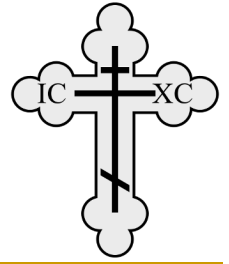




# Agape



**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH NOV-2020**

**Beloved in the Lord,**

*A blessed Nativity Fast to all!*

As I thought about what I would share with you in the 2021 Stewardship letter, I was reminded of a presentation I saw recently that described stewardship as a cycle of eight movements. This cycle starts with our acknowledgment that God is the source of everything (movement #1). The cycle then moves to our receiving of God's gifts with thanksgiving (movement #2), and it highlights the thanksgiving, openness, humility and vulnerability of the Theotokos, in the way she received God's gift. Movement #3 is about how the first thing we should do when we receive God's gift is to offer the first fruits back to Him in thanksgiving. We see this as we pray in the Divine Liturgy, "Thine own of Thine own; we offer unto Thee in all and for all". We also see this on the feast of Transfiguration, when we offer the first fruits, and at a baptism when a first offering from the hair of our head is made. The next movement (movement #4) is about consecrating the gifts God has given us and sharing them with others. This is captured beautifully each year on Stewardship Sunday, when we ask God to bless our offerings. As stewards, we are responsible to care for all that God entrusts to us. Your stewardship supports the ministries of the church and like the loaves and the fish, we bring them to God to be blessed and then shared. As God accepts our offering, He pours forth greater abundance (movement #5). Haven't we seen this time and time again? If you have had this experience, even once, you know that it is true.

In being stewards, we engage in the grace of God. Stewardship is for our own benefit, our own good. As we move through the cycle we mature in our capacity to steward God's gifts (movement #6). We listen and learn, and are continuously "becoming" stewards. The next movement reminds us that we will have to give an account (movement #7). The movements of this cycle prepare us for Confession and repentance in this life, and for the eternal reward of the good and faithful servant (movement #8) in the age to come. Both in Confession, and at the Judgement Seat, we give an account for our stewardship.

Do we acknowledge God as the source of everything? Have we received God's gifts with thanksgiving? Do we offer back to God first, the first fruits? Do we use God's gifts to care for all that He entrusts to us? Are we maturing in our capacity to steward God's gifts? These are some important questions to think about as you prayerfully consider completing the enclosed stewardship card.

We ask that you return your 2021 Stewardship card by November 30th. Stewardship Sunday will be on Sunday, December 6th. We thank you for your faithful giving to our parish and for your prayers. May God bless our parish!

*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

Autumn is in the air, the beautiful glory of God is all around us with the lovely colors in our gardens and forests. Also, temperatures are getting cooler, as you may have noticed in the nave. The new guidelines from the Metropolis say: "Keep all doors and windows open during indoor services (even during the winter months)." Be sure to dress warmly with gloves, coats and scarves. The mandatory masks may do more than help slow down the spread of the virus, they may keep your nose warm also.

We are about to enter a very busy time for our church year. It is time to begin thinking about new Parish Council members. It is a wonderful way to become closer to members of our parish and to gain an insight into the many wonders of our church. If you are interested in learning more and having this become a part of your journey in Orthodoxy please contact Larisa Lilles. She is the Vice President of the Parish Council and in charge of organizing a list of individuals that would like to serve. You can share your special talents with others for the growth of our parish. The Council is working on a Parish Assembly format and providing it in a way that all can participate. Watch for emails and information after liturgy about the upcoming Parish Assembly. Stay Tuned!

## Your Parish Council

## Stewardship Report

### *Spending Time with God as Part of Our Stewardship*

As Christians it is important to value the time we spend at church and the talents we bring to the church's ministries. Every member of the Body of Christ should play a role according to their gifts in the life of the parish. The church is not a social club, but rather a place where people of faith gather for worship, fellowship and service to thank God for the blessings in our lives. Of the 168 hours in every week, we offer back the short time we spend in church on Sunday morning and other services, gathered together as the Body of Christ. We are united in prayer and united in Holy Communion. We become His hands and feet carrying out His work in the world. As we offer ourselves and our time as His Church, we are part of something much bigger than we can imagine - much bigger than the project we support, the service we provide, the prayer we offer.

Please take a few minutes to read and explore the ministries listed on the back of this year's stewardship card and find something of interest to you where you can offer some of your time and talent in 2021 to God's work at Saint George.

## Treasurer's Report as of October 29, 2020

Operations Balance: \$59,227

Dedicated Funds Balance: \$71,667

Thank you for making every effort to keep your giving up to date.

## GREETINGS FROM THE BOOKSTORE!

### Bookstore Highlights

After Liturgy a few weeks ago, Father spoke about Saint Iakovos and an experience he once had during Divine Liturgy. When it came time for the Great Entrance, the Chanter completed the Cherubic Hymn, but Saint Iakovos did not come out from the altar. So, the Chanter repeated the Hymn; again Saint Iakovos did not come out. Yet again, the Chanter repeated the Hymn for the third time, but still no Saint Iakovos. Finally, a few minutes later, Saint Iakovos came out and completed the Great Entrance and the Divine Liturgy. Afterwards, the Chanter wondered and asked what happened at the time of the Great Entrance. Saint Iakovos said that when it came time for him to come out of the altar, he was so enraptured that he could not move. Finally, the Archangel Michael tapped him on the shoulder and said it is time to go, and so he did and completed the Divine Liturgy. Saint Iakovos said he was so enraptured with this vision that he could not move; it was timeless; it was other worldly. Such were the experiences of St. Iakovos during many Liturgies.

