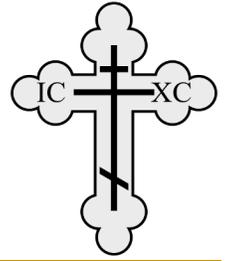




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JULY-2020

Excerpts from the blog post "Beauty and Iconoclast" by Fr. Stephen Freeman

"Every human being is an icon of God... so iconoclasm is a much larger matter than smashing statues and such. It also includes the hatred of others and the injustice that grinds them into the dust. The quiet iconoclasm of poverty and the like are insidious in that they're so quiet they look like an act of nature. Iconoclasm can only be overcome through love, the love of the beauty of the image of God wherever it is found." -

Scenes of statues toppling and pictures of defaced public spaces can be disturbing. There is an instinct at work surrounding images (both their making and their destruction) – one that is profoundly religious in nature. As such, it has the capacity to save us or to destroy us. But make no mistake – it is filled with power. Not all Christians care for icons. Some positively despise them. But none of them can deny the power of the image (icon) itself. "Image" is the word used to describe the very act of human creation. We are created according to the "image and likeness" of God. No other statement enshrines the dignity and true worth of human beings in such an inarguable manner. It puts a stamp of ultimacy on our very existence. Not only are we described as having been created in the image of God, but our salvation itself is portrayed as a return to the fullness of that image as we behold the face of Christ.

But we are also "smashers" (iconoclasts). When Rome defeated Carthage in 146 BC, it leveled the city. Some say that they even plowed the ground and sowed it with salt, consigning the space to oblivion. Such actions seem to have a role of "catharsis" or "cleansing," in which an enemy is not only defeated but erased. Who hasn't wanted to do such a thing to the memory of a hurt that haunts? We hear it echoed in St. Paul's prayer that "God will speedily crush down Satan under your feet" (Romans 16:20). We not only want Satan to be defeated – we want him erased.

We have to recognize both impulses within us (the love of icons and their smashing) to come to grips with the whole of who we are meant to be. At its deepest level, we do not understand icons until we understand beauty and its crucial role in our existence. The love of beauty and our desire for it are the most fundamental parts of our being. This is particularly true if we use the word "beauty" in the fullest sense of its meaning. Beauty encompasses being and truth as well. It is God's word for His creation (usually translated as "good," the word in Scriptures also means "beautiful"). That which is beautiful and good is reflective (iconic) of the God who created it. All of creation longs for union with this Beauty and groans for it to be made manifest. Nevertheless, the drive towards iconoclasm has remained rooted in our hearts. Every sin against another human being is a form of iconoclasm. Violence is probably its most dangerous form, although every sin against another carries an element of violence within it (Matt. 5:21-22). We are experiencing an unprecedented display of public anger and iconoclasm in our cities and news cycles. Of course, the quiet iconoclasm of injustice has far deeper and long-lasting effects. The one does not justify the other. Injustice added to injustice only adds up to injustice. That we might understand it does not change its nature.

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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The Church's witness to icons and their veneration is, ultimately, a witness to beauty. It is also a witness to the only path of salvation, both for individuals and the world as a whole. Iconoclasm and destruction are the work of a moment, driven by passion and the darkest places in our hearts. Anybody can smash. To make something beautiful takes care, love, and attention to detail. It is a work of holy living.

The opposite of iconoclasm is "iconodulia" (the honoring of icons). At its heart, iconodulia is the love of true beauty. Iconodulia requires inward attention as well as outward responsibility. It is slow and requires patience. Such beauty requires people who live beautiful lives. They need neither wealth nor power, only the living icon of the Logos to be manifest in their being. It is the secret to Christian "civilization" – not an empire maintained by force of arms or economic power. Rather Christian civilization is the politeuma of the heavenly city that is continually reborn in the heart of every Baptism. That city is built in the heart. It is there that we repent and there that we forgive. It is there that we find within us the image of the city that God has already prepared for us.

Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to acknowledge what a wonderful transition you, our St. George parishioners have made under very unusual circumstances. Thank you for learning the new reservation system and using it so proficiently. We are very blessed to have Mark, who is a very talented programmer to design a beautiful reservation system made specifically to meet the needs of our Parish. None of us would have ever imagined that to go to church we would need to make a reservation. Many, who for a variety of reasons may still be participating through the live streaming, please know that when the time is right to begin attending church in person, the system in place is very user friendly. Thank you, Mark!

