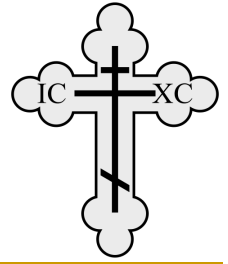




# Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH J&J 2018

## The Slow work of Grace-Fr. Stephen Freeman

In the minds of many, grace is a legal concept – an expression of the kindness of God in the forgiveness of sins. As such, grace is instant and complete. This fits well within the legal conceptions of salvation. In the classical understanding of the Orthodox faith, salvation can indeed have a quality of “suddenness” – the thief on the Cross found paradise “in a single moment” according to the hymns of the Orthodox Church. But for most people – salvation is a life-long process in which we “work out our salvation from day to day in fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). That experience, like most of life, has a slow quality to it.

From Prayer by the Elder Sophrony:

*“At times prayer seems over-slow in bringing results, and life is so short. Instinctively we cry, “Make haste unto me.” But He does not always respond at once. Like fruit on a tree, our soul is left to scorch in the sun, to endure the cold wind, the scorching wind, to die of thirst or be drowned in the rain. But if we do not let go of the hem of His garment, all will end well.”*

We live in a culture of fast food, and tend to want grace to operate on the same speed track. Some versions of Christianity make grace as “quick” as walking the aisle. This, of course, is misleading. In my experience, grace works on a level that is proper to human beings with some notable exceptions (but even then one can wonder). Grace takes time because we are not built on a fast track. Human beings don’t wean until about 2 1/2 years, properly (women you may correct me). We take 9 months of gestation, and we do not reach puberty for 13 years, traditionally. We are not instant people.

Neither does grace work on such an instant level (or is not at least noticeable on such an instant level). We should know that to be human requires years for some things, including things pertaining to God.

I am comforted, that, unlike physicists, theologians do not reach their best work until near retirement age. I’m waiting for my maturity!

But each of us would do well to slow down our expectations and speed up our efforts of prayer. Pray more, but wait on God. This lesson of patience is not something God does to us to torture us, but is something He does to bring us back into line with our humanity. Let patience have her perfect work (James 1:4).

*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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## Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
The summer is fast upon us, and as many take time away with family we are reminded that our work and activities are still required of us all. The Parish Council continues to lead these efforts. We work to establish better kitchen and food handling safety policies namely for fellowship. These efforts continue as a result of the fellowship survey that many responded too. The Parish Council has agreed to set aside additional funding for Father to travel to the National Clergy Laity Assembly, this is a greater expense that occurs every two years. In addition we are working along side Father to support the creation of a council of ministries to better unify our ministry efforts. The Parish Council thanks the efforts of those that work for the benefit of our Church, and all those who helped with the Evenings in Greece.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian  
President

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

A successful Orthodox Christian Stewardship Program should provide for the entire Parish Ministries and Operating Budget as well as the growth of those ministries. Stewardship revenues should completely support and provide total coverage and even allow for growth of the budget. Once this has been achieved, our fund raising events may be seen as community events and outreach opportunities, with proceeds going to capital improvements and/or the philanthropic work of the Church

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

OPA! The Evening in Greece dinners were wonderful! Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the evenings go off with-

out a hitch. We served close to 200 people, between both dinners. The attendees really enjoyed themselves and a festive time was had by all. Our own Leda Litke won one of the Greek raffle baskets!

Our next fundraiser will be the Gyro-fest, held at the church after Liturgy on July 29. Volunteers are needed, so let Julie or Presv. Maria know if you'd like to help.

## Presbytera Maria

## Care Ministry

Not too rich, not too sweet – just perfect with coffee or tea. Children love them, adults crave them - become nice gifts. We have made KOU-LOURAKIA and are selling them to support our care activities. If you are interested in purchasing these delicious treats, please contact Gloria.

Do you know of a Parishioner who may need a visit, a telephone call, a card, a meal, a remembrance, please make a referral to the Care Ministry Committee.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Gloria Zezeas-Timmons,**  
**Care Ministry Coordinator**

## Treasurer's Report

Balances:

Operations: \$32,412

Dedicated: \$11,171

**Greetings from the Salem Mission,**

Five people were brought into the Church at the Salem Mission on Holy Saturday! Please pray for the newly illumined John, Zoe, Leontios, Irenaeus, and Kentigern. Eight more family members of Irenaeus were baptized a couple weeks ago at Sts. Joachim and Anna Mission in Goldendale!

