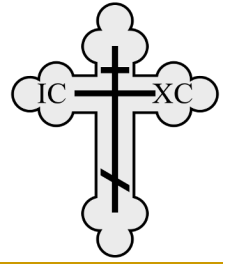




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH FEB 2019

Alone, You are Not!

This is not a quote from Yoda. It is a simple statement concerning the nature of our existence. The fullness of existence is only found in communion, a mutual indwelling in which our lives are known and experienced not just in their self-contained form, but in their relation to others and everything around us. True existence is a connected-ness. It is also the very place where the instability and fragility of our lives is most revealed. If we can withdraw into ourselves, it is possible to imagine that we are fine, and that the things and people around us are just noise, sometimes enjoyable and other times annoying. But usually, we do not think of the things and people around us as if our lives depended on them.

Against this withdrawal are the words of St. Silouan: "My brother is my life." Against this withdrawal into ourselves are the words of Christ, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." These words of Christ are often misinterpreted. How much we love ourselves is not the standard by which Christ is calling us to love. Rather, we are called to love our neighbor as being our self, i.e., as being of the same nature as we ourselves are. So we should understand this saying as, "You shall love your neighbor as being yourself". Perhaps this is why the Church Fathers taught that we find our true self only in loving our neighbor. In turn, they were able to think of the people around them as if their lives depended on them.

There is another connectedness related to this one. In the Great Commandment, Christ welds together love of God to love of neighbor. Even the Pharisees of Christ's time knew that the most important commandment of the Law was to love God. But when He welds together and unites and connects them, He reveals something new. There were 613 commandments under the Law, way to many to remember, and way to many to possibly observe all. Christ reduces the 613 to 2, or more like 1. By doing so He reveals to them the exceedingly great love expressed by the commandments. He also shows how within these 2 (1) are all the other commandments. What can we learn from this?

We learn that to love God is to love one's neighbor. We learn that we ought to love God, not partially, but to give all of ourselves to God. We learn about our connectedness to our neighbor, and to love them as being ourselves. We learn that the one who loves his neighbor fulfills all the commandments, and he who fulfills all the commandments loves God. As the Fathers say, "For who is it that loves God and neighbor but also steals, or bears grudges, or commits adultery, or murders, or fornicates." We learn that the first commandment leads us to piety, while the second leads us to do to others what is just and right. And hopefully we learn, that to love my brother/sister is my life, and my life depends on it.

Let us not neglect the commandment of love, for through it you will become a son or daughter of God. But transgressing it, you will become a son or daughter of Gehenna.

Happy February! A blessed new month to all!

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

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Phone: (541) 683-3519

Website: www.stgeorgeor.org
Email: frgerasimos@sntgrg.org

Parish Council

Highlights from our January meeting:

The treasurer reported the financial status of the parish is strong. Potential variables to the budget for 2019 were discussed, but none presented any significant changes to the "balanced" status of the budget. Our stewardship membership is down, but giving has increased.

The participation in and existence of our fundraisers was discussed. Basically, the same people are working all of the events. Discussions with the fundraising committee will take place in the near future to determine the direction the parish should take. This is a topic which should be a part of our long-term strategic planning because it impacts our visibility and our identity in the community; it impacts the time and talents of our parish members; and, obviously, it impacts our finances. The parish council will ask the committee for recommendations. Those will in turn will be considered by the council and then passed on to the parish assembly.

The security and safety of our parishioners continues to be a topic with the council. A meeting is planned with other churches in our area to hear what measures they are taking. A report will be forthcoming.

On February 3rd, we will have a pulpit exchange with Father Alban West offering the Liturgy at Saint George, and Father Jerry doing the same in Salem.

Bonni Sollars is taking on the fellowship and cleaning schedules.

Parish Council liaisons to our ministries are as follows:

Chant Group – Art; Church School – Neal; Fellowship & Prayer Group – Stella; Fundraising – Ron; Missions & Evangelism – Gloria; Philia – Larisa.

