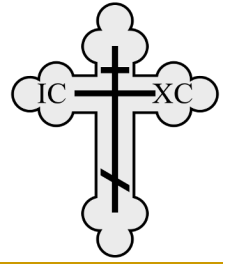




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JUNE-2020

“And ascended into Heaven... by Fr. Georges Florovsky

In the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection.

The Lord did not rise in order to return again to the fleshly order of life, so as to live again and commune with His disciples and the multitudes by means of preaching and miracles. Now He does not even stay with them, but only “appears” to them during the 40-days, from time to time, and always in a miraculous and mysterious manner. “He was not with them now, as He was before the Resurrection”, comments St. John Chrysostom. “He came and again disappeared, thus leading them on to higher conceptions. He no longer permitted them to continue in their formal relationship toward Him, but took effectual measures to secure these two objects: That the fact of His Resurrection should be believed, and that He Himself should be ever after apprehended to be greater than man.” There was something new and unusual in His person. As St. John Chrysostom says, “It was not an open presence, but a certain testimony of the fact that He was present.” That is why the disciples were confused and frightened.

Christ arose not in the same way as those who were restored to life before Him. Theirs was a resurrection for a time, and they returned to life in the same body, which was subject to death and corruption—returned to the previous mode of life. But Christ arose for ever, unto eternity. He arose in a body of glory, immortal and incorruptible. He arose, never to die, for “He clothed the mortal in the splendor of incorruption.” His glorified Body was already exempt from the fleshly order of existence. “It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.” It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a “spiritual body” (I Cor. 15:42-44). This mysterious transformation of human bodies, of which Saint Paul was speaking in the case of our Lord, had been accomplished in three days. Christ's work on earth was accomplished. He had suffered, was dead and buried, and now rose to a higher mode of existence. By His Resurrection He abolished and destroyed death, abolished the law of corruption, and “raised with Himself the whole race of Adam.” Christ has risen, and now “no dead are left in the grave”. And now He ascends to the Father, yet He does not “go away”, but abides with the faithful for ever”. For He raises the very earth with Him to heaven, and even higher than any heaven. God's power “manifests itself not only in the Resurrection, but in something much stronger.” For “He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19).

And with Christ, man's nature ascends also.

“We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven,” says St. John Chrysostom. “We who were unworthy of earthly dominion have been raised to the Kingdom on high, and have ascended higher than heaven; have come to occupy the King's throne, and the same nature from which the angels guarded Paradise, stopped not until it ascended to the throne of the Lord.”

By His Ascension the Lord not only opened to man the entrance to heaven, not only appeared before the face of God on our behalf and for our sake, but likewise “transferred man” to the high places. “He honored them

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He loved by putting them close to the Father." God quickened and raised us together with Christ, as St. Paul says, "and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6). Heaven received the inhabitants of the earth. "The First fruits of them that slept" sits now on high, and in Him all creation is summed up and bound together. "The earth rejoices in mystery, and the heavens are filled with joy."

(The feast of Ascension was celebrated on May 28th this year)

Parish Council

Your Parish Council has been busy the past month working to insure we are meeting all the Federal, State, County and Metropolis guidelines for the reopening of our Parish. We are now in Oregon's/Lane County's Phase One. As you probably have heard/seen things are looking different! A 'Welcome' area requires all to sanitize hands and wear facemasks (Except children 2 years or younger) before entering the church. We now have 'paperless' worship. The church building may be a bit chilly or hot depending upon the weather as many doors and windows will be open to provide air circulating in the nave. At the end of the service we ask all to depart the nave without stopping or talking until outside the building. Be sure to always maintain social distancing!

At present individuals over age 65 and with underlying illnesses are encouraged to stay at home and enjoy our new and improved 'live streaming'. Courtesy of Mark, Thanks loads!

A special thank you to the many Parishioners who helped getting the church ready to reopen.

With Christ's Love,
Your Parish Council

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We sure do miss gathering with all of you. For safety's sake, we are postponing our fundraisers until fall. We will update you as time goes on. As of now, we plan to have our holiday Bake Sale.

In the meantime.....we have pastry and spanakopita for sale! We have: baklava, kourambiethes and spanakopita available. Please e-mail Presvytera Maria at jmarkop@comcast.net if you'd like to purchase any of the items and support St. George.

Pres. Maria

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Funds Balance May 27: \$62,089

Dedicated Funds Balance May 27: \$49,347

Stewardship Report

During the course of the pandemic, there have been multiple "Zoom" meetings involving our treasurer and the treasurers of the other parishes in our Metropolis. Many of our sister parishes are staggering under the possibility that they may not be able to hold their festivals or that they can be held but only on a smaller scale. These meetings have brought the wisdom of our founding members into sharp focus. From the very inception of Saint George - even before it was called Saint George, the guiding financial principle of this parish has been to have stewardship bear the brunt of our operational costs: 100% of those costs.

