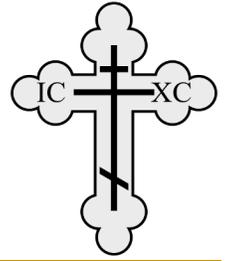




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JAN.-2020

Dear Ones,

Happy New Year!

One of the most misunderstood Traditions in the Orthodox Church is the Sacrament of Baptism. First of all, the vast majority of people who are baptized are infants. They have no say in the matter and no memory of the service. Secondly, baptism is viewed as an event. It happens and then it is over. However, baptism is the initiation into an event that will last a lifetime, so it is not an end unto itself but rather it is a beginning. Most people think of baptism in the past tense, i.e. I was baptized, or I had my child baptized, as opposed to something that is present. To say “I was baptized” denotes an event that happened once and is now over. For those of us who are married, we don’t say “I was married on (whatever date you got married)”, as if to say that the marriage ceremony was an ending. We say “I am married,” because the date we were married brought us into a state of being which continues to the present, with both joys and obligations. The day we are baptized, we might say, is the day that we married Christ. But throughout our Christian life, we remain “married” to Him, with the joys and challenges that come along with it.

Saint Paul summarizes the baptism services, when he writes in II Corinthians 1: 21-22, “But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put His seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” In these two verses, he summarizes what would become, and still is, the sacrament of baptism in the Orthodox Church. When a baptism is celebrated in the Orthodox Church, the one being baptized experiences three sacraments—Baptism (He has put His seal upon us), Chrismation (Given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee) and Holy Communion (God who establishes us with you in Christ).

In baptism, we are initiated, which means God puts His mark on us. In the Old Testament, the mark of being one of God’s children was a physical mark of circumcision. In the New Testament, the mark of God on us is indelible. It is made with water. But a mark is made on us nonetheless. In Chrismation, we are confirmed (or probably better made firm) in faith by having the Spirit placed into our hearts. To make an analogy, when we wash a car, we first wash and clean the dirt. Then we wax the car to protect it from getting dirty. Baptism and Chrismation work in almost the same way. Baptism washes us. Chrismation seals us. Finally, in Communion, God continually establishes Himself in us, and we in Him through Christ, Who comes into us in a physical and tangible way each time we receive Him.

There is one more aspect of baptism that we tend to forget. And that is that Christ “has commissioned us.” (1:21) A commission in the military is an order to perform a specific task. One officer might be commissioned to lead a group of soldiers, another might be commissioned to oversee a ship and another might be commissioned to monitor security and intelligence. All military personnel are commissioned to do one thing—defend our country—but to do it in a different way. In the same way, all Christians are commissioned to do one thing—spread the Gospel—but we are commissioned to do it in a different way. Some will spread the Gospel as priests, some as Sunday school teachers, some as parents, some as encouragers, some as quiet witnesses. But all of us who have been baptized have received the same commission, the Great Commission, to “go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) This is why this Gospel passage is read at every baptism, because everyone who has been baptized becomes a disciple and receives the same charge that the first disciples received after the Resurrection of Christ.

A commission in the military lasts for a certain amount of time. Every few years, the serviceman is given the opportunity to re-enlist or to retire. If he retires, his commission ends. If he re-enlists, his commission remains.

A commission to be a disciple lasts for a lifetime. There will be many opportunities to leave the “army of Christ.” We have that opportunity daily through sin and temptation. However, we also have the opportunity daily to re-enlist in the

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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army through prayer and repentance. We re-enlist in a more formal way through the sacramental life of the church, specifically through frequent receiving of Holy Communion and through the Sacrament of Confession.

We need to think of our participation in the Christian life not merely in terms of membership—that we belong—but in terms of commission—we are expected to do something and that something is to spread the Gospel. Of course, before we spread the Gospel, we must learn it for ourselves. So, we must be good learners, faithful followers, and also spreaders of the Gospel—this is the commission that we are all called to do, each of us in a unique way. Daily prayer affirms our commission. Weekly worship provides us a corporate affirmation, it's where the whole local army (church community) gathers to affirm our commissions. Receiving Holy Communion strengthens our commissions because it gives us a personal encounter with our commander, our Savior, and allows us to carry Him in us as we go back out into battle.

Baptism is what initiates us into the faith. Chrismation brings the Holy Spirit and His grace into us. Holy Communion sustains us. And living out Christ's commission is what should give us focus, purpose and direction.

Live out your commission today, in whatever unique way God has called you!

Father Jerry

Parish Council

Revisions to the 2020 budget were discussed and passed on to the Parish Assembly for final approval. Those revisions included internet service and additional funds for cleaning the altar boy robes. OCF meetings are going well under the supervision of Deacon Steve. The parish has received several unsolicited, anonymous donations recently. They include \$20,000 for the building fund and smaller donations which will be used for the upcoming ordination of Deacon Steve, the visit of the Metropolitan for the ordination, and to refurbish the wooden sign at the entry to the parish property. We are also considering adding shelving to the storage room adjacent to the Nave.

Much of the meeting was centered on the involvement of all members in the preparation for fellowship hour and the cleaning of the church. It was decided to forward a recommendation to the parish assembly that two families, two individuals, or a couple be assigned to the cleaning of the church each week. Furthermore, that two or three families/individuals or couples share in the preparation of the fellowship hour. If the preparation for fellowship causes a financial burden on anyone, the parish will reimburse you.

This format follows those used by St. John Maximovich here in Eugene and St. John the Baptist in Beaverton. The meals would consist of healthy snacks, not a complete meal. Menu suggestions will be provided. All parishioners who are suffering from infirmities or over eighty years of age are excluded unless you specifically ask to be involved in preparing fellowship or cleaning. The recommendation passed the assembly unanimously. You will be receiving schedules shortly. If you have a special requests (for partners or excluded dates, etc.), please contact Neal Zoumboukos (541-344-4485) as soon as possible. If you are not on the schedule and wish to be, likewise contact Neal.

The buildings in which we worship, the classrooms in which we teach our youth, and the hall in which we break bread together were all built in a large part by parishioner involvement - hands on, sweat equity involvement. This is an effort to recapture that involvement and participation; help each other; and grow closer together in the process.

Next meeting will be January, 6th at 6:30.

Treasurer's Report:

Operational Funds Balance December 31, 2019:
\$60,612

Dedicated Funds Balance December 31, 2019:
\$52,329

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are planning our events for the New Year. If you are interested in joining our committee, please see Presv. Maria

Our next meeting will be Jan. 26 after church.

Missions and Evangelism Ministry Report: January 2020

As 2019 comes to a close, and we look forward to 2020, the Missions and Evangelism team would like to thank you for continuing to be a friendly parish that welcomes visitors.

Did you know that a guest determines whether they will come back to your church (parish) in the first seven minutes of arriving?

That's not much time! In the next year, we hope to improve the look of the sign at the entrance to the church grounds. We hope to increase the number of greeters so we can double up during the busy 9:45-10:15 time slot.

And overall, we hope to inspire each of us to be more enthusiastic about our faith and our parish! If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please contact myself or Father.

Your servant, Kathryn Becker; 971-506-7161 beckerettes@msn.com

Greetings from the Bookstore!

This month's Bookstore Highlights begin with Father Jerry's suggested reading. "Apostle to the Plains: The Life of Father Nicola Yanney." In search of a better life for his family, in 1892 he leaves his home abroad to come to America. Over time, life experiences and a visit from a saint change the course of his life. Hearing God's call and seeing the desperate need of his fellow Orthodox Christians, he spends the rest of his life traversing the Great Plains as a Priest to thousands of parishioners in the farmlands of Nebraska and beyond. Father Yanney was the first priest to be ordained by the first Orthodox Bishop consecrated in the Western Hemisphere.

New to the Bookstore: "Holy Fire, the Miracle of the Light of the Resurrection at the Tomb of Jesus" Excerpt from the introduction: "Each year at noon on Holy Saturday, a light descends on the tomb of Jesus, the Holy Sepulchre, and ignites the vigil lamp (the holy oil lamp) in the tomb's interior, while at the same time a blue incandescence from the same lamp diffuses throughout the Church, illuminating the entire area and spontaneously igniting other lamps and candles around the Church." (Seventy historical accounts from the 4th to 6th C.)

"My Life in Christ: The Spiritual Journals of St. John of Kronstadt" As one of the most beloved modern works of Orthodox Christian spirituality, the reader will be drawn into the author's profound spiritual experience and love for Jesus Christ and the Church. (In St. John's own words, translated from the original 1897 Russian.)