STEWARDSHIP 2019

Thank you very much to the forty-five (47) families and individuals who have returned their stewardship cards for 2019. Giving and supporting the place where we worship God helps us keep God in the center of our lives. It is also our gift to future Orthodox Christians who will come to Saint George long after we are gone. We may never know how our giving today will impact our salvation, the salvation of the people around us, and the salvation of generations to come.

Saint George Stewardship Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 31, 2019 Operations Balance is \$50,505.

Dedicated Funds Balance is \$24,418 which includes \$1,325 from the Vasilopita for St. Basil's.

Thank you for your support of Saint George!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Thank you!
Presbytera Maria

Missions and Evangelism Report

Dear fellow parishioners,

2019 should be an awesome year!

We are excited that the new Welcome packets will be in the Narthex this month. We are also preparing to paint the bookstore area in the fellowship hall. Our goal with these small projects is to brighten up the building for visitors.

Our greeters are doing a wonderful job of welcoming newcomers. If you are interested in helping in this area, please let Larisa or myself know. We should all be welcoming visitors at all times, but if you'd like to be part of the "Welcoming Committee" to sit with visitors during Liturgy or Fellowship hour, please also contact me.

We will be doing a quick survey to determine the preferred type of Ministry outreach the parish should be involved in this year, as well.

And lastly, we are still hoping to have a Lenten retreat in March here at the parish.

Stay tuned and please pray for this ministry as we begin this New Year.

Your fellow servant, Kathryn Becker

Greetings from the Bookstore

Thank you for suggestions! The Bookstore now has:

- Assorted greeting cards (birthday, christening/baptism, newly illuminated, wedding, name day, and blank note cards).
- White candles, 10" tapered.

New Items:

- From the Contemporary Elders Series: The Garden of the Holy Spirit, Saint Iakovos of Evia (1920-1991)
- Icons of St. Paisios (3" laminated)

Bookstore Hours: The Bookstore is considering additional hours to include Tuesday and/or Thursday from 5:00-6:00 pm. If anyone is interested or has questions, please let me know.

Bookstore Wish List: a tablet or Ipad (new or used) to accommodate credit or debit card transactions.

I welcome your suggestions, and thank you for supporting the Bookstore!

I wish you many blessings and much peace.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

PHILIA

The Vasilopita Luncheon sponsored by Philia was deemed a great success. Thank you to all who participated. As always, we are moving forward with new plans and ideas. One of them will be trying to commemorate our parishioners' special occasions with a greeting card from Philia. Thank you to Jan who volunteered for this position. We are also getting ready for our Lenten Sale in March. More details on this will follow in the next Agape. In honor of Nikki's birthday, our Philia Ladies have decided to wear pink and black on Sunday, February 24, so we can all match her colors, something she gets very excited about.

Plans for the future:

* Augment Your Lent Event - March 10, 2019

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

Next meeting: February 10, and March 10, 2019

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

CARE MINISTRY

This month we will be remembering our Homebound Parishioners with small gifts symbolizing our love and admiration for them.

If you become aware of any parishioner that needs meals or visits, please advise Fr. Jerry or the Care Ministry Team. We also send cards in cases of illness & hospitalizations.

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons
Care Ministry Coordinator

From the Missions...

Like most things in the Orthodox Church, the Feasts are deeply layered with many meanings. When we consider the upcoming Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, we learn that that this Feast has a very personal application for those passionate about 'mission'. From Fr. Thomas Hopko: "The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the church is not merely a historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own "meeting" with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can "depart in peace" since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ." Like the Saints before us, we have a story of meeting the Lord! And because of this revelation, we can continually come to meet Him at the intersection of Grace that is our parish and we can receive His peace. Have your eyes 'seen the Salvation of the Lord'? If so, you have what the world desperately needs! Be bold, like Simeon and Anna, and share this miracle!