While we have been close to that goal many times in the past few years, it wasn't until last year that we fully accomplished that vision. And it is that same vision that is helping us to avoid the financial shortfalls that many of the other parishes in the Metropolis are now facing. Thank you so much to all of you who are keeping your stewardship giving up to date, and in so doing are finding a way to keep the vision and foresight of our founders alive and well at Saint George even in these difficult times.

Greetings from the Bookstore!

As we are now -- after many prayers and with much gratitude, I am sure -- entering into Phase 1 of not only a reopening of businesses and the economy, but also a reopening of our hearts to the joy of being able to once again worship as a community and family in our church.

The Bookstore highlights this month are excerpts from Wisdom of the Divine Philosophers, Vol. 1. This volume reveals the teachings of the great Orthodox Saints and Elders on many topics and provides invaluable insights into living the Christian life in the fullness intended by God. The topics include: Christ, compassion, faith, forgiveness, love of neighbor, charity, wealth and riches, humility, silence, and worship and church.

From St. Anthony the Great -

The fruits of the earth are not brought to perfection immediately, but by time, rain and care; similarly, the fruits of men ripen through ascetic practice, study, time, perseverance, self-control, and patience.

From St. Nikon of Optina, on Worship and Church -

How good it is to be in Church, to hear the holy prayers, the chanting and the reading of the Psalms! What spiritual depths are concealed in the Psalms and other divine prayers! Of course, the reader cannot grasp everything; but if just one thought makes a lasting impression, then much has been gained.

With many prayers for your continuing patience and endurance, and wishes for many blessings and much peace.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

Greetings everyone from the Missions and Evangelism Ministry!

You may remember that this time of year is our Missions Possible campaign. It usually concludes at Pentecost – which is soon! You may usually have a small box at your home for your spare change to bring to church as your contribution.

Since we are limited in our times at church still, may I suggest you simply place a check in the mail this year? Your second option is to go to the website for the

Metropolis' Missions page which is groworthodoxy.org. There you go to the Missions Possible article which will take you to the GoFundMe site. You will see St. George Eugene on the list.

Most of our contributions are still coming directly into the parish office, here, but the GoFundMe site is completely safe, if you'd like to submit your donation without a check, envelope, stamp, etc, this is the easier way to do it.

Remember Missions Possible helps spread the beauty of Orthodoxy in our area. Just think, 25 years ago, there was no parish in Salem or Roseburg. Now, there are two flourishing mission parishes. How many people still have never heard of Orthodox Christianity? Too many!! The impact of new parishes will be felt for years and years as many come to faith and share it with their friends and family. Please consider how you can help with a donation today.

Your fellow servant, Kathryn Becker

PHILIA**Plans for the future:**

- Community Court Lunches on June 5, Aug 7, Aug 14, Sept 4, 2020.
- Tsoureki Baking - TBD-Gloria to advise
- Philia Meeting on June 14th via Zoom

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

Next meetings: June 14, 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

Church School

Each year, my class follows the story of a nun, who we have named Sister Anastasia, as she makes her journey through Lent to Pascha. Every Sunday during Lent, we move our "paper nun" along a Lenten map on the wall, watching her get closer and closer to Pascha, until we celebrate the Feast of all Feasts together. Although this spring we had to continue our spiritual journeys physically apart, nothing can separate us from the love of God. As this church school year comes to an end, I would like to commend all the students for their faithful participation and excellent work. May God bless your zeal and enthusiasm for learning. Thank you parents and grandparents for bringing your children to church and for "homeschooling" them in the faith. Thank you teachers and substitutes: Stephanie, Heather, Stella, Nektarios, Presv. Maria, Liana, Lisa, and Larisa. Your devotion to the youth of our parish and your thoughtful, engaging lessons are an inspiration to start making plans for next school year. And thank you, Joanie, for your diligent and tireless monitoring of the halls. Giving glory to God, with hope that we will resume classes together in the fall, **Ann-Marie**

CARE MINISTRY

The COVID 19 virus has certainly changed our lives. Who knows for certain what the new normal will be in the future. One thing for certain is that we all need support, assistance, and loving care at some time in our lives. Increasing rates of suicide, depression, illness - mental and physical, isolation & accompanying loneliness, and financial downturn often leading to loss of income for essential items such as food and shelter have all become evident in our community.

The Care Ministry Team has been in contact with our homebound and special-needs parishioners in an attempt to alleviate isolation and accompanying loneliness, address concerns, and supply resource information & facilitate referrals as indicated.

We have become increasingly aware of our obligation as Christians to love one another. It is through this love of serving others that has increased our compassion and gratitude both as individuals and as a team. If you or if you become aware of a fellow parishioner in need, please contact Fr. Jerry or myself.

