greece I suggest you visit the website of IOCC. The Metropolis of San Francisco is also collecting donations.
- **Dormition Fast:** The Dormition Fast begins on Wednesday, August 1st and is a time of fasting and prayer as we prepare for the falling asleep of the Theotokos. Paraklesis services will be held on Monday & Friday evenings during the Fast. Services for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos are: Great Vespers, Tuesday, August 14th at 5:30 pm, and Orthros & Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, August 15th, beginning at 9 am.
- **Prosforon baking class:** Liana Creech is offering another Prosforon baking classes on Saturday, August 4th, time to be announced. Baking the church's communion bread is a blessing, and it is not difficult. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please sign up on the sign up sheet in the fellowship room.
- **Vacation Church School:** The registration form is available for the Vacation Church School. Please fill it out and return it to Greg. The VCS will start Monday August 20th and go through that Friday. It will only be 1 1/2 to 2 hrs per day. The kids will attend a short service every day, along with a class and activity every day. That Friday to cap it off, will be the Parish family pool party. Please see Cassandra for details about the pool party. We do need additional adults to volunteer to help assist and supervise each day. Please also contact Greg about this. While it is a small scale VCS it is a good opportunity for the youth of our Parish and other nearby parishes to interact, and grow in their knowledge and faith! It is a starting point for the growth and development of our youth programs of our parish life. We are also still working on the activities and development of our Young adult program.
- **Greek Orthodox Mission of Salem:** I want to share with you that the Greek Orthodox Mission of Salem is making an offer to purchase a piece of property in Salem. Please be praying for them and asking that God's will be done. If you want to know more, or want to make a donation, please contact Fr. Jerry.
- **Church School:** The 2018-19 Church School year will soon be upon us. We are in need of an additional teacher so please consider helping. If you would like to serve in this ministry please see Ann Marie Kaelin.
- **Monastery Visit:** We have another opportunity to visit St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA namely the weekend of October 12-14. On a recent trip, three of us enjoyed attending Vespers and Divine Liturgies in the beautiful new church and listening to an informal talk about the monastery given by one of the sisters. We were provided with delicious meals prepared by the sisters. On Saturday we asked if we could help, and we were delighted to weed a beautiful flower garden and help with some cleaning. There was also plenty of time to walk around the lovely grounds, soaking in the serenity. We also enjoyed visiting their newly remodeled gift shop. If you haven't been to the monastery, this might be a good opportunity for you to visit. At this time there are 8 spots reserved for us. If more would like to go, I will check with the sisters to see if there is room. Please contact me as soon as you can if you are able to make this trip. In Christ, Lisa Lilles 541-746-5592 (please leave a message if I am not home!) Lilleslw@gmail.com
- **"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

	8/5	8/12	8/19	8/26	
FELLOWSHIP	Mehas	POTLUCK	Batterson/ Lipson	POTLUCK	
GREETER	Larisa L	Helen S	John & Gloria	Stella K	
PROSFORON	Freezer	Lilles	Kaelin	Freezer	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Pascha	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	8/4 Creech	8/11 Markopoulos	8/18 Batterson/ Lipson	8/25 Sollars	

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	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
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
CARE MINISTRY	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
PRAYER CIRCLE	Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
FUNDRAISERS	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

^{ies}
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
202 Hillview 1
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

A good word...

God is at the center of every person's life. He is in our heart whether we accept Him or not. He never separates Himself from us because He is the Giver of life Who gives life to every created being. We have buried Him with our worries and worldly cares, which destroy the peace within us, and that is why we have no peace or rest. No one on earth can give us unshakable inner peace. Money cannot give us peace, neither can fame, honor, a high-ranking position, nor even our closest friends or family. The only Giver of peace and life is the Lord. He gives us peace, stillness, and joy to the angels and the saints, to us and to every created thing. Therefore we must repent and turn to the Lord.

From "Our Thoughts Determine our Lives: the Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica"