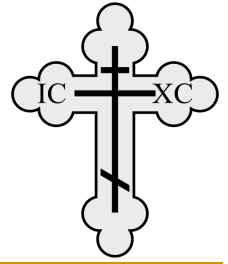




# Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MAY 2018

Faith Encouraged Daily by Fr Barnabas Powell

**Christ is risen!** And yet, why is it that too many of my vacations have been as stressful as or more stressful than my regular schedule? It's because an actual "refreshing" isn't happening. And why is that? Because a true refreshing is an internal reality. True, your outward circumstances can help, but nothing takes the place of inner peace for rejuvenating your life! OK, so how do you get that? In the Book of Acts we read, "IN THOSE DAYS, Peter said to the people, "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for establishing all that God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old. Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet from your brethren as he raised me up. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came afterwards, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God gave to your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your posterity shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Let's set the scene: The Lord is risen from the dead, and the disciples have been empowered by the coming of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the command of the Lord to "make disciples of all nations." And now St. Peter is preaching his famous Pentecost sermon to the multitude of the people gathered in Jerusalem and they have just asked him what I asked above: What do we do? St. Peter's answer is still the answer for you and me today: Repent. What a powerful word! St. Isaac the Syrian said "This life has been given to you for repentance. Do not waste it on vain pursuits." The truth is the whole of being Orthodox on Purpose is learning how to make repentance your everyday lifestyle. It is in learning how to repent that creates a perpetual refreshing of your life and creates inner peace regardless of any external circumstances. So, how do we repent? First, to repent isn't about being sorry you broke a rule. No, repentance comes from love. If I love God, then I want to be with Him and everything that stands in the way of me being with God needs repentance to remove that obstacle. And it starts with how I think. If I really love God and want to be with Him, that reality is reflected in my priorities. If my priorities are right then obstacles are removed. Next, to repent isn't just a negative; it's a positive also. A lifestyle of repentance means I am not just turning FROM something, but I am constantly turning TOWARDS Someone! A lifestyle of repentance is always a positive and encouraging lifestyle of choosing well. We must first stop thinking that repentance is some negative thing where God is "mad" at me for breaking His "rules" and start seeing repentance as the gift it is to refresh my life! Finally, to repent is a moment by moment wakefulness. My need to repent has nothing to do with God loving or accepting me and everything to do with building an increasing awareness and sensitivity for my need for God's mercy and grace to heal me and refresh my weary heart. So ask yourself, when was the last time you had your life re-

*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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freshed by an honest repentance? Have you fallen for the con game of the evil one to convince you that you don't need to repent or that you're too evil to repent? Isn't it time your life had a true refreshing? Since Christ has destroyed death, my dearest, there is simply no need for you to stay stuck. So, repent and be Orthodox on Purpose!

### **Parish Council**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Christ is risen! The Parish Council thanks everyone for participating in the Fellowship survey. We have the results, and overwhelmingly the request was for light snacks/meals and beverages versus the expectation of a full meal every Sunday. There were also concerns about food handling and sanitation concerning fellowship meals. The Parish Council is working to develop kitchen, and food safety policies that will be implemented to ensure the health & well-being of all parishioners & guests. In addition some guidelines will be established with recommendations to help guide parishioners, particularly anyone who has shied away from hosting fellowship due to any false perceptions or fears. It is our hope that involvement with fellowship and all ministries of our Parish is welcoming and encouraging participation. I do want to point out that these meal guidelines are only to clarify the Parish expectations are, and will not prevent those individuals or families that wish to host a full in honor of an occasion. We continue to work to make our Parish not only welcoming to our guests, but also to our fellow parishioners without anyone feeling undue pressure or expectations that are out of reach. We continue to plan for our incoming Pastoral Assistant this fall, as more information solidifies we'll share it with all parishioners.

**In Christ, your servant,  
Greg Sebastian  
President**

### **Treasurer's Report**

As of April 28, the operations account has a balance of \$28,122. The dedicated funds account has a balance \$9,574, which includes \$915 for the Missions Possible campaign. We now have one month remaining to meet our goal of \$2,000. Please remember during our formative years, the Commission for Missions and Evangelism financially supported our new parish for two

years. We above all other parishes should make every attempt to support the Commission and they work they do with the six aspiring missions we presently have in our Metropolis. Remember it's MISSIONS (and parishes) POSSIBLE. Help make it happen!

### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

#### **Stewardship and the Steward**

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

An Orthodox Christian steward is an active participant in the life of the church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox faith to become practicing stewards. Each year the steward is expected to make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the parish and her ministries, which in turn support the national ministries of our Archdiocese and our Metropolis.

Have you made and kept your commitment?

### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

Final preparations are being made for our annual Evening in Greece dinners, being held May 12th and May 19th. Reservations are coming in. Make sure your seat is reserved for this wonderful event! Flyers are available in the church hall if you'd like to pass them out to friends. See you at the dinner- OPA!

**Presbytera Maria**

**Greetings from the Salem Mission,  
Christ is Risen!**

Our first Holy Week and Paschal services went well, thank you for your prayers! We were even allowed to keep the bay leaves out for a week! It was very beautiful and memorable, especially for the people who had not been able to attend very many of the services in past years. Over time, we have gradually added liturgical items so we just needed to add a couple necessary items for these unique services. It is our great blessing to have a master craftsman in our midst who created an amazing Kouvouklion, people gifted in knowing how to do the flowers, dedicated chanters and altar servers, priestly love and guidance, Presv. Krista adding just the right touches with her liturgical sewing gifts, and so many willing to help wherever needed. The week was highlighted with an attitude of gratefulness for the blessing of being allowed to celebrate these services together. A favorite comment from someone Orthodox for three years (paraphrased), "Wow. Now I'm beginning to understand how important this week is and why all of these services are so important." The only hard part was for those of us who had to give up some of our Holy Week traditions at other parishes, particularly with our St. George family. You can see a little slide show of the week on the home page of our website.

Beginning this month of May with the help of Fr. Alban, we will add Saturday evening choir practice and Great Vespers to our schedule.

Glory to God for His great love, mercy, and blessings.

Maria Hauser

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

"If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not risen - nothing else matters." - Jaroslav Pelikan

Holy Cross had the blessing of hosting, together with St. George and Salem, a Missions and Evangelism workshop here at St. George. Throughout the day, Thomaida Hudanish (director of the Metropolis' Missions and Evangelism ministry) kept asking us 'why'; Why are we here? Why are we Orthodox? Why do we go to church? Why do we care if anyone knows about Christ? The answer is in the Paschal greeting that we continue to give each other: Christ is Risen! If Christ is Risen, then nothing else matters! This startling proclamation should shake us to our core, transforming our lives and relationships. Please continue to pray for Holy Cross that we allow the Risen Christ to work His transformation in us, and that we spread the Light of Christ to those around us who are longing for Him.

With Love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross, Roseburg OR

**Missions and Evangelism**

Our parish was blessed to host the Missions and Evangelism conference on April 21st. Members from our parish as well as the Salem and Roseburg mission parishes attended. Thomaida Hudanish, our Metropolis's director of the Missions and Evangelism Ministry led the conference. She encouraged us to start thinking of ways we can personally share our story of "why we are Orthodox". Your story is unique to you and cannot be denied. Many things she shared resonated with me. Her own personal reason for sharing her faith is as an expression of gratitude for the great experience of being part of the church. That is much like my own experience, and yet, how often do I share it with others outside the walls of our church buildings? It's a good idea to take the time to consider how you might answer someone's question as to why you are an Orthodox Christian. She encouraged us to respond to those who are seeking by: having genuine relationships, providing hospitality, and taking risks! Are we ready to take those risks for helping someone find the one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church? Apostolic is not just who we are founded on, it is our vocation—all of ours! Not just Father Jerry! One of the final comments she shared that really hit me was: "The Church is meant to be a lighthouse and we are busy being a desk lamp!"

Overall, such a great day to be educated, equipped and engaged in this great mission! If you have any questions about the conference or additional insights we learned, please feel free to contact me or any of the others who were able to attend.

Please continue to donate to our Missions Possible campaign that runs through May until Pentecost Sunday!

**In our Risen Lord! Kathryn Becker**

**PHILIA**

Thanks to Gloria and everyone who helped out, our Tsoureki fundraiser was deemed a success. The tasty loaves have all been purchased and hopefully enjoyed. We have started planning the Greek dinners which are coming up soon on May 12th and 19th. Albeit requiring lots of energy from everyone, it is a fun and profitable event for the parish. Flyers had been emailed to all and hardcopies can be found in the fellowship hall. Posters will be available soon to display at your place of employment or other businesses in the area. Please invite your friends and families. A reminder that seating is limited and reservations are required. We are also honing our Greek dancing during the next few Sundays after church. Anyone interested in learning, practicing or just exercising is welcome to join in.

Plans for the future:

- Greek Dinners - May 12 and May 19
- Gyrofest - July 29
- 

For info on wedding or baptismal items contact Gloria at 541-424-0575 or via email at zezeastimons@gmail.com. And if interested in Rada cutlery and products please ask Julie.

**Next meetings: May 6, and 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 May 6 and May 13 as these are our Potluck days. And the Pentecost Charity Luncheon is scheduled for May 27.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

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**CLEANUP CORNER:**

May 12, 19 and 26 show up as "Tidy Up" days on the cleaning calendar as no one signed up for those slots. So, if you see something that needs to be mopped up, wiped down or swept up, please do so. We will be setting up in the late afternoon of the Fridays just prior to our Evening in Greece dinners, so any cleanups should be done before. 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...**

We want to thank everybody that participated in the espresso donations for the bookstore on Pascha. We raised \$80 that will go into purchasing more quality Orthodox items for our ministry.

New items that are gracing our shelves include a beautiful selection of icons in varying sizes, 50 ct. Russian style prayer ropes with tassels, icon bracelets, and an array of books. We are doing our best to get in new releases from SVS Press and Conciliar Faith as they come out. So if you are looking for something new to read stop by and we will show you what's new off the press.

(If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry please contact either Brett or myself in person or via email.)

Happy Reading!

In Christ,

Cassandra Batterson

**Care Ministry****Christ has risen!**

The Care Ministry celebrated Pascha by delivering baskets to our Homebound and "90 +" Parishioners. Each basket contained a Palm Cross, Spring Flower, Food Item - Tsoureki, Candy Treat, and Handmade Card. We are grateful for the opportunity to share our love and bring them the blessings of St. George. In turn, we were inspired by their faith, wisdom and kindness.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

## May Celebrations

### Birthdays

May 2nd-Michael Buck  
 May 3rd-Sebastian Sizemore-Chanti  
 May 7th-Andrew Lilles  
 May 13th-Neal Zoumboukos  
 May 14th-Elena Kokkino  
 May 15th-Michelle Creech  
 May 17th-Ben Hauser  
 May 18th-Bridgid Groomer  
 May 19th-Kay Mehas  
 May 20th-Art Mehas  
 May 25th-Maria Hauser  
 May 27th-Jason Taylor  
 May 30th-Brad Thomas

### Feast Days

May 8th-St Emilia  
 Emily Kaelin  
 May 21st-Sts. Constantine & Helen  
 Elena Kokkino, Lisa & Elena Lilles, Liana  
 Creech, Eliana Hauser  
 May 23rd-Holy Myrrhbearer Mary  
 Maria Hauser

### Wedding Anniversaries

John & Gloria Timmons-May 17th  
 Art & Kay Mehas-May 19th  
 Jerry & Joan Rundt-May 24th

### Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

Michael Creech-May 29th

Many Years! Chronia Polla!



## News and Events

**What's New!**

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in May are: Food prep on Friday, May 4th and the breakfast on Saturday, May 5th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Catechumenate:** Stephen Webinga was enrolled as a Catechumen on April 22nd. Please be praying for him.
- **Greek Dinners:** Make your reservations now for one or both Greek Dinners, May 12th and/or 19th. Please note that Great Vespers will start at 5 pm on those Saturdays.
- **A Note from Fr Timothy:** *Christ is Risen! It is with great sadness that I must tell you that in July I will be leaving St. John's and taking a one-year leave of absence and moving to Ohio. Over the past year, Presvytera Vicki has been under the care of a neurologist and other specialists, attempting to rule out Multiple Sclerosis. Within the last six-months Presvytera's symptoms increased and her health has rapidly declined. During Holy Week the neurologist ran further testing and discovered that she does not have MS but Lyme's Disease. Unfortunately, it has reached her central nervous system and is causing neurological problems. This along with her autoimmune disease of Celiac are treatable with aggressive treatment but it will take years until her body returns to a normal state of healthy functioning. Over the past few months I have assumed more and more of the day-to-day responsibilities in the home and with the children leaving little time for me to tend to my responsibilities as a priest and as Director of the Family Wellness Ministry of the Metropolis. Presvytera and I agree that it is necessary for me to take at least one year off so that we can focus on her treatment as well as tend to the daily activities of our children We have chosen to move to Ohio since this is where my mother and siblings live. My mother will turn 91 in June and has lung cancer. She has seen very little of her grandchildren over the years since we have always lived out west. We feel that being close to her is the right thing to do. We are uncertain about where we will be next, after the year in Ohio. What we want all of you to know is that we love you very much and that we have always felt loved and supported by all of you. You are a very special and deeply warm community and we give thanks to our Risen Lord for allowing us to be the beneficiaries of your kindness and generosity. You have been a tremendous blessing in our lives. With love in Christ, Fr. Timothy and Presvytera Vicki*
- **A note from Ann Webinga:** *Father Jerry and Church Family: Thank you for welcoming me into your church family for the two short weeks I visited Eugene. It was a pleasure to worship with you. I enjoyed meeting all of Stephen's new church family. It is such a pleasure and comfort to know that he is loved and has so many friends in his new surroundings. I look forward to visiting again soon. In Christian love, Ann*
- **We Read Together:** Our Metropolis Missions & Evangelism Ministry has organized an online book group, nurturing conversation and community around great Orthodox Christian books. In May, there will be four live weekly online discussions (Thursday, May 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th, from 7-8:30 pm), moderated by Dr Eve Tibbs, Metropolis of San Francisco Director of Religious Education. The May 2018 book is "For the Life of the World" by Fr Alexander Schmemmann. For more information and to sign up, go to [www.growingorthodoxy.org](http://www.growingorthodoxy.org)
- **Graduates:** Please let Father Jerry know of any family members graduating as part of the Class of 2018.
- **St Nicholas Giving Book:** We were not able to budget for substitute priests this year so we are asking for donations to cover the expense. Please see the St Nicholas book for details.
- **Pentecost:** The feast of Pentecost falls this year on Sunday, May 27th. Please join us for Orthros & Divine Liturgy, as well as the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost. There will be a charity luncheon that day so make plans to stay for that as well.
- **"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!

# KOINONIA

|                          | 5/6            | 5/13                   | 5/20             | 5/27                |  |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>FELLOWSHIP</b>        | POTLUCK        | MOTHERS<br>DAY POTLUCK | Mueller          | PENTECOST<br>Creech |  |
| <b>GREETER</b>           | Larisa L       | Helen S                | John & Gloria    | Jerry R             |  |
| <b>PROSFORON</b>         | Freezer        | Lilles                 | Creech           | Freezer             |  |
| <b>FLOWERS</b>           | OPEN           | Pascha                 | OPEN             | OPEN                |  |
| <b>READERS</b>           | Brad Thomas    | Pascha                 | Brad Thomas      | Brad Thomas         |  |
| <b>CLEANING<br/>CREW</b> | 5/5<br>Sollars | 5/12<br>Everyone       | 5/19<br>Everyone | 5/26<br>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                           |
| <b>CARE MINISTRY</b>             | Gloria Timmons 541-484-0575                             |

<sup>ies</sup>  
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Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

*St. John of Kronstadt (1829-1908)*  
*On Love for One Another*

The love of our Divine Saviour, Jesus Christ, of God the Father, and of the Holy Spirit to us is so great, so immeasurable, that, in comparison to it all human dislike, enmity and hatred against us become insignificant, and seem to vanish entirely. It is because of this boundlessness of God's love to us and the insignificance of human enmity that the Saviour commanded us all to love our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us, and pray for them who spitefully use and persecute us. [St. Matthew 5:44] We are in the love of God; does it greatly matter to us if men are not well disposed towards us? What can they do against us when God has so loved us?