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons
Care Ministry Coordinator
541-484-0575
zezeastimmons@gmail.com

From the Missions...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

With the reopening of Douglas County, Holy Cross was able to meet for Divine Liturgy after many long months! We are grateful for Father Jerry's efforts to make this service happen. The past few months have been challenging: We've had ups (our faithful stewards continue to give) and downs (our future service schedule remains uncertain). In the book 'Canoeing the Mountains' author Tod Bolsinger posits that the Church must adapt in order to navigate uncharted territory in order to fulfill its missional purpose in the world (this book is a highly recommended read!) Please pray for us at Holy Cross, that we can chart a courageous path forward, guided by the Holy Spirit.

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

Holy Cross Mission, Roseburg, OR

The Holy Resurrection Mission parish in Salem has been in a holding pattern much the same as everyone else. In the last couple of weeks a small group has gathered outside (at a distance of course) on a couple Wednesday evenings for a short service with Fr. Jerry. It's been great to see one another in person, and a new catechumen was welcomed as well! We're currently working out details for Phase 1 reopening and hope to start having services inside in the next week or so. We join you at St. George and Holy Cross in prayers for continued safety for everyone as we reopen and that we can attain a smooth transition back to more normal times.

Maria Hauser

June Celebrations Birthdays

June 8th-Jim Stephenson
 June 9th-Paras Markopoulos
 June 11th-Peter Karadontes
 June 15th-Hailey Campbell
 June 16th-Larisa Lilles
 June 17th-Ron Muresan
 June 18th-Julie Rundt
 June 19th-Maedot Shitie
 June 21st-Aftasie Doran

Feast Days

June 3rd-St Kevin of Ireland
 Kevin Kaelin

June 27th-Holy Myrrh bearer Joanna
 Joanna Jaquette

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
 June 26th-Lester & Debi Wilson

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.
- **Congratulations:** We want to congratulate the **Class of 2020** on their accomplishments. **Kevin and Stephen Kaelin** are both 2020 graduates: Kevin has graduated from NCU with his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. Stephen has graduated St. Nektarios Academy (Homeschool) and will be attending Gordon College in the fall. **Daniel M. Jaquette** graduated from Willamette High school with a Career Pathway in Art/Design. Daniel will be taking a Gap Year, and then may attend the Academy of Arts University of San Francisco focusing on Illustration. He hopes to get a job at the new Nike Store, work on his basketball and be able to play ball for AAU. **Skye Lipson** graduated from the U of O with a Masters of Education degree, and he starts a job with 4J in September. **Dmitri Lipson** graduates from South Eugene High School, and his plans are uncertain due to present circumstances. **Sophie Becker** graduated on May 8th from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Industrial Design. **Benjamin Hauser** is graduating from Oregon State with a BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Minor in Chemistry. Ben will be taking a Gap Year and begin applying to medical school in the fall. **Demetre Markopoulos** is graduating from Oregon State with a BS in Biology, and a minor in Chemistry. Demetre will be taking a Gap Year and begin applying to dental school in the summer. Please join me in congratulating all of them! Now on to higher things! (Makes more sense in the Greek)
- **Additional Services:** To provide additional opportunities for you to participate in communal worship and reconnect with one another, we have added services to the June calendar. Please check the calendar for the dates of the other additional services.
- **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.
- **Zoom:** Over the course of this month we will be returning to meeting in person, however we will still be utilizing Zoom so that everyone who wants to participate may be able to do so.
- **Agia Sophia Academy:** Dear Friends and Supporters. During these troubled times, Agia Sophia Academy continues to care for the spiritual and intellectual development of the beloved children within our pan-Orthodox community. However ASA has very much felt the effects of the COVID-19 restrictions and is in great need of both your prayers and your donations – while we strive to keep our students engaged in quality education and our staff fully employed. The recent COVID-19 mandated campus closures have changed the way that ASA teaches and connects with our students. However some things remain the same – our focus on Christ and on the individualized education of each child. ASA faithfully continues on in the midst of this crisis. Each day our children participate remotely by listening to the morning prayers which we sang in the church, and by learning about the day's saint and preparing for the school day. Our tireless staff has dedicated themselves to providing a sense of continuity, despite the dramatic changes in our world, and keeping our students absorbed in engaging and rigorous learning during these unprecedented stay-at-home times. They are connecting with the kids and teaching through Google Classrooms, Zoom class meetings, and other technologies. Please support us during this time of social distancing and flattening the curve with a tax-deductible donation. Like most non-profits, 30% of our budget comes from donations and fundraising. During this time your donation is even more important as we can not host our normal fundraising events. You can help us to continue providing a quality, Christ-focused and meaningful education for our most important members, our children. On behalf of the students, we thank you for your continued prayers, support, and your belief in ASA's vital role in the lives of our children and in our pan-Orthodox community. May it be blessed!

KOINONIA

	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28	
FELLOWSHIP					
GREETER	Mark	Larisa	Mark	Larisa	
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	Freezer
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	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