We would like to thank all the parishioners that have been attending services at St. George for following the new guidelines that are provided for all our safety. It makes a difference! The need to feel safe in these unsettling times is very important. We must always remember God is within us and with us always. Coming soon: The Parish council realizes that many

things are different for all ages now when attending church. We have noticed that the face masks we provide at St. George do not fit children very well. We have a team that has selected fun patterned fabric for masks that meet the CDC guidelines. Gloria and Kathryn who are in charge of the safety implementation of our parish re-opening are making masks for younger children. In this Agape you will find an article about this project and children's face masks.

With Christ's Love, Your Parish Council

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We're hoping that as you gather (minimally) with family and friends, you will consider supporting St. George by purchasing some delicious Greek appetizers and desserts! We are selling tiropita and spanakopita, baklava and kourambiethes. Please let Presvytera Maria know if you would like any of these.

Spanakopita or Tiropita trays of 48 pcs. - \$25 ea.

Baklava \$22

Kourambiethes \$16

Pres. Maria

Stewardship Report

What is stewardship?

It is the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as individuals, as families, as a parish, as a metropolis, as a national church and as the Church Universal. Stewardship is our commitment to use our time, talent and treasure to the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love. It is caring for the needs of others; offering one's self to God as He offered Himself for us; and it is what a person does after saying "I Believe" as proof of that belief.

Greetings from the Bookstore! Happy Summer!

Bookstore Highlights:

At the close of a recent Service, Father mentioned the lives of Saints and that we should be thinking of them on a daily basis. The Saints have attained the "prize," which is the goal we all strive for; and by example and prayer, they encourage us to run the race well and keep the faith. Reading the lives of Saints is important for us as Orthodox Christians, as it can put us in touch on a daily basis with those who have run and finished the race.

Everyday Saints and Other Stories, by Archimandrite Tikhon, tells the story of five youth from non-religious backgrounds who come to join a monastery. They tell of their experiences with everyday saints they met. They tell of "a world of light and love, full of wondrous discoveries, hope, happiness, trials and tribulations, where even our defeats acquire profound significance; a world in which, above all, we can always sense powerful manifestations of divine strength and comfort." An excerpt from the first chapter, In the Beginning, "But I read the Scriptures every day, and more and more, reading it became a daily need. Especially because the Scriptures seemed to be the only medicine to save me from the gloom and despair that from time to time came back to me, ravaging my spirit. It was only after a year had passed that I realized that life without God would be completely meaningless for me."

Words for Thought:

In memory of my father, I often think of his most important lessons to me, especially at this past Father's Day. He was a Spartan, a man of few words....but his words were long lasting and significant. Over these last few months, I frequently have been remembering his words for patience and endurance ("me ipomoni"). Whatever we are faced with, good or bad, remember "ipomoni." (From Luke 21:19, By your patient endurance, you will gain your soul.) (And, yes, there is a St. Ipomoni (Patience), and one will be on display in the Bookstore later this month.)

Reminder: The Bookstore is open for self-serve during Father's office hours, Tuesday- Friday, or by appointment with me -- and I am happy to meet you at your convenience. (541-274-9110; 1gyroboy@gmail.com)

With wishes for many blessings and much peace. In Christ, Stella Kallianis

Greetings everyone from the Missions and Evangelism Ministry!

Perhaps you are like me, and wondering when all the turmoil in our country will end? We have had the Coronavirus shutdown and then the protests began. Personally, for me, the watching of the video of George Floyd dying seemed surreal. How could this really happen? I have been wondering how, we, as Orthodox Christians should respond? I know Father has been exhorting each of us to first—repent. I would like to add these 3 extra applications from a podcast I recently listened to. It was on Ancient Faith Radio and is entitled "Reconciling the Racial Divide" with Father Nick and Roxanne Louh. They interview Father Martin Johnson and he gives some great perspectives on what we can do.