A group of us went to St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale for a work retreat the last weekend of April. There is a lot to do after the winter months and in preparing the grounds for their feast day. It's always great to visit there and create an opportunity to share the monastery with people that haven't had a chance to go. The monastery feast day is June 24th.

We're planning to once again have our Greek food booth at the Salem Art Fair, Friday, July 20th through Sunday, July 22nd.

**Glory to God for all things!**

**Maria Hauser**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

Have you ever looked at the Gospel or Epistle reading for the day and wondered, "Why on earth are we reading this today?" We can assume this is not an accident, but rather a deep teaching from the Church. One of the more fascinating readings occurs on the Sunday of All Saints, the week after Holy Pentecost (St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2). This scripture is astonishing! And to add to the astonishment, Saint Paul finishes the verse by saying, "let us also..." If you are like me, the thought that I could experience any of the miracles that these men and women did is hard to believe. How could they have done these things? How could "we also" be expected to do these things? The key found in the fact that this reading comes after the Feast of Pentecost! It is only through the descent of the Holy Spirit that this is possible. It was not through programs, strategic planning, meetings, or assemblies, as useful as these things may be, but by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for us at Holy Cross, that we may acquire the Holy Spirit and run the race well, looking to Christ Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

It is with joy we introduce you to our newest Catechumens; Steve and Pam Gray. Please introduce yourself to them as they visit St. George. We'd also love to invite you to attend a service with us at Holy Cross; check our website [RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org](http://RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org) for service times.

**With love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg****Missions and Evangelism**

The Missions Possible campaign was very successful and we collected over \$2500! Glory to God! Thank you to everyone who generously gave for this worthy cause. This fundraiser helps support the Missions and Evangelism ministry for the Metropolis, who's goals include: planting new parishes and mentoring current parishes to further the growth of Orthodoxy.

Over the next few weeks, we hope to grow the Missions and Evangelism team here at St. George. There are many projects we could consider to stimulate our own evangelistic endeavors. In the long run, we hope to instill an overall missional mindset that will not only attract others to Orthodoxy, but strengthen each of us in our Holy and Apostolic Faith. Please consider joining. We're considering changing the meeting time to the second Saturday of each month before Vespers. The M&E ministry includes: welcome ministry, education, outreach, bookstore and OCMC ambassadors. If you are currently involved in any of these areas, please come to our next meeting. If any of these areas interest you, please come. If you have ideas or questions, please contact me: Kathryn Becker at 971-506-7161 or [beckerettes@msn.com](mailto:beckerettes@msn.com)

**Thanks again! Kathryn**

**PHILIA**

Despite a lot of work, our Evening in Greece dinners were successful. These fundraisers require the help of all of our parishioners. Thank you to all who participated in the capacity of workers or as guests and brought their friends and families along. This is a fun event and we have acquired several faithful followers from the community. It is so nice to recognize familiar names and faces, especially when they add notes such as the following to their reservation forms: "This will be our third time we have participated and we can't wait for the delicious food and congenial atmosphere J". These small recognitions and the hugs and smiles that we get in return make our efforts worthwhile. To all the Philia Ladies who always go the extra mile, an extra big, fat Greek thank you for being so special!

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches - June 15, July 27, August 17, September 21
- Gyro-fest - July 29

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: June 10, 2018**

**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

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**COFFEE CHAT :**

Reminders: Please bring something to share on June 10, 17 and 24 as these are Potluck days. Also, there is an info-sheet titled Healthy Kitchen attached to one of the refrigerators. These are the guidelines we need to follow when we cook for the public as required by the Lane County Environmental Health. We get inspected whenever we hold fundraisers and these are questions that are asked of us. It was placed there as a reminder for our Greek dinner kitchen crew, however, it will be good for anyone preparing food in our kitchen to review.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

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**CLEANUP CORNER:**

Just a reminder that should we be running out of supplies, to list what we need on the sheet of paper attached to a clipboard in the pantry. Most of them are located on the shelves by the washing machine, but please also check the closet by the restrooms for toilet cleaner and other items. Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com or plan to come during the week when the church is unlocked for your scheduled cleaning.

Julie Lenkoff, Cleanup Coordinator (email: julielenkoff@comcast.net)

**Greetings from the Bookstore!**

Summer is the perfect time to relax, travel, spend time with family and friends as well as get in some summer reading. Here are a few of the new offerings that the Bookstore has for helping your spiritual walk.

