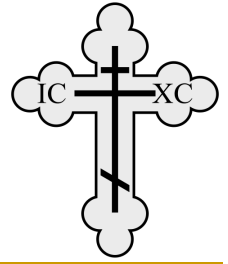




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JAN 2019

"Prayer is not a Selfie"

Happy New Year!

American religious life is, probably more than we realize or wish to acknowledge, self-obsessed. When we pray for instance, we're usually thinking about ourselves and those closest to us. In a recent survey it was learned that eight in ten pray for family and friends, while seven pray for their own difficulties and problems. One pastor's reaction to the survey was telling. He said that churches have failed to teach their people how to pray. Untutored by those with more spiritual maturity, we default to self-centered prayer. We also see this same sort of self-centeredness in other areas. According to a 2013 Barna study, the two primary reasons Christians give for attending church are to grow closer to God and learn about Him. While neither of those are bad reasons they are still self-focused reasons. Even on the flip side, when people were asked their reasons for not attending church, they say things like, "I found God someplace else or I don't find church personally relevant. Again the answers are self-focused. So whether people engage or not, if people are using their faith for their own ends, then there is a problem. It's the ethic of self, and it usually leads people into asking the question, "Is Jesus working for me or not?"

From an Orthodox perspective prayer is not about you or me. When the disciples came to Christ for guidance on prayer, He didn't tell them to petition God for everything they felt they were missing or all the troubles they faced, at least not specifically or directly. He gave them the words of the Lord's prayer, which employs plural pronouns for the petitioners. It is our this and us that. St Cyprian of Carthage comments, "The teacher of peace and master of unity desires that we should not make our prayer individually and alone, as whoever prays by himself prays only for himself. We do not say: "My Father, who art in heaven," nor "Give me this day my bread." Nor does anybody request that his debt be pardoned for himself alone, nor ask that he alone not be lead into temptation and delivered from the evil one. Our prayer is common and collective, and when we pray we pray not for one but for all people, because we are all one people together." Prayer is communal, inclusive and plural. It involves us all. When we focus on ourselves in prayer, we miss the point of prayer. So how do we get out of the rut of self-centered prayer? The Church offers us guidance and tells us that liturgical prayer should be our tutor. She also says that traditional private prayer can guide us as well. Bases covered!

The entire Christian life is communal, encompassing how we worship, interpret the Bible, and especially how we pray. Given the individualist bent of our wider culture, that means purposefully leaning toward the instruction of the Church and praying not just for ourselves, but for any and all.

Father Jerry

p.s. Our Prayer Circle ministry meets every Saturday evening at 5 pm, before Great Vespers. Please see Bonnie Sollars for more information

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**

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Email: frgerasimos@sntgrg.org**

Parish Council is...

A Parish Council is the administrative body of a Church community elected by its stewards for the purpose of working together with the Parish Priest in fulfilling the mission and goals of that particular community.

Parish Council members serve as role models for parishioners and must take their ministry very seriously. They should lead by example by attending Church and parish events, and regularly participating in the sacramental life of the Church. By doing so, they will have a powerful effect on the overall life of the community. If Parish Council members treat everyone with love and respect, as Christ loves us, then parishioners will do likewise. The Council members must practice Servant leadership by identifying and examining the ministry needs of the parishioners and taking the necessary steps to meet those needs, whether through the improvement and expansion of existing ministries or through the creation of new ones.

The most important responsibility of the Parish Council is to assist the Parish Priest in the administration of the ministries of the Parish. Some of the principal roles employed by effective Parish Councils include, but are not limited to, planning, developing, organizing, and implementing stewardship programs and various educational ministries of the Church; reporting and communicating to the parishioners the work and ministries of the Church at the Metropolis and Archdiocesan levels; and recruiting and training others for further service. In all things, Council members should imitate our Lord Jesus Christ, who "came not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). The entire focus of the Parish Council must be to serve the needs of the faithful and to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We wish to congratulate Neal Zoumboukos, Gloria Zezeas Timmons and Stella Kallianis for being elected to the 2019 Parish Council. They join Art Mehas, Ron Muresan, Larisa Lilles and Greg Sebastian to make up the 2019 Parish Council. The new Parish Council will be sworn in on Sunday, January 6th.

May they be blessed!

STEWARDSHIP 2019

Thank you to everyone who has returned their 2019 stewardship card and a special thank you to those who filled out both sides. Offerings of your TIME and TALENT are just as important as the offering of your treasure. At the present time, our average stewardship pledge for the new year is \$3,800. Your support of Saint George and our ministries is most appreciated. If you have not returned your 2019 stewardship card, please do so. If you've misplaced your card, there are extras on the table in the Narthex right next to the "Stewardship" box. A blessed New Year to all!

Saint George Stewardship Committee**Treasurer's Report**

As we enter the New Year, our carry-over from 2018 will be strong. The Operations Account is presently at \$36,774, and the Dedicated Account stands at \$23,171.

Thank you for your support of Saint George!

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
Happy New Year!**

Thanks to all who helped and supported our annual Bake Sale & Craft Fair. It was a success and we had a festive time. Our friends in the community enjoy coming year after year and reconnecting with us.

Everyone enjoyed all the delicious pastries and food. We still have all pastries for sale. See Julie or Presv. Maria if you'd like some.

Our next committee meeting is January 13, after church.

Thank you!
Presbytera Maria

Missions and Evangelism Report

Dear fellow parishioners,

As we close out 2018 and look forward to 2019, I wanted to review what the Missions and Evangelism Ministry includes. Overall, it can be summarized as increasing the overall mission mindset in our parish. Since St. George has been so instrumental in helping mission parishes in Salem and Roseburg, we already have a good history in these endeavors. But, locally, right here in Eugene, perhaps we can increase our visibility and be even more welcoming to anyone looking for the authentic Ancient Christian faith.

- New welcome packets will be printed soon, thanks to help from the Metropolis. If you would like to participate in being a greeter on Sunday mornings, please let myself or Larisa Lilles know.
- Please personally continue to smile and greet all newcomers, invite them to fellowship hour and introduce them to others.
- Next, we hope to increase adult education this year and may even try to have a mini faith retreat. These can be prior to Lent or Advent, for example, or on topics related to family, relationships, etc. Please let me know if there is a topic you'd like to pursue.
- Increasing our parish visibility is always a challenge. We have been able to improve our parish website and still are seeking to improve our signage and visibility on Coburg and in the city, in general.
- Missions Possible will of course be part of our ministry this spring. Start putting aside money now for that, if possible.
- Our bookstore is going to continue to look for ways to be improved and supply more books. Let Stella know if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to serve. We would love to be open during all events at the parish.
- OCF continues to grow through Father's efforts and with help from our intern, Steve Tussing.
- And lastly, the ministry will try to improve our awareness of foreign missions, OCMC events and Project Mexico.

Thanks so much for considering helping in any or all of these areas. I'm excited for what 2019 will bring to our parish and for each of us as we continue to grow in our faith.

Your servant, Kathryn Becker

CARE MINISTRY

To close out the year's activities, the Care Ministry Team provided flower bouquets as Nativity gifts to our Home-Bound Parishioners.

We are looking forward to meeting the needs of our parishioners in 2019. Referrals can be made to Fr. Jerry or directly to the Care Ministry Coordinator. Referral Forms can also be found on the Resource Table in the Narthex.

May God bless you with love, faith, and hope in the new year.

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons

Care Ministry Coordinator

PHILIA

Albeit some were away for the holidays, ten of us including Pres' mom, Kathy, gathered in the back of the fellowship hall for a fun and silly Philia's White Elephant Christmas party. We chatted, opened anonymously wrapped gifts, laughed at the contents, munched, enjoyed some snacks and wine, and had a jolly good time just visiting with each other. For a change, it was a relaxing, labor-free get-together, a novelty for our hard-working group, recuperating from a very busy Pastry Fair. A happy 2019 to all!

Plans for the future:

* Vasilopita Luncheon - January 13, 2019

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 meeting: January 20, and February 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

Greetings from the Bookstore and Happy New Year!

When a new year begins, we sometimes reflect on the previous year and look ahead to the coming year with hope and renewal. As we begin this New Year, here are some things you might wish to consider:

A Daily Calendar of Saints: a collection of lives of saints, one or more for each day of the calendar year.

Avvakum the Barefoot, 1894-1978. The life of a humble aesthetic on Mount Athos who taught all to be courteous and discerning, holding tight to the True Faith, yet loving and not judging.

Hear Me. For young adults, ages 15 and up. A prayer book designed to address the challenges faced by Orthodox youth.

And, of course, if there is something in which you are interested or would like to suggest, please let me know.

I wish you many blessings and much peace.

In Christ,

Stella Kallianis

From the Missions...**Christ is Born!**

The Feast of Nativity is full of startling and incredible events. It is often our habit to think of these miracles as happening in the past - the shepherds, the star, the manger - all beautiful, but definitely historical.