These are his top three recommendations:

- 1) Take inventory of yourself and look for any biases you may have. Some may have been formed in us from our past upbringing, for example. Others are 'delivered' to us. Be willing to say you do not want to be part of any of them.
- 2) Remember during the Liturgy, before we recite the Creed, there is a time for love/reconciliation. After Father says "peace be unto all", and we respond "and to your spirit", Deacon or Father says "let us love one another". This act of love and reconciliation needs to pour forth unto all human beings. Remember, we need to give this love to everyone, even if we don't know them or they don't look anything like us. As a matter of fact, it should extend to those who aren't even Orthodox.
- 3) As Father Alexander Schmemmann said, Liturgy begins when worship ends. In other words, when you leave the church building, it's time to do the work and offer a little bit of Heaven to everyone who wasn't in church.

I hope these ideas can be used in each of our lives to not only transform us, but spread the love of Christ to all those around us.

For the Missions and Evangelism Ministry, Kathryn Becker

PHILIA

Our Philia Ladies, despite being apart, had been able to do some exemplary online dealings. Not only were we able to discuss and agree on donating money to help local organizations feed those in need during these complicated times, but we actually managed to plan a whole baby shower! The gifts were purchased, delivered and at our June 14th Zoom meeting, we all got to watch Jamie Avalos, plus some young family members, tear into the wrapping and enjoy the contents. We also discovered, to our dismay, that singing Happy Birthday to Larisa on Zoom gave rise to some rather discordant sounds. Always something new to learn! Please note, that two of our earlier Community Court lunches had been cancelled due to Covid, but so far those in August and September are still on. Here's a reminder of who signed up for them: August 7 - Pres and Julie, August 14 - Liana and family and September 4 - Heather and family. Thank you, ladies, for being amazing!

Plans for the future:

* Community Court Lunches on Aug 7, Aug 14, Sept 4, 2020.

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

Next meetings: July 12 on Zoom @ 12:30 and August 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

CARE MINISTRY

One of the services that the Care Ministry coordinates is that of providing meals for parishioners and their families. Our Meal Coordinator is Ann-Marie Kaelin who checks with the involved families to assess what is needed, preferences, allergies, number to be fed, and best times/days for meal deliveries.

By coordinating in this way, we are assured that needs are met and duplications do not occur. Any one can donate a full meal or part of one. If you have children, they may wish to create a card to include or even assist with the meal when appropriate.

In the past, we have provided meals for parishioners and their families in the cases of illness, family assistance, new baby, bereavement, mercy meals, and family crises.

This is a wonderful way of demonstrating our love and caring for one another. Please contact Fr. Jerry or Ann-Marie if you personally or if you become aware of a parishioner who is in need of this service.

In His Service,

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons
Care Ministry Coordinator
541-484-0575
zeazeastimmons@gmail.com

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

"Sometimes the devil deceives us and makes us unable to be pleased with anything; however, one can celebrate all things in a spiritual manner, with doxology, and secure God's constant blessing." – St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

Holy Cross has received great blessings in this time of struggle! With the blessing of Father Jerry, we have been gathering to read the Typica service with Deacon Kevin Haan offering pre-sanctified communion. The services have been very sweet, and Deacon's homilies have been outstanding (We'll be posting the homilies on our website: <https://www.roseburgorthodoxchurch.org/blog>). We are joyful to see God richly blessing your parish as well, and we ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers!

With love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross Mission, Roseburg**Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,**

Reopening for services at Holy Resurrection has been going well, Glory to God! Fr. Alban has decided to completely retire from regular priestly responsibilities in Salem. We're so grateful for the many ways he's blessed us by his service. Thanks to the creative thinking of Fr. Jerry, Dn. Steve, and the Steering Committee, with the blessing of the bishop, they came up for a "Plan B" in order to allow us to have weekend services without a priest. Fr. Jerry has come as usual for either Paraklesis or Vespers services on Wednesday nights. Saturday evenings we've had Reader's Vespers and the typica Readers Service with the distribution of Communion from Presanctified gifts on Sundays. We have three groups taking turns signing up for being at services. We are looking forward to the day when again we have a priest available to serve Saturday Great Vespers and Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Sundays.

