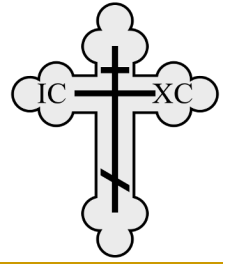




# Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH FEB.-2020

*Dear Ones,*

*Happy New Month!*

*Another anniversary of Roe v. Wade has come and gone and unfortunately, abortion on demand is still the law of the land. In light of this I wanted to remind you that we have a sacred responsibility to protect the life of the unborn and of infants, by sharing the following article by Fr. Andrew Harmon titled "God Loves Babies". This article appeared in the Zoe for Life, Summer 2019 newsletter.*

Abortion is not a modern invention. It, and infanticide (the killing of a baby after birth), were very common in the ancient pagan societies. Life was seen by many as cheap and expendable. And then change came beginning in the 300's A.D. Society's beliefs about abortion and infanticide started changing. And the laws were changed too. Both abortion and infanticide were outlawed. Sure, some still took place-not everyone obeys the law! But the numbers went down. Many, many more babies got a chance at life.

So who was responsible for this change, for outlawing abortion and infanticide about 1700 years ago? We were. By saying, "We were", I obviously don't mean us literally-we weren't around! By "we", I mean our Orthodox Church. Our Church taught against all that killing, struggled against it, and once our Church brought the Roman Empire to Christ, the laws were changed. Thank God for our spiritual ancestors!

But now abortion is back bigger than ever before. And even infanticide is getting more accepted-witness the horrible sight of standing ovations in some state legislatures as they legalized it in some circumstances.

Yes, society has changed and laws have changed. But God's law and truth haven't changed. So our beliefs are still the same today as they were back 1700 years ago.

Because our beliefs are strong and clear, this leads to several obligations for Orthodox believers:

First-We should strongly uphold our beliefs and make sure all of our people are aware of them. And make sure the world knows what we believe. That includes doing all we can to change the laws, just as the Church successfully did 1700 years ago.

Second-We need to help women in tough pregnancy situations to choose life instead of death. We need to give them moral support, friendship, and financial help.

Third-We need to help the children after birth as well...food, clothing, money. Whatever is needed. And we should strive to have adoption seen as a good option.

Fourth-We need to help and support women who have had abortions, stressing to them that there is forgiveness from God. As St. Cyril of Jerusalem wrote, "Add up your sins and they are smaller than God's mercy." God forgives...so we must also forgive. And we as parishes, through Zoe for Life, must do all we can to help women who have had abortions realize they can find forgiveness from God, and peace and joy in that forgiveness.

Sometimes it seems the world is getting darker and darker. So we, followers of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, must shine more brightly. Like a candle in a dark room, drawing people to the light of God.

***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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God used our Orthodox long ago to change the world concerning abortion and infanticide. But things don't stay the same...and now the world needs changing all over again! May God help us to be the world changers one more time. And to save the babies.

## Parish Council

The new Parish Council is excited for the new year! We are looking forward to working together to make 2020 the best for the St. George Church Community. The Parish Council officers for this coming year are: Kay Mehas, President, Larisa Lilles, Vice President, Kathryn Becker, Secretary, Neal Zoumboukas, Treasurer, working together with council members, Stella Kallianis, Mark Lipson, Gloria Zezeas-Timmons and guidance of Father Jerry. Please feel free to let any of the council members know if you have a concern or an idea you would like to share! We want to say a very special "Thank you" to the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Art Mehas, Ron Muresan and Greg Sebastian for their commitment to our church.

Our January meeting began with Father's reflection on how we often 'autofill' our Stewardship Cards. Encouraging individuals to be careful not to 'autofill' as it can stifle growth in our community and spiritual life.

Minutes and Treasurer's were presented and approved. Stewardship report: 43 households have pledged a total of \$150,582.00. A total of \$152,000 would balance the budget assuming all other income projections are accurate.