Thank you all for your support throughout 2019! I wish you many blessings and much peace. In Christ,
Stella Kallianis

Care Ministry

Gifts were provided by the Care Ministry to the Homebound at Christmas. Fr. Jerry delivered the gifts and visited with these parishioners. For those that are not able to get out much, meeting with the Priest is a special privilege that they look forward to. I heard from a gracious lady this afternoon. She was thrilled that Fr. Jerry came to visit and reported that after he left she cried because she misses attending church, but no longer is able due to her health conditions.

From the Care Ministry Team to each of you: May 2020 be blessed with faith, love, hope, health, and happiness.

Monthly Challenge: Take time this month to seek out a visitor or another member whom you do not know. Introduce yourself and invite him/her to sit with you during Fellowship Hour.

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

PHILIA

On December 22, Philia members met in the back of the fellowship hall for our annual White Elephant Philia Party. It was a successful gathering. More than twenty women were present with an assortment of children and we were happy to include a couple of newcomers to the group as well. We enjoyed the camaraderie, chit-chat, the wine, the snacks and the silly presents which were unwrapped by their prospective owners amidst oohs, ahas or peals of laughter. It was a fun afternoon and even with some absences, our large group, which required a tight squeeze around four tables, was impressive! Thank you, Ladies! We wish everyone a very Merry Blessed Christmas and a successful, prosperous and harmonious New Year!

Plans for the future:

* Vasilopita Luncheon - January 12, 2020

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 meetings: January 19, 2020 & February 9, 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

Thank you to the forty-two families/individuals who returned their 2020 stewardship card. Your response was tremendous. Presently, \$148,882 has been pledged for the services and ministries of our parish. This is an average of \$3,545. This does not balance the 2020 budget, but we are really, really close. If you have not returned your 2020 stewardship card, it's not too late. Please fill out your card and drop it off in the "Stewardship" box located in the Narthex of the church. If you have misplaced your card, there are more located adjacent to the box. May we have a blessed new year.

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...

It's a new year—a time when many of us make resolutions. I'd like to challenge you to be 'Missions Minded' with your resolutions this year! Here are some resolutions to consider for 2020: Resolve to pray for each of our missions by name, at least once per week. Our Mission parishes are located in Maui, HI, Lake Havasu City, AZ, Flagstaff, AZ (Holy Cross), Pasco, WA (St. Nectarios), Salem OR (Holy Resurrection), and Roseburg, OR (Holy Cross). Pray weekly for the Priests who are serving Mission Parishes. Pray for Fr. John Angelis, Fr. Alexander Leong, Fr. Andrew Barakos, Fr. Timothy Pavaltos, Fr. Seraphim Ramos, Fr. Jeffrey Frate, Fr. Earl Cantos, Fr. Alban West, Fr. Ed Hillhouse, and our very own Fr. Jerry. Resolve to support the Missions Possible Campaign this year. St. George had a remarkable donation last year, and the missions felt the direct benefit! Please consider continuing, or even increasing, your contribution. Resolve to visit one or more of the missions this year. Your presence is an incredible encouragement to us!

With much love in Christ - Lisa Buck, Holy Cross Mission of Roseburg.

Greetings from Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church!

Wow, it's so nice to say that!

It's January of a new year, reflecting on the gratefulness in our hearts for all of the joys and miracles we've experienced in 2019. We are grateful that Met. Gerasimos came to visit, gave us our name of Holy Resurrection, and blessed our property. We're grateful for the continued development of the Metropolis Missions and Evangelism Ministry, specifically thanks to our Metropolitan, Fr. Jerry, and Thomaida's leadership to help retire the mortgage on our new property! We're thankful for the Ordination of Deacon Stephanos who brought his family to live in Salem! We're thankful for each you at St. George for your prayers and support of Fr. Jerry and Dn. Stephanos in their endeavors of missionary work on our behalf. Of course, we're most thankful to God for His love and mercy in all things, and especially for bringing people searching for the Truth of our Faith and the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. We anticipate 2020 to continue in fruitful growth and progress as we look forward to Dn. Stephanos' Ordination to the Priesthood and beginning to develop plans for our property. Glory to God and may He grant you all many blessings this coming year!