Maria Hauser

July Celebrations Birthdays

July 4th-Rosemary Buck
 July 10th-Elizabeth Hughes
 July 17th-Judy Sebastian, Judy Kennedy
 July 20th-Dimitri Lilles
 July 28th-Jerry Rundt
 July 29th-Leda Litke

Feast Days

July 17th-St Marina
 Omilie Doran
 July 20th-St Elias the Prophet
 Lenny Buck
 July 26th-St Paraskevi
 Paras Markopoulos
 July 29th-St Julia
 Julie Lenkoff
 July 31st-St Benjamin of Petrograd
 Ben Hauser

Wedding Anniversaries

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** As of the printing of this edition of the AGAPE there was no news regarding the resuming of the First Saturday Breakfast.
- **Live-streaming:** Live-streaming of the Divine Services will continue. We invite you to tune in to our YouTube Channel (Saint George GOC), and pray the services with us. You can access the link by visiting our website www.stgeorgeor.org.
- **Missions Possible:** Thank you for your support of the Missions Possible campaign again this year. Thanks to your generosity we reached our goal of \$2,000.00! By your prayers and support we will be able to continue growing Orthodoxy in the West!
- **Father Jerry...**Myself and my fiancé Joshua (baptized as Justin) recently moved to Portland. He had a great opportunity to take classes in Portland and landed an internship for his final year of law school. I emailed Father Paul at Holy Trinity requesting to be in the loop with their services now that we relocated. We appreciate your spiritual guidance this last year and we will hopefully come down for a few services in the future. Thank you again, everyone at this parish was amazing and their warmth will be missed. God Bless! Elizabeth Arbuiso & Joshua (Justin) Britton
- **Congratulations:** Congratulations to Reuben & Jamie Avalos on the birth of their son, Basil Sebastian. On Thursday, June 25th. May he live for us!
- **Patriarchal Communiqué on Holy Communion:** Between 23-25 June 2020, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was convened for its regular meeting of the current month at the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy, Geneva. On the first day, the synodal members were engaged in their cooperative work with many of the Hierarchs of the Throne in Europe that were invited as well. During this meeting, the Official Letters of Their Beatitude the Orthodox Primates that had been received thus far in response to the letter of the Ecumenical Patriarch to them of May 17th of this year, on the issue of the mode of distribution of Holy Communion that emerged after the appearance of the coronavirus pandemic, were read and discussed. It was satisfactorily determined that their opinion coincided with that of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This consists of the following: a) The Mystery of the Divine Eucharist is non-negotiable, because we believe that through it it is transmitted to the faithful the Body and Blood of the Savior Christ “unto the remission of sins and life eternal” and it is impossible that through this Mystery of Mysteries any disease might be communicated to those who partake. For this reason, the Church remains steadfast and immovable in its teaching towards the essence of the Mystery of Holy Communion. b) As to the mode of distributing the ineffable Mysteries to the faithful, the Church, respecting Holy Tradition that is interwoven inextricably with the daily ecclesiastical practice and kenotic experience, and as the guardian and vigilant watchman of those traditions handed down from the Holy Father, finds no need for a change of this mode, especially under pressure from external factors. At the same time, the Mother Church, mindful of the special needs of Her children in the Diaspora, urges the Chief Shepherds who serve in the Diaspora that with a pastoral sensitivity, responsibility, and consciousness, to temporarily make, by economia, accommodations to problematic situations that arise from local laws of the State for the greater spiritual benefit of the Christian people, always in coordination with the Sacred Center at the Phanar.

KOINONIA

	7/2	7/12	7/19	7/26	
FELLOWSHIP					
GREETER					
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	Freezer
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
READERS	Brad Thomas				
CLEANING CREW					

GET INVOLVED!!!

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Kay Mehas 541-954-0152
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

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

A Good word...

Prayer for Protection against a Pandemic

Lord Jesus Christ our God, You Who created human beings with utter goodness, the healer of our souls and bodies, heed now the supplication of Your children, and save us from the impending threat against the world. For this affliction has spread ferociously and the fear of death has surrounded us. Many have suffered and many have passed on to repose, and there is none to save us, except You, O Lord.

We know, Merciful Lord, that all this will cultivate our faith, as we implore you, crying out in utter repentance. Undo, O Lord, the dangerous effects of the virus and heal all people, as a most Gracious Lord. For those, who repose in peace, give rest in Your heavenly abode. Grant peace to the world, so that all people know that You are the Only God, and your faithful are not bound by death, but live forever.

For You are our hope and our whole life is in Your benevolent hands, and to You we give glory, as well as to the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen