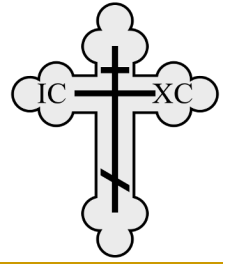




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MAR. - 2020

Dear Ones,

A blessed 40-Days to all!

Perhaps the most generous words spoken by Christ are those we hear from the Cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Taken at face value, the words make little sense. Surely, those who crucified Christ knew that they were killing a man. Surely they were even aware that his execution was largely political and unjust. The centurion in charge of the crucifixion is said to have stated, "Surely this man was the Son of God." So how could Christ say, "They do not know what they are doing?"

I believe this goes to the very heart of our lives and actions. We almost never know what we are doing. The greater context, the meaning of anything, is hidden from us. We have children, work at a job, and live our lives, hoping that these have been worthwhile actions. We know that much, even most of what we have done has been tainted with bad intentions and other less-than-worthy motivations. But we never actually grasp the full scope of our actions. Even those good things that we do have a hidden aspect. Did that kind word spoken earlier make a difference? Did that act of charity actually change anything?

This hidden aspect of our lives is an inherent part of the human condition. We simply don't know what we're doing. This makes it very hard for us to judge our actions or to weigh them for their value. Christ's words are addressed to the Father on behalf of all of humanity. For it is not just the small number of people in Jerusalem who were consenting to His death. His death is "on behalf of all and for all."

And this brings us to Forgiveness Sunday. "Why do I need to ask forgiveness of others if I have done them no wrong?" The simple answer is: You don't know what you have or have not done. But it is commonly understood in Orthodoxy that "each person is responsible for the sins of the whole world." Our lives are deeply connected – we are never uninvolved in the lives of others. What I have done and what I have not done effects the lives of the whole world. I may have had no direct hand, and yet I cannot excuse myself as if I have no share in what happens everywhere. The world is as we make it.

I once heard a monk say, "The person of prayer does not need to go any further than his own heart to find the source of all violence in the world." But none of this is to call us to a morbid guilt. It calls us to Christ and calls us to hear His words. On Forgiveness Sunday each of us asks forgiveness of the others around us. It is both a personal matter and a collective. I have failed and need forgiveness. We have failed and need forgiveness. And perhaps the even greater call comes to us to join ourselves with Christ who says: "Father, forgive them!"

"Forgive me," we say. "God forgives us all," comes the response. It sometimes feels awkward, even embarrassing. Some people begin to weep. Others begin to giggle. Both are part of the human condition within our shame. But the actions of Forgiveness Sunday unite us necessarily to the actions of Christ. By submitting Himself to crucifixion, Christ put Himself in the place of the sinner, the one needing forgiveness. He was displayed naked, nailed on high for all the world to see, the shame of the whole world. In the mild social embarrassment of saying, "Forgive me," to another human being, we unite ourselves to the deep, profound healing

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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shame of Christ. And with brazen boldness we confess, "God forgives us all!" uniting ourselves with the priestly cry of Christ Himself, "Father, forgive them!" And having read this, and done all that, we still will not know what we have done. But we are not saved by knowing what we do. We are saved by doing what He does.

Fr. Stephen Freeman

Parish Council

At our February Parish Council meeting Father Jerry asked us two main questions: 1) What kind of a parish do we want to be?

2) What would it take to get there? Please think about the two questions above and share your thoughts with a parish council member. Thank you

- It was approved to order two rows of fringe for the deacon doors. It will be here in two or three months, as it has to come from Greece to match the fringe on the icon stands.
- The Parish directory will include the names of children in the parish.
- Much planning is happening for the visit of Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Ordination of Deacon Stephanos. We are combining this blessed event with the 25th Anniversary of our church building. There will be a Lenten luncheon on Sunday, March 15th directly after the service.
- Place: Holiday Inn Express, 919 Kruse Way, Springfield. Cost will be \$25 per person with children 5 and under free.
- Invitations will be emailed to St. George Parishioners.

The is a wonderful honor to have this event at our parish!!! We encourage all parishioners to participate.

Have a Blessed Lent,
Your Parish Council

Treasurer's Report: As of February 29th

Operational Funds Balance: \$61,321

Dedicated Funds Balance: \$51,604

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our committee is currently planning our annual Evening in Greece dinner, set for May. If you would like to volunteer to help, please see Pres. Maria. More details will be coming next month.

Our next committee meeting will be March 22, after church.

Pres. Maria

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce three additional stewards since our last report. We presently have forty-six stewards who have pledged \$154,682 for the Lord's work at Saint George. This is an average of \$3,363 per stewardship family or individual. Thirteen of this year's stewards increased their annual pledge.

Thank you very much for your support of Saint George!

Missions and Evangelism Ministry Report:

Lent begins March 2 and with that, the increased emphasis on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. For a way to increase your almsgiving, your Missions and Evangelism ministry team would like to invite everyone to once again participate in the Blessing Bag project. We initiated this last year, and everyone was very generous. A box will again be in the Fellowship Hall for the donations we are hoping to obtain. Once we have collected the items, the youth will help assemble the bags. Everyone will be encouraged to take 1-2 of them and distribute to the homeless in our area. If you are unable to shop for the items, donations can also be given to Kathryn Becker for purchasing. You can pick up a list of the items we hope to collect in the folder attached to the collection box. I would like to include the following encouraging words from the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's Lenten Catechetical Homily:

(We are) called to discover the holistic character of fasting, which is praised in the Triodion as "the commencement of spiritual struggles," as "food for the soul," as "mother of all good things and all virtues." It is not simply an abstinence from certain foods, but a struggle against self-love and self-sufficiency, a sensitivity toward our suffering neighbor, and a tangible response of support.

May it be blessed!

p.s. Missions Possible will also begin soon, as another opportunity for giving financially during the Lenten season. Thank you in advance for your participation in all these worthwhile endeavors.

Journeying with you,
Kathryn Becker

Greetings from the Bookstore! Great Lent in the Home

"Let us stress once more that the purpose of Lent is not to force on us a few formal obligations, but to 'soften' our heart so that it may open itself to the realities of the spirit, to experience the hidden 'thirst and hunger' for communion with God..... We understand that it is simply impossible to pass from our normal state of mind made up almost entirely of fuss, rush, and care, into this new one without first 'quieting down,' without restoring in ourselves a measure of inner stability." -- Fr. Alexander Schememann, Great Lent

As Orthodox Christians, Great Lent can be described as the anchor of our spiritual lives. Everything about our collective identity revolves around the Resurrection and its preceding journey of Great Lent and Holy Week. It is when we are called to simplify and refocus our life on God. With the way our lives are scheduled - or over scheduled - entering the period can be disorienting. Here are some thoughts as we near the time of Great Lent."

The above is an excerpt from Great Lent in the Home, Praxis, Winter 2019. Copies of the entire article are in the Bookstore and are available to all.

I wish you many blessings and much peace as you begin your Lenten journey.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

PHILIA

We have been celebrating lots of parishioners' birthdays, including Nikki's, and to make hers extra special, our Philia ladies, their kids and a few gents wore pink and black. After a lot of giggling and shuffling around we took a happy group picture of all.

On March 1, Cheesefare Sunday, Philia plans to hold its annual Augment Your Lent Event, a fundraiser for the Community Court Lunches. An array of tasty Lenten foods offered for sale will give parishioners a head start into their Lenten journey. Your support will be appreciated.

In April, under Gloria's guidance, we will be baking Tsoureki, a traditional Greek Easter bread which will be available for sale in time for Paschal festivities.

Plans for the future:

- Augment Your Lent Event on March 1, 2020.
- Community Court Lunches on May 1, June 5, Aug 7, Sept 4, 2020.
- Tsoureki Baking - April 4 and April 7, 2020. Times TBA.

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

Next meetings: March 29, 2020 and April 5, 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

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...**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ~**

Thank you for your continued prayers for Holy Cross. We are excited to share that this year we will have Holy Week and Pascha services at the mission! Fr. Martin and Presvytera Ritsi have graciously offered to come to Oregon for the services, and we are already busy preparing for their arrival. Please keep us in your prayers, that in the midst of these preparations we will maintain our focus on the real work of Great Lent: our hearts. We warmly invite you to visit us in Roseburg! With much gratitude and love.

**In Christ - Lisa Buck
Holy Cross, Roseburg, OR**

Greetings from Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church!

In February we had two parishioners travel with Fr. Jerry to the annual Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. Delegates always look forward to this opportunity to spend time with the delegates from St. George and Holy Cross as well as the blessing of visiting and attending services at the Monastery of the Holy Theotokos Life Giving Spring Monastery.

This month of course, many of us are looking forward to travelling to be with you all for Saturday evening Great Vespers March 14th and Sunday, March 15th for Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Ordination to the Priesthood of Dn. Stephanos Tussing, Reception Luncheon and Celebration of St. George's 25th Anniversary!! May it be blessed!!

In Christ,**Maria Hauser****Holy Resurrection Mission of Salem**

March Celebrations Birthdays

March 2nd-Ann Leith
 March 4th-Nick Boston, Alexis Drakatos
 March 6th-Stephanie Carroll
 March 8th-Mikey Creech
 March 9th-Marian Mueller
 March 10th-Joan Rundt
 March 14th-Jan Schmidt
 March 15th-Sophia Hughes
 March 23rd-Pres. Maria
 March 27th-Mark Hauser, Bonnie Sollars
 March 30th-Elena Diamond
 March 31st-Mark Jaquette

Feast Days

March 23rd-St Lidia
Leda Litke

March 26th-St Larisa
Larisa Lilles

March 29th-St Mark of Arethusa
Mark Jaquette

Wedding Anniversaries

March 3rd-Stephenson

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

March 21st-Jan Schmidt

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in March are: Food prep on Friday, March 6th and the breakfast on Saturday, March 7th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Great Lent 2020:** Great and Holy Lent begins with Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday evening, March 1st, at 6 pm. During Great Lent the Church gathers more often for prayer and worship, with three additional services per week. I invite you to join me each Monday evening for Great Compline; each Wednesday evening for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts; and each Friday evening for the Salutations Services (Akathist). Please consult the calendar for the exact dates and times of these services.
- **Saturday of Souls:** Orthros, Liturgy and Memorial Prayers will be done on Saturday, March 7th, beginning at 9 am, on this the Saturday of Souls. Please join us as we pray for the repose of our departed loved ones. Please bring a list of names of your Orthodox family members, relatives and friends that have departed this life, and if you wish, you may also offer Koliva.
- **Save your Skins:** We need lots of onions skins to make the 200+ red eggs that we enjoy at Pascha. As you make your Lenten meals, please save the dry, outer layer of yellow onions (these can be easily kept in a paper bag). Thank you!
- **Visit of Metropolitan Gerasimos:** Please save the date and plan to join us the weekend of March 14th-15th, when we will be visited by Metropolitan Gerasimos. His Eminence will be here on Saturday, March 14th and he will join us for Great Vespers, beginning at 5:30 pm (30 minutes early). On Sunday, March 15th, he will be the celebrant for the Hierarchical services of Orthros & Divine Liturgy, and ordain Deacon Stephanos to the Holy Priesthood. Following the Divine Services, a reception will take place at the Holiday Inn Express in Springfield. In addition to celebrating the ordination, we will also be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our worship space. It is not every day that you get to witness a hierarchical service or the ordination of a priest. I hope that you will join us that weekend!
- **Women's Retreat:** The St John the Forerunner Women's Lenten Retreat will take place the weekend of March 27-29, at the monastery in Goldendale. The Very Reverend Archimandrite Maximos Conostas will be the retreat master and he will be speaking about the life and spiritual teachings of Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra Monastery on Mt. Athos, where Fr Maximos became a monk. Please see the flyer in the Fellowship Hall for more info.

*Celebrating
Nikki's
Birthday!
Pink is in!*



KOINONIA

	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29
FELLOWSHIP	Mueller, Pos	Lilles, Spears, Kennedy	Holiday Inn Express	Jaquette, Thomas	Kaelin, Zoum- boukos
GREETER	Stella	Helen S	All	Jerry	Larisa
PROSFORON	Lilles	Kaelin	Creech	Markopoulos	Freezer
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
CLEANING CREW	Week of 3/2 Hartig Carmack	Week of 3/9 Drakatos	Week of 3/16 Lenkoff Larisa L	Week of 3/23 Carroll	Week of 3/30 Campbell Lipson

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

^{ies}
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
202 Hillview 1
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

A Good word...

**O Lord and Master of my life,
take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust for
power and idle talk;**

**But grant rather, the spirit of chastity, humility,
patience and love to your servant;**

**Yea' Lord and King, help me to see my own sins and
not judge my brothers and sisters;**

For You are blessed forever and ever. Amen