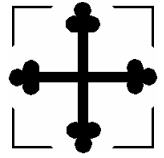


# Agape



## ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH-MAY 2021

Dear Ones,

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Please enjoy this beautiful reflection by St. Gregory the Theologian...Third Theological Oration

### **By what authority are you doing these things?**

He was baptized a man-but He remitted sins as God, not because He needed purificatory rites Himself, but that He might sanctify the element of water. He was tempted as a man, but He conquered as God; indeed He bids us be of good cheer, for He has overcome the world.

He hungered, but He fed thousands; indeed He is the bread that gives life, and that is of heaven. He thirsted, but He cried, "If any man thirsts, let him come to Me and drink; indeed, He promised that fountains should flow from those who believe.

He was wearied, but He is the rest to those who are weary and heavy-laden. He was heavy with sleep, but He walked lightly over the sea.

He rebuked the winds, He made Peter light as he began to sink. He pays tribute, but it is out of a fish; indeed, He is the king of those who demanded it.

He weeps, but He causes tears to cease. He asks where Lazarus is laid, for He was man; but He raises Lazarus, for He was God.

He is sold, and very cheap, for it is only for thirty pieces of silver; but He redeems the world, and that at a great price, for the price was His own blood.

As a sheep He is led to the slaughter, but He is the shepherd of Israel, and now the whole world also. As a lamb He is silent, yet He is the Word, and is proclaimed by the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

He is bruised and wounded, but He heals every disease and every infirmity.

He is lifted up and nailed to the tree, but by the tree of life He restores us; indeed He saves even the robber crucified with Him, indeed He wrapped the visible world in darkness.

He is given vinegar to drink mingled with gall. Who? He who turned water into wine, who is the destroyer of the bitter taste, who is sweetness and altogether desired.

He lays down His life, but He has power to take it again...He dies, but He gives life, and by His death destroys death. He is buried but he rises again; He goes down into hell, but He brings up the souls.

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

*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*

202 Hillview #1 Eugene, Oregon 97408  
Phone: (541) 683-3519 Fax: (541) 683-1044

Website: [www.stgeorgeor.org](http://www.stgeorgeor.org)  
Email: [frgerasimos@sntgrg.org](mailto:frgerasimos@sntgrg.org)

## Parish Council Report

### Christos Anesti! Christ Is Risen!

Greetings to everyone! We are now blessed with having celebrated our Savior's triumph over death and His glorious Resurrection!

I want to share with you some highlights from our recent Clergy Laity Assembly. Our main speaker was the dynamic, Father Barnabas Powell from Georgia. His talk was titled "Moving beyond the pandemic and returning to Worship". He started the talk with the question – "why do we gather for worship, prayer and learning?" His answer: since God is in community (in the Trinity), we will know Him best through community as well. As Orthodox Christians, we have the fullness of the Christian faith – he exhorted us to show up and reach out with it! There were some great ideas for how to become an "outward focused" parish! He encouraged us to not be overwhelmed, but move forward, even if it's just a little bit! So, as we move on now, in hope because of our Risen Lord, may we do so with purpose! May we share Him with those around us and into our community at large.

### Truly He is Risen!

Your fellow servant, Kathryn Becker

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

No report.

Presbytera Maria

### Treasurer's Report

Balance as of April 23, 2021

Operations Account: \$61,237

Dedicated Account: \$87,280

## Missions & Evangelism

Christos Anesti!

Now that we have celebrated the most beautiful day of our faith, let us share it with others! Every year, between Pascha and Pentecost, we have the opportunity to contribute financially to the Missions and Evangelism ministry of our Metropolis.

This year, the campaign name is "Mission to America." The last 3 years, it has been called Missions Possible. We still have some of the boxes to collect money at home, if you'd like. It's time to start thinking of how much you would like to contribute. Our parish usually sets a goal of at least \$2000, for this project. Will you please help us meet this goal once again? You can contribute traditionally with your check or cash given specifically to M&E, or through the Metropolis Missions and Evangelism website: [groworthodoxy.org](http://groworthodoxy.org). On their page, go to the Missions to America link and you will be directed to the Metropolis campaign.

- The Metropolis campaign is hosted via GoFundMe Charity, which allows donors to make gifts instantly and track the campaign's progress Metropolis-wide.
- Mission to America 2021 launches at Pascha, inspired by the words of the angel to the Myrrhbearing women: "Go and proclaim the Good News that He has trampled down death by death!"

This year, each of the 6 mission parishes has requested grants to help their parish grow. We know both the Roseburg and Salem missions intimately with our own Father Jerry working so tirelessly to grow them both. So, now is the time to plan how to help Orthodoxy grow here in our backyard and America, in general.

May it be blessed!

Please direct questions to Kathryn Becker at: [beckerettes@msn.com](mailto:beckerettes@msn.com) or 971-506-7161

### Greetings from the Bookstore! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

I hope all have had a blessed and fulfilling Lenten Season and Pascha. Still to come, however, are the Feasts of the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost.

The Bookstore highlights this month will include an excerpt from Vassilios Papavassiliou's Meditations for the 12 Great Feasts, *Becoming Fully Human in Christ*.

Chapter 9: Children of God, the Ascension of our Lord: "When you came down from heaven to things on earth, and as God raised up with you Adam's nature which lay below in the prison of Hades, You brought it to heaven by Your Ascension, O Christ, and made it sit with You on Your Father's throne, for You are merciful and love mankind. (Matins of the Ascension, Kathisma)

Someone once asked me why the Feast of the Ascension is not a fast day. Perplexed, I inquired why he thought such a feast should be a fast day. He replied, "Because the Lord left humanity on this day, so surely it is a day of sorrow." This misses the point of the significance of the Ascension, which is not about Christ leaving the world, but rather about Him raising us up to the heavenly Father. In ascending to God, our Lord took with Him our human nature, which He assumed for our salvation. Because He shares in our humanity, we share in his divinity; He is the first to ascend to God the Father in the flesh, thus paving the way for all of us: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2-3)

If the purpose of the Incarnation is for Christ to restore us to the image and likeness of God, then this work is completed in the Ascension. As St. Paul writes: "He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things." (Eph. 4:9-10)

In the Ascension the divine destination of humanity is made clear. Our Lord plans not only to restore us to our former dignity and to the earthly paradise that was lost, but to raise us up to heaven: He grants us something even greater than what we had before the Fall. To be truly human is to be a child of God. Therein lies the significance of the work Christ came to do. Having become our brother, the Son of God made us children of his Father: "I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." (John 20:17)

Unlike other animals, human beings have a divine vocation. We cannot be fully human if we do not recognize and respond to that vocation. Since we know that our true home and destination is the throne of God, let our minds and hopes be fixed not on the earth, but on heaven above: "Abandoning on earth the things of the earth, leaving to the dust the things of the dust, let us now come to our senses and lift up our eyes and minds. O mortals, let our sight and all our senses fly to the gates of heaven. (Matins of the Ascension, Ikos)"

\*\*\*\*\*

In addition, the Bookstore highlights *Thinking Orthodox, Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind*, by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, Ph.D., which comes highly recommended by several parishioners. This clear, convincing, practical, well-crafted, and highly recommended book argues that the heritage of the Orthodox faith includes not only a distinct theology, but also a distinctive pattern of thinking theologically. It is not the task of theology to refine, clarify, and apply an ever-greater precision to the content of the Faith. As a component of the life of Christ, rather, Orthodox thinking strives to acquire and maintain a disciplined, humble, and devout mind. Orthodox Christianity is based on preserving the mind of the early Church, its phronema. Dr. Constantinou explains the Orthodox phronema, how it can be acquired and how that phronema is expressed in true Orthodox spirituality.

I welcome and appreciate your suggestions and recommendations and wish you many blessings and much peace.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

· **Philia**

No report.

**Prison Ministry update:**

While Fr. Jerry and I have not been able to visit the Bible study group in person, we continue to send materials in to the men. We sent Pascha greeting cards to the men on behalf of the church, and we will send in the next section of readings from St. Paisios' Spiritual Struggle, "On Trusting Our Thoughts" the beginning of May. The Dept. of Corrections recently sent a module dealing with the Coronavirus Protocols that all volunteers must complete in anticipation that activities will be allowed to start again sooner than later.

For those who have been praying daily for different aspects of our church, Wednesday is the day we pray for those who are incarcerated. Your prayers are all appreciated. As we heard in the epistle reading on Lazarus Saturday from Hebrews 13:3, "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them..." quite a challenge. Thank you for your prayers for these men and this ministry.

~Joanna Jaquette

**From the Missions****Dear St. George ~**

As I write this, people around me are setting out baskets of candles and covering a warehouse-made-temporary-church in flowers. For the first time we are able to have Holy Week and Pascha services here at Holy Cross! Fr. Martin Ritsi and Presvytera Renee arrived from Florida on Holy Wednesday and will be serving here throughout the week.

Amidst the joy there is a touch of sadness, though, that we are not worshipping with you this year as we have done for so many years. As we sing in the Lamentations, "Every generation offers adoration my Christ, at your entombment". This applies not only to our physical offspring, but spiritual ones as well. It is a great joy to see our parish faithfully take up the Tradition that you have passed to us! Thank you for your prayers for us!