Old Business: Youth Safety background and safety checks are in progress. They need to be updated every year. Deacon Stephanos will keep us informed on progress. The entry sign bid for \$500.00 was approved. Fellowship and Cleaning Schedules have been mailed out. Liturgy Books have a few errors. It was agreed we would put labels with corrections over the errors. An effort will be made to insure that Sunday Bulletins have the correct hymns. The microphone system will be fixed. Neal will look into how the Narthex can provide a 'warmer' entry into our church. The new Deacon Door and Royal Curtains were discussed. A follow up discussion decided we would work with Krista West. The storage room off the nave needs storage shelves. It was decided that Neal should check out if there were funds available

for the cost of the shelving. (Following the meeting Neal sent an email to all council members that there were sufficient funds. Via email a motion was made, a second and then a unanimous vote to purchase the shelving. The shelving has been purchased. Robe cleaning was discussed and decided the cleaning should occur prior to Pascha. Larisa is working with Pete on the Ordination Luncheon plans.

New Business: A new Directory and Phone Tree will be updated for the February meeting.

Clergy report: Data will be collected on the number of people attending services. Pres. Maria will attend the Metropolis Presbytera Retreat at St. Nicholas ranch January 24-26. Liaisons to the following committees for 2020 are: Family Welcome: Gloria; Philia: Larisa; Church School: Kay; Prayer Circle: Stella. Dates: Feb. 24-25 Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly. June 29-July 3 National CLA. A new Orthodox Christian is being released and will be joining our parish. Father has known this individual for years and will be working with the probation officer and Gloria (as head of Parish safety). We need to be looking at the future of the changing status of the Salem Mission and the needs of the Roseburg Mission and how it will affect us financially.

Next meeting is Monday, February 3rd @6:30 pm. Executive Board at 5:30pm.

## Treasurer's Report:

Operational Funds Balance as of January 31, 2020 - \$64,381

Dedicated Funds Balance as of January 31, 2020 - \$52,348

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our committee will meet February 2, and we will plan our fundraisers for 2020. Our next fundraiser will be our Evening in Greece Dinner this May. Details will be coming soon. Please let Presvytera Maria know if you would like to volunteer.

## Missions and Evangelism Ministry Report: January 2020

### Missions and Evangelism Ministry

With the Triodion starting February 9 and Lent starting March 2, the M&E team would like to let you know what all will be happening during this period.

First off, we will gather items again this year for the "blessing bags". Last year was very successful and it seemed everyone enjoyed offering these to homeless individuals. Soon, there will be a large collection box in the fellowship hall for you to place your donations. We will be including the following items:

toothbrushes/small toothpaste

granola type bars

fruit snacks or fruit containers (no spoons required)

socks (for men and women)

sunscreen (in small bottles)

sanitizing hand wipes

protein that can be eaten easily (no can openers required)

bottled water

Father is planning a "Clean Monday Mini-retreat" that would begin Sunday evening, March 1 with Forgiveness Vespers. In keeping with the realization that Lent is a healing period, he will offer Holy Unction Monday March 2. More on all this will be coming soon.

### Preparing with you, Kathryn Becker

### Greetings from the Bookstore!

Something New: Book Reviews. In an effort to provide a wider selection of books in general and of interest, the Bookstore will now have "Book Reviews" available. These initial reviews have been provided by St. George parishioners and will continue to develop. The reviews will include books already available, as well as others that can be ordered, and I welcome any others you might like to share.

If you have questions, please let me know.

On Display: 200-year-old prayer book from Ethiopia. This beautiful prayer book is being shared by one of our parishioners. It is a collection of prayers authorized by two separate people in the ancient Ethiopian language. The parishioner's father received the book as a gift from an Ethiopian business associate when he lived in Italy in the 1950's, and at that time it was close to 150 years old. The prayer book has remained with the family since then.

As always, thank you for your support, and I welcome suggestions. I wish you many blessings and much peace.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

**PHILIA**

The Vasilopita luncheon that Philia sponsored on January 12 was a great success. The table was laden with lots of tasty foods which were very quickly consumed by hungry parishioners. Loaves of bread were auctioned off and all proceeds were donated to St. Basil's Academy. Thank you to all who participated in this event.