In his recent Encyclical, Metropolitan Gerasimos reminds us that the miracle of the Incarnation is happening now, in our parish! He writes:

At the Great Feast of Christmas, each one of our churches become a symbolic Bethlehem, carrying us to the manger where we find the newborn child, Jesus... The news that Christ is born, once again, will fill us with joy and hope and we will take this message from our parishes to our homes and the world around us. That is the proof of our faith!

Just as Christ came humbly, so He comes to us in our 'quite ordinary' parish. What a miracle, that the Kingdom of God has come into our life! Please continue to pray for Holy Cross, as we strive to live and share this joyous message of the Incarnation.

You can read the entirety of the Christmas Encyclical at: sanfran.goarch.org/news/christmas-encyclical-2018

In Christ, Lisa Buck

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

We were so blessed to be given the opportunity to say these words to one another at the first Nativity services celebrated at the Salem Mission on December 24th and 25th, 2018. It's always a huge blessing to not have to set up and take down our things while the school is on Christmas vacation, but this year even more so. It's an amazing feeling to walk into our space and not have to rush around, but just venerate the festively decorated icon already in place and enter in. Not to mention, being able to relax and visit after the service and not having to put nearly everything away before leaving! We are once again extremely grateful for Fr. Alban in providing these new firsts for the Salem mission.

We pray that you all have a very blessed year as you continue to seek and serve our Lord and His Church in 2019.

In Christ Incarnate, 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 19th-St Mark of Ephesus

Mark Hauser

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

Michael, Zinida, Elias, Mary & John Buck

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 4th and the breakfast on Saturday, January 5th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Parish Council Elections:** Congratulations to Neal Zoumboukos, Gloria Zeazeas Timmons and Stella Kallianis who were elected to the 2019 Parish Council. They join Art Mehas, Ron Muresan, Larisa Lilles and Greg Sebastian to form the 2019 Parish Council. The 2019 Parish Council will take the Oath of Office in on Sunday, January 6th.
- **Chrismations:** Dr Thomas and Mrs. Marie Drakes, were received in to the Church on Christmas Day by Chrismation. Thomas took the name Peter and his sponsor is Michael Becker. Marie took the name Mary and her sponsor is Kathryn Becker. May they live for us!
- **Alms for the poor:** Thanks to your generosity and mercy, alms in the amount of \$2313 were given to those in need in 2018. Philia contributed \$500 and the rest came from the alms box. Thank you for your philanthropy! Many people in need were blessed by you!
- **Epiphany Service Schedule:** Services for the feast of the Baptism of Christ are as follows: Royal Hours of Epiphany on Friday, January 4th, at 9 am. Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Baptism of Christ will be on Sunday, January 6th, at the normal Sunday times. Following the services we will celebrate the Great Blessing of the Waters. Looking forward to celebrating our Lord's baptism with you!
- **Vasilopita Auction and Luncheon:** Please join us on Sunday, January 13th, for our annual Vasilopita (St. Basil's Bread) auction and luncheon sponsored by Philia and Pete Drakatos. Loaves of Vasilopita are prepared by parishioners and auctioned to raise funds for St Basil Academy, a home for children in Garrison, NY. A delicious lunch is served and donations for the lunch also go to St Basil Academy. Please plan on joining us!
- **House Blessing Basics:** The month of January is the traditional time for House Blessings. This is an ancient tradition of the Church related to the Great Blessing of the Waters (January 6th). We take Holy Water from church and use it to bless our lives in every way possible. The priest blesses us, our homes, vehicles, etc, and by extension, all creation. Not only do we receive a special blessing, but through that blessing, God enables us to see His creation in a redeemed way-as a means of greater union and communion with Him. For a House Blessing, a short prayer service is offered by the priest in your home. The priest proceeds through the house sprinkling Holy Water as he goes. A bowl, lit candle, icon of Christ and some greenery are needed on your part. To schedule a House Blessing, call, text or email Father Jerry.
- **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.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Happy New Year!

KOINONIA

	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	
FELLOWSHIP		Vasilopita Luncheon	Payne	Rundt/Campbell	
GREETER	Stella	Helen S	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Strand	Lilles	Kaelin	Creech	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	1/5 Drakes	1/12 Mueller	1/19 Markopoulos	1/26 A & L 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 541-335-9256
CHANTER/CHANT GROUP	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN	Art Mehas 541-485-8671
FELLOWSHIP	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

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

A good word...

“Out of burning love, Thou didst come down from heaven.

From eternal beauty, Thou didst descend into monstrous pain.

From eternal light, Thou didst descend into the thick darkness of
evil.

Thou didst extend Thy holy hand to those choked in sin.

Heaven was amazed, the earth quaked.

Welcome, O Christ! O ye peoples, rejoice!!