In Christ, Lisa Buck, Holy Cross Roseburg

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Sorry, I can't speak about things that haven't happened yet, so this is still a Holy Week update.

It's been a real blessing to walk through the services of Great Lent together in community once again this year. We can't offer every service in our rented space at Blanchet Catholic High School, but we've had every evening service. Friday after the students leave, we'll do a quick scramble to transfer our nave, narthex, and altar items over to the cafeteria (got a new heavy-duty cart to make that easier!!) for the afternoon service at 4 p.m. followed in rapid succession with the Lamentations service at 6:30 p.m. Holy Saturday is always an exciting day, and this year we look forward to welcoming faithful Catechumen Robert into the Church through baptism. We hope you have a very blessed Pascha!

Kali Anastasi!

Maria Hauser

Holy Resurrection Mission, Salem

**May Celebrations****Birthdays**

May 2nd-Kimberly Bentley, Michael Buck  
 May 7th-Andrew Lilles  
 May 10th-Michael Becker  
 May 13th-Neal Zoumboukos  
 May 14th-Elena Kokkino  
 May 15th-Michelle Creech  
 May 19th-Kay Mehas  
 May 20th-Art Mehas, Stephen Hughes  
 May 25th-Maria Hauser  
 May 30th-Brad Thomas

**Feast Days**

**May 8th-St. Emilia**  
 Emily Kaelin

**May 21st-Ss. Constantine & Helen**  
 Elena Kokkino, Lisa Lilles, Eliana Hauser,  
 Helen Spears

**May 23rd-Holy Myrrh bearer Mary**  
 Maria Hauser, Lilly Hughes

**Wedding Anniversaries**

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

**Baptized in Christ/Chrismated**

**May 20th-Michael Creech**

**Many Years! Chronia Polla!**

## What's New! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

- **Thank You!:** We want to thank all those who gave of their time, talent and treasure to provide a memorable Holy Week and Pascha. Special thanks go out to Ann Marie and Brad for their tireless service chanting the divine services. Special thanks to Chris Sumstine who served tirelessly in the altar. Special thanks to Katharine Drakatos and Alli Hughes and all those who helped decorate with flowers. Special thanks to the Parish Council who made things run smoothly. To all those who dyed and donated eggs, thank you. A very special thanks to the Prayer Team and the Psalter Groups. We really felt your prayers for us! I'm sure we've forgotten someone but know that God remembers all your love and service and will reward your faithfulness.
- **Baptized in Christ:** We were blessed to receive three new Christians who were baptized on Lazaros Saturday. Tina Avramides was baptized with her aunt Georgia sponsoring her. She took the name Katherine. Reuben Wilson, fiancée of Johanna Williamson, was baptized with Mark Lipson as his sponsor. He took the name Zoticus. Johnny Sajo from Roseburg was baptized with Michael Buck as his sponsor. He took the name Nikephoros. May they live for us!
- **Additional Services:** There will be Orthros & Liturgy on Friday, May 7th (Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring) and on Wednesday, May 26th (Mid-Pentecost), beginning at 9 am.
- **Wednesday Liturgies:** Wednesday weekday Liturgies will resume on May 12th. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend an additional liturgy per week. It is the liturgy that forms us as Orthodox Christians so come and be transformed.
- **Adult Education:** Our Adult Education class takes place each Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm via Zoom. If you would like to learn more about the Orthodox Faith, please join me and the Inquirers and Catechumens on Tuesday night.
- **Men's Fellowship:** Our Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, May 15th at noon. We will meet at Coldfire Brewery. All men of the parish are invited to join us!



# KOINONIA

	5/2	5/9	5/16	5/23	5/30
FELLOWSHIP					
GREETER					
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	Freezer
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
CLEANUP	Jaquette	Drakatos	Lilles (A & L)	Carroll	Becker

## GET INVOLVED!!!

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
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	
STEWARDSHIP	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
GREETERS	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
CARE MINISTRY	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
FUNDRAISING	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112
PRAYER CIRCLE	Noel Sumstine sumstine@gmail.com

St. George Greek Orthodox Church – (541) 683-3519, Fr. Gerasimos (Jerry) Markopoulos  
 E-mail address: [frgerasimos@sntgrg.org](mailto:frgerasimos@sntgrg.org) Church's Website: [www.stgeorgeor.org](http://www.stgeorgeor.org)

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

**Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship, the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One! We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's Holy Resurrection! For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection. By enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death!**