Nikki has been announcing her upcoming birthday for the last few months, and we will be, finally, celebrating it on February 23rd. In her honor, all Philia ladies plan to wear pink and black. Family members and anyone else who would like to join in are welcome to match her colors. We'll take a happy group picture of all. On March 1, Cheesefare Sunday, Philia plans to hold its annual Augment Your Lent Event, a fundraiser for the Community Court Lunches. A variety of Lenten foods will be offered for sale, giving parishioners a head start into their Lenten journey.

**Plans for the future:**

- Augment Your Lent Event on March 1, 2020.
- Community Court Lunches on May 1, June 5, Aug 7, Sept 4, 2020.

For info on wedding or baptismal items contact Gloria at 541-424-0575 or via email at zeazeastimons@gmail.com.

**Next meetings: February 9, 2020 and March 29, 2020.**

**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  
julielenkoff2@comcast.net

**Stewardship Report**

Many thanks to all the families and individuals who are participating in our 2020 stewardship campaign. To date, there are forty-five households which have returned their 2020 stewardship card. However, in 2019, we had forty-seven cards at this time and in 2018 fifty. Perhaps the missing stewards have merely misplaced their cards, or they've just been too busy to prayerfully consider their 2020 support of Saint George.

If you can't find your stewardship card, there are still plenty of blank 2020 cards in the narthex anxiously awaiting your participation. Have a blessed month.

**Prayer Ministry**

The burdens we carry, we are not meant to bear alone. We were not created that way. While we each must carry our own burdens, we must also carry one another's. Like strong little burros, we trudge up the mountain path of our life, and the burden breaks our backs, because we were designed for community, not loneliness.

Please let me or Joanna know your prayer requests, and if possible drop them in the offering box. Also, if you can, meet me at the Prayer Circle every Tuesday at 5. Children are welcome too.

Bonni Sollars  
541-852-9496

**From the Missions...****Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ-**

February is a joyful time for us at Holy Cross! Our January budget assembly is usually quite the team-building exercise, so we often start February with a sense of purpose and excitement. This month we have 2 big events planned: A pilgrimage to St. John the Forerunner Monastery and our annual House Blessing caravan. We'll also be sending 2 delegates to the Clergy-Laity Assembly, thanks to a generous scholarship from the Metropolis Missions and Evangelism ministry - yes, those are your Missions Possible donations at work! Thank you! We'd love to have you join us for a service, you can check with Father Jerry for the service schedule or check out our website calendar at [RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org](http://RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org).

**In Christ - Lisa Buck**  
**Holy Cross, Roseburg, OR**

**Greetings from Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church!**

My offering this month is the Sea of Sin Blog author's book review excerpt of *Beauty for Ashes* by Stephen Lloyd-Moffett

"...The value of this book is in its refreshing approach it offers to the common struggles the Church faces in the modern world. We must change while remaining unchanged; we must shine while embracing obscurity. The power of true, authentic spirituality is the very power of God in our midst. "Our hope does not lie in trendy charismatic revivals, clever programs, or well-designed worldly motivators. Our hope is not placed in a human institution. Our hope is in God. As long as the true nature of the Church is not forgotten, we will never lose hope and fall into despair no matter what the circumstances we face. Yet this hope is predicated upon an understanding of the Church as the mystical vessel of God's grace and will. It is not an institution we run, but a mystery in which we dwell. Only then will we be energized by the imperishable Life of Jesus Christ." May we all be energized by the imperishable Life of Christ, indeed. There is much work to do, much transformation needed. First and foremost by and in me. May God in His ineffable mercy grant it so."