\*Jesus Christ: His Life and Teaching, Vol. 1 - The Beginning of the Gospel by Met. Hilarion Alfeyev. - It has been said that Jesus Christ is always actual, and at the same time always anticipating actuality. This is something that Metropolitan Hilarion has made abundantly clear in his monumental six-volume study. As he observes, throughout history there has never been a person about whom so much has been written; and yet the Metropolitan has himself found many new ways to restate, in fresh and vivid terms, the ancient truths about the Savior. This is a remarkable study that deserves to be read with close attention. —Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

\*How to Be a Sinner - Peter Bouteneff - We call ourselves "sinners" in much of our church life. Yet the sinner identity — when done right — brings peace of mind, a clear conscience, and love for others. Addressing topics like guilt, shame, and self-care, this compassionate guide will help you reflect on your life in surrender to God's mercy. Written by an internationally recognized professor of Orthodox theology, this book will speak to you wherever you find yourself.

\* One Flew Over the Onion Dome- Huneycutt - Converts to the Orthodox Church are sometimes stunned by the ethnic ghetto they seem to have landed in. Cradle Orthodox are no less amazed by these zealous, sometimes apparently nutty converts. And priests often seem clueless as to how to deal with the mixed blessing of newcomers. How on earth can we all understand each other? More importantly, what can we learn from each other? Fr Joseph David Huneycutt helps readers — whether cradle, convert, "revert," or "retread" — navigate and explore: Convert Frustration; Who's Converting to Orthodoxy and Why; Convert Baggage and Struggles; Convert Strengths; Convert Burnout; and Culture Wars.

**In Christ, Cassandra Batterson**

## June & July Celebrations Birthdays

June 8th-Jim Stephenson  
June 9th-Paras Markopoulos  
June 16th-Larisa Lilles  
June 18th-Julie Rundt  
June 21st-Aftasie Doran  
July 4th-Rosemary Buck  
July 17th-Judy Sebastian  
July 20th-Dimitri Lilles  
July 28th-Jerry Rundt  
July 29th-Leda Litke

## Feast Days

June 3rd-Kevin Kaelin  
June 27th-Jo Ann Kluge  
July 17th-Omilie Doran, Kendra Surlow  
July 20th-Lenny Buck  
July 26th-Paras Markopoulos  
July 29th-Julie Lenkoff  
July 31st-Ben Hauser

## Wedding Anniversaries

June 6th-Bill & Lisa Lilles  
June 15th-John & Georgia Lallas  
June 27th-Mark & Maria Hauser

## Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

June 14th-John Timmons

**Many Years! Chronia Polla!**

## News and Events

## What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in June are: Food prep on Friday, June 1st and the breakfast on Saturday, June 2nd. The dates in July are: Friday, July 5th & Saturday, July 6th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Reception:** Sean Surlow and his daughter Kendra were received into the Church by Holy Chrismation on Sunday, May 27th. Sean took the name Iakovos (James) after St James, the Brother of the Lord, and his sponsor is Neal Zoumboukos. Kendra took the name Marina, after St Marina, and her sponsor is Cassandra Batterson. May they live for us!
- **Graduates:** We will be honoring the Class of 2018 on Sunday, June 10th. This includes our Church School program.
- **Monastery Feastday:** Abbess Efpraxia, and the Sisters with her, cordially invite you to celebrate with them, the Feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner, June 23rd & 24th, in Goldendale. This year Met. Gerasimos will be there to conduct a ground – breaking service for their new Trapeza building. Please see the posted flyers for details.
- **Father's absence:** Father Jerry will be away quite a bit over the next two months and will miss three Sundays in a row (6/24, 7/1, 7/8). His travels begin after church on Sunday, June 17th and he'll return on Tuesday, June 26th. He leaves again on Thursday, June 28th and will return on Friday, July 13th. Please note that Orthros & Divine Liturgy will begin one hour earlier (8 am & 9 am) on Sunday, June 17th. Please keep him in your prayers!
- **St Nicholas Giving Book:** We were not able to budget enough this year for Clergy Travel & Conferences so we are asking for donations to cover the additional expenses. Please see the St Nicholas book for details.
- **Prosforon baking class:** Liana Creech and Lisa Lilles are offering Prosforon baking classes on Saturday, June 30 at 10:00am, and on Tuesday, July 10 at 4:00 pm. Baking the church's communion bread is a blessing, and it is not difficult. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please sign up for your preferred day on the sign up sheet in the fellowship room.
- **Gyro Fest:** Save the date and join us for Gyro Fest 2018, on Sunday, July 29th. Tell you friends too!
- **Summer Camp:** There are two summer camp program announcements I want to share with you. First, Camp Angelos Summer Camp will take place July 8-13th, in Portland. You can visit their website for more information or call the church. Second, St John Family Camp will take place August 5-10. You may also visit their website or call the church for more information. Happy Camping!
- **Vacation Church School:** Registrations will be coming soon for our Vacation Church School this summer. Our Vacation Church School will be held the week of August 20th. We will need assistance with supervising and instructing at the VCS so please see Greg Sebastian and offer your help.
- **Consider joining an OCMC Orthodox Mission Team in 2018:** Help build up the Church around the world: Alaska (Jul 10-19, Jul 20-31); Albania (Jun 12-30, Sep 17-24); Ghana (Aug 6-21); Guatemala (Jun 18-30, Aug 1-8); Kenya (Aug 8-20, Nov 28-Dec 8); Indonesia (Jun 26-Jul 9, Jul 3-16); Jamaica (Aug 2-11); Mexico (Aug 11-18). If you desire to serve in His vineyard, contact OCMC to experience your faith in a new and meaningful way. Team applications and details are available at [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org) or call the OCMC at 1.877.463.6787 (ext 142) for more information
- **"Pray for one another that you might be healed" (James 5:16):** The Prayer Circle at St George meets every Thursday at 11 am in the Conference Room. Everyone is invited!
- **A note from a former parishioner:** Thank you so much Fr Jerry for looking for those baptismal certificates... I am so happy to have looked through the website to see St George thriving, and loved seeing familiar faces! (Brad, the Mehas!...) miss you all!! Regards to all, Demetra Antimisiaris

# KOINONIA

	6/3 & 7/1	6/10 & 7/8	6/17 & 7/15	6/24 & 7/22	7/29
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Pos Hutanu	POTLUCK Hutanu	POTLUCK Stella & Steph	POTLUCK Stella & Steph	GYRO FEST
<b>GREETER</b>	Larisa L	Helen S	John & Gloria	Stella K	Jerry R
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Freezer	Lilles	Creech	Freezer	Freezer
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	Pascha	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Pascha	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	6/2 & 6/30 Kaelin Stella & Steph	6/9 & 7/7 Zoumboukos Julie & Adri- enne	6/16 & 7/14 Sollars Julie & Adri- enne	6/23 & 7/21 Sollars Stella & Steph	7/28 Everyone

## 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>	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
<b>SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	Michael Creech 541-603-0361
<b>BOOKSTORE</b>	Brett & Cassandra Batterson 541-345-5248
<b>PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
<b>CHANTER/CHANT GROUP</b>	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
<b>FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN</b>	Art Mehas 541-485-8671
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>GREETERS</b>	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
<b>1ST SAT. BREAKFAST</b>	Volunteers needed
<b>PRAYER CIRCLE</b>	Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
<b>MISSIONS &amp; EVANGELISM</b>	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
<b>FUNDRAISERS</b>	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

<sup>iesi</sup>  
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Eugene, OR 97408-5018

## A good word...

-- Geronda,\* do worries cause us to withdraw from God?

-We must not waste the fruit of our labors, the inner core of our souls, in aimless pursuits, and leave only the outer shells for God. The many cares of life sap the marrow from our hearts and leave nothing for Christ. When your mind constantly wanders off to the various chores you have to do, you should realize that you are not doing well spiritually. You should worry then because this means that you have distanced yourself from God. You should realize that you have grown closer to material things than you have to God, closer to creation than to the Creator.

-Those who work too hard and are full of worries forget God. Father Tychon had this saying: "Pharaoh gave the Israelites a lot of work and a lot of food to make them forget God." Today the devil makes people lose themselves in material things and in all kinds of distractions, including too much work and too much food, in order to forget God. As a result they cannot -- or maybe they do not want to -- make worthwhile use of the freedom that has been given to them to make their souls holy. But fortunately, there is a good side to this that the devil has not foreseen: people do not have the time to sin as much as they would like.

Saint Paisios-"With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man"