Thank you for your continued prayers for Holy Cross, Roseburg. We long to share Christ with our dark and hurting county, but we cannot be successful without the fervent intercession of the faithful on our behalf. We warmly invite you to visit us for a service; check out our website at: RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org

With Love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

It's always an extra special day when a major feast day falls on a Sunday, as Theophany did this year. It was the first Theophany using our Holy Water font purchased last year. It was crafted in Greece upon ordering...and then it took quite a while to arrive. Not something one orders from the internet and receives in a week or less! May the Holy Trinity help us to become worthy vessels carrying the light of Christ incarnate wherever He leads us.

Maria Hauser

February Celebrations Birthdays

February 10th-Brett Batterson, Theodore Lipson

February 15th-Bill Lilles, Octavian Moling

February 17th-Johanna Williamson

February 19th-Richard Green

February 27th-Nikki Lenkoff

February 28th-Cassandra Batterson

February 29th-Debbie Hall

Feast Days

February 26th-St Photini

Debbie Hall

February 29th-St John Cassian

Jeremy Mueller

Wedding Anniversaries

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in February are: Food prep on Friday, February 1st and the breakfast on Saturday, February 2nd. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Fellowship Hosting and Cleaning:** There are several spots open on both the Fellowship hosting and Cleaning schedules. To assist us in completing the schedules please see Bonnie Sollars and volunteer your time and talent.
- **Giving Statements:** Your 2018 Giving Statement is available for pick-up in the Narthex. It's tax time, and you don't want to keep the IRS waiting. Thank you again for your generous giving to St George!
- **Konovets Quartet:** Please join us on Tuesday, February 19th, as we welcome back into our midst, the Konovets Quartet. The Quartet will be performing a concert at St George that evening beginning at 7 pm. This is a free concert but donations are welcome. The program offers harmonic brilliance in the rich tradition of Russian choral music, and includes sacred music, ranging from chants and hymns to secular songs, including Russian and Ukrainian folk songs, classical selections and Imperial regimental songs. Please invite your family and friends to join you for the concert and let's try to pack the house!
- **Accommodations needed:** The members of the Konovets Quartet are in need of accommodations on Tuesday, February 19th, following the concert. Please see Father Jerry if you are willing and able to host one or more of the members at your home Tuesday evening.
- **Save the Date:** On Saturday, March 2nd, from 9am to 5pm, there will be a Human Trafficking free workshop and fundraiser, at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland. Guest speakers at this workshop include Metropolitan Nikitas, Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute at UC Berkeley, and former Metropolitan of Hong Kong. Space is limited and registration is required. A Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. To register for the event, visit TI-NYURL.COM/MARCH2SIGNUP

Thanks again to Froso Drakatos for your most generous donation which enabled us to purchase new robes for the Altar Servers!



KOINONIA

	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24	
FELLOWSHIP	Markopoulos	Jaquette	Mueller	Lenkoff & Bonosevich	
GREETER	Stella	Helen S	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	2/2 Kaelin	2/9 Sollars	2/16 A & L Lilles	2/23 Zoumboukos & Thomas	

GET INVOLVED!!!

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Neal Zoumboulos 541-344-4485
SAFETY COMMITTEE	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
BOOKSTORE	Stella Kallianis 541-274-9110
PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
CHURCH SCHOOL	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
CHANTER/CHANT GROUP	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN	Art Mehas 541-485-8671
FELLOWSHIP	Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
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

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Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
202 Hillview 1
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

A good word...

'You've got to get out of your head and into your heart. Right now your thoughts are in your head, and God seems to be outside you. Your prayer and all your spiritual exercises also remain exterior. As long as you are in your head, you will never master your thoughts, which continue to whirl around your head like snow in a winter's storm or like mosquitoes in the summer heat. If you descend into your heart, you will have no more difficulty. Your mind will empty out and your thoughts will dissipate.

St. Theophan the Recluse