**Maria Hauser Holy Resurrection Mission of Salem**

## February Celebrations

### Birthdays

February 4th-Rachel-Leah Avalos  
 February 10th-Brett Batterson, Theodore Lipson  
 February 13th-Isabel Jaquette  
 February 15th-Bill Lilles, Octavian Moling  
 February 17th-Johanna Williamson  
 February 19th-Richard Green  
 February 22nd-Tyler Campbell  
 February 27th-Nikki Lenkoff, Mahtot Shitie  
 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, January 31st and the breakfast on Saturday, February 1st. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction:** Our annual Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction took place on Sunday, January 12th, following the divine services. This event was sponsored by Philia and benefits St Basil Academy, a home for at-risk children. Thanks to your generosity, nearly \$2500 dollars was raised! Special thanks to Froso and Pete Drakatos for their generous donations of so many Vasilopita!
- **House Blessing:** February is typically one of the months of the year for having your house and/or business blessed. If you would like Father Jerry to come and do a blessing, please contact him directly.
- **Baptized in Christ:** In the month of January four new members were received into the Church by Baptism. The first was Roman Bakhtin Lowe, son of Jeff and Daria Lowe, who received baptism on January 7th. His sponsors are Dimitri & Yelena Laptov, and he was given the name Romanos. The second was James Dimitrios Avramides, son of Dimitrios & Tina Avramides, who received baptism on January 19th. His sponsor is Michael Avramides, and he was given the name Dimitrios. The third and fourth were Harmony & Ellie Hartman, granddaughters of Bonnie Solars, who received baptism on January 26th. Their sponsor is Helen Spears, and they were given the name, Irene (Harmony) & Eleni (Ellie)
- **Asleep in the Lord:** Our sister in Christ, Froso Drakatos, fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, Jan 27th. Her funeral was on Friday, January 31st, and she was interred in a family plot in Coos Bay later that day. May she rest in peace and may God grant rest to her soul where the righteous dwell.
- **Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly:** This year's Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly will take place February 24-25th, at St Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center. The Metropolis Family Wellness ministry is the featured ministry this year and George Papageorge, a licensed marriage and family therapist will be the featured speaker. His talks include a presentation on "How to ignite and Family Wellness Ministry in your Parish". Please be praying for Father and our delegates, for safe travel and a fruitful assembly.
- **Great Lent 2020:** The Triodion, a three-week period preparing us for the start of Great Lent, begins on Sunday, February 9th. This means that Sunday, February 23rd is Meat-fare Sunday, the last Sunday for meat products. On Saturday, February 29th, there will be Orthros & Divine Liturgy, followed by memorial prayers as we commemorate the Saturday of Souls. Great Lent begins two-days later on March 2nd. We are making plans for a Clean Monday retreat that will conclude with the Sacrament of Holy Unction. Details are forthcoming. May it be blessed!
- **Reminder:** Just a reminder that you are welcome to join us each Saturday afternoon at 4:45 pm to learn more about the liturgical music we use for the Divine Services.

# KOINONIA

	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23	
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Carroll, Kallianis, Sollars	Tussing, Lipson	Carmack, Hartig	Lenkoff, Larisa L	
<b>GREETER</b>	Stella	Helen S	Larisa	Jerry	
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Markopoulos	Lilles	Kaelin	Creech	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	Week of 2/3 Markopoulos	Week of 2/10 Hutanu, Mueller	Week of 2/17 Sebastian, Muresan	Week of 2/24 Kaelin, Jaquette	

## GET INVOLVED!!!

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

<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>	Kay Mehas 541-
<b>SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
<b>BOOKSTORE</b>	Stella Kallianis 541-274-9110
<b>PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
<b>CHANTER/CHANT GROUP</b>	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
<b>FAMILY WELLNESS</b>	Ashli Mueller 541-731-3319
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>GREETERS</b>	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
<b>CARE MINISTRY</b>	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
<b>PRAYER CIRCLE</b>	Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
<b>MISSIONS &amp; EVANGELISM</b>	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
<b>FUNDRAISERS</b>	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

<sup>iesi</sup>  
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church  
202 Hillview 1  
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

**A Good word...**

**From the Epistle of Barnabas  
(Circa 1st Century)**

**“You shall not slay the child by procuring abortion;  
nor shall you destroy it after it is born.**

**You shall not withdraw your hand from your son or  
your daughter, but from their infancy you shall teach  
them the fear of the Lord”**