Maria Hauser

January Celebrations**Birthdays**

January 4th-Nikolas Jon Pos

January 9th-Jack Buck

January 10th-Dimitri Kokkino

January 18th-Lenny Buck

January 22nd-Lisa Buck

Feast Days

January 1st-St Basil the Great

Bill Lilles

January 7th-St John the Baptist

John Lallas, Joan Rundt, Jan Schmidt, Jack Buck

January 18th-St Athanasius the Great

Art Mehas

January 22nd-St Timothy

Timothy Kaelin

January 25th- St Gregory the Great

Greg Sebastian

Wedding Anniversaries

January 3rd

Charlie & Stephanie Carroll

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

January 9th

The Buck Family

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in January are: Food prep on Friday, January 3rd and the breakfast on Saturday, January 4th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Feast of Theophany/Epiphany:** Services for the Feast of Theophany/Epiphany are as follows: Royal Hours on Friday, January 3rd, beginning at 9 am. Forefeast of Theophany, Sunday, January 5th, Orthros at 9 am followed by Liturgy. At the conclusion of Liturgy there will be a Great Blessing of Water. On the actual Feast, Monday, January 6th, Orthros & Liturgy beginning at 9 am, followed by another Great Blessing of Water. Come and celebrate the baptism of Christ!
- **Free Concert:** The Vocal Ensemble Cappella Romana will be performing a free concert on Thursday, January 9th, beginning at 7:30 pm. The event will take place at the Central Lutheran Church in Eugene. The concert features virtuoso Byzantine cantor Stelios Kontakiotis and is titled, "Hymns of Kassiane".
- **Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction:** Our annual Vasilopita Luncheon & Auction will take place on Sunday, January 12th, following the divine services. This event is sponsored by Philia and the proceeds go to St Basil Academy, a home for at-risk children. Please join us and be generous in your support of the Academy.
- **House Blessing:** January is typically the month for having your house and/or business blessed. If you would like Father Jerry to come and do a blessing, please contact him directly.
- **Announcing a one day workshop:** "Developing an End-of-Life Ministry", Saturday, January 25th. For over twenty years, women of the Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukie, Oregon, have assisted families in preparing their loved ones for burial. Out of this has grown a Funeral Team ministry that includes assisting individuals in making their end-of-life plans, arranging the purchase of cemetery plots, preparing the deceased for burial, assisting the clergy and family at funerals, and managing interments at the parish cemetery. If your parish is interested in learning how to establish a similar ministry, we invite you to attend a one day workshop at the C of the A, Milwaukie, OR. Who should attend? Clergy and members of Orthodox parishes interested in forming a ministry to those nearing death and throughout the burial process. When: Saturday, January 25th. Where: 13515 SE Rusk Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222 For more information contact: annunciationoregon@hotmail.com, 503-659-3646 or M. Elizabeth Lien at: elizabeth.lien39@gmail.com

Philia's White Elephant Social
A fun time was had by all!



KOINONIA

| | 1/5 | 1/12 | 1/19 | 1/26 | |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| FELLOWSHIP | Markopoulos/ Lilles | Vasilopita Luncheon | Becker/Mehas | Avalos/Rundt/ Campbell | |
| GREETER | Stella | Helen S | Larisa | Jerry | |
| PROSFORON | Creech | Lilles | Kaelin | Markopoulos | |
| FLOWERS | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | |
| READERS | Brad Thomas | Brad Thomas | Brad Thomas | Brad Thomas | |
| CLEANING CREW | Week of 1/6 Thomas/ Sumstine | Week of 1/13 Sollars/ Kallianis | Week of 1/20 Spears/ Kennedy | Week of 1/27 Bill & Lisa Lilles | |

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 |
| FAMILY WELLNESS | Ashli Mueller 541-731-3319 |
| FELLOWSHIP | Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485 |
| 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 |

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
202 Hillview 1
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A Good word...

As quoted in Jean-Yves Leloup, 'Being Still': Reflections on an Ancient Mystical Tradition.' (New York, Paulist Press, 2003, p.124)

“A strange illness has appeared in our days – the passion for distractions. Never before was there such a desire for distractions; people have forgotten how to lead a serious life for the good of others; they have no spiritual life and are bored. They exchange the profound content of a spiritual life for distractions! What madness! It is here that we must re-introduce into life its lost meaning and the knowledge of the true purpose of life.”

Let us resolve to make a change in the new year!