From his earliest years, Saint Iakovos wanted to become a monk, but he would have to wait. At the age of 32, he entered the Monastery of Saint David the Elder in Evia, living the rest of his life there as a monk. He rose above insurmountable obstacles, labored aesthetically beyond what is human, and suffered greatly for the sake of Christ. He received Divine Gifts as a reward, including clairvoyance and miracle working, becoming an Elder of great stature. "God has not left us without Saints in our age of falsehood and agnosticism. Saint Iakovos intercedes for us today, now glorified among the Saints in heaven. From the vivid, lively stories in this book (The Garden of the Holy Spirit) may we be moved to glorify God, and ask Saint Iakovos to intercede for us."

"My heart feels like a garden."

Saint Iakovos of Evia (1920-1991)

If you are interested in this book, please let me know.

As always, I wish you many blessings, wellbeing, and much peace.

**In Christ, Stella Kallianis**

### Missions and Evangelism Ministry:

The Missions and Evangelism ministry Team has still not been able to meet since the pandemic began, but I do want to encourage everyone to maintain an evangelistic approach to our lives in all we do.

First off, continue to maintain your life of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Pray for the many missionaries serving in other countries, through OCMC, etc.

Secondly, if you are coming to church in person to participate in Liturgy, remember to be kind and friendly, even while "masked up"! We are still having visitors coming to find out what Orthodoxy is all about! So, please make sure they know we are a loving bunch and welcome them.

And lastly, listen to podcasts about missions through Ancient Faith radio ([ancientfaith.com](http://ancientfaith.com)). There was a very recent 2 part podcast with Father Tom Soroka interviewing Father Justin Havens from Salt Lake City, UT. As he describes his evangelistic work to the LDS community, I was struck by this main concept: be loving! We also need to know the doctrines of our beautiful faith, so keep studying the scriptures and the lives of the saints, as well.

Until next time,

Your fellow servant, Kathryn Becker (I can be reached at [beckerettes@msn.com](mailto:beckerettes@msn.com))

**PHILIA**

Our International Luncheon Takeout, was a huge success! Thank you to all who participated in all facets of it! Our chefs gleefully rose to the occasion to fill out the orders, and in the process created: 76 Russian piroshki, 64 Romanian sarmales , 42 Romanian doughnuts, 36 pieces of Byzantine cake, 25 servings of Greek spanakorizo, 16 pieces of Greek pastitsio, 9 Mexican enchiladas, 9 jars of Russian vinaigrette and 8 rolls of Japanese sushi (to be delivered in the near future) As always, thank you so very much! We appreciate all of your support. Philia's next challenge is to fill the church's Food for Lane County bin to the brim. And it's not limited to just Philia members, as everyone can participate in helping out those in need.

Plans for the future:

- Filling up the Food for Lane County Bin to the Brim (many times over...)

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

Next meetings: November 8 December 13 on ZOOM.

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

**CARE MINISTRY**

This is the 3rd article highlighting the services of the Care Ministry. Currently, we are following six parishioners who are either homebound or have special needs. St. George is fortunate to have several parishioners who were instrumental in forming our community and building our church. We believe Thanksgiving is an ideal time to say "Thank you" and check-in on those that have made contributions to our church and to other parishioners. It is an important time to let them know they have not been forgotten.

Do you know of a parishioner who needs special care? This could be yourself or someone who, in this day of COVID 19, cannot regularly attend church, is in poor health, is feeling particularly alone, is grieving, does not have or cannot afford food, needs help to get medical assistance, needs housing, needing help with children? Please contact Fr. Jerry or me (At 541-484-0575 or zezeastiummons@gmail.com) with any inquiries or requests.

Care Ministry volunteers are ready to help with problem solving and referrals.

If you are interested in participating in this important and rewarding ministry, please contact me.

Blessings,

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons

**From the Church Plants...****Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

It's difficult to believe that we are already nearing the Nativity Fast! This year it seems even easier to become distracted by all that is clamoring for our attention in the world. Thankfully, we've been given the tools of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving to help us arrange our priorities according to Christ.

At Holy Cross, we are working to faithfully utilize these tools: We are now having either a Divine Liturgy or a Typica service every Saturday, giving us the opportunity to pray together every week. Father continues to hold office hours on most Thursdays, offering the sacrament of confession, opportunity for spiritual counsel, and reading with us the wisdom of Blessed Geronidissa Makrina after the weekday service. We are also continuing to meet our financial obligations through the faithful stewardship of our parishioners.

Though uncertainty seems to be the by-word of the day, we are resting securely in the certainty that God is merciful, loves mankind, and keeps us in the shelter of His wings!

**With love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross Mission, Roseburg**

**Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,**

Since student time being physically present is very limited and school activities are still not normal at Blanchet High School where we meet, Holy Resurrection has received permission to have our Sunday Services in their cafeteria named the Lee Center through the end of the calendar year. So, these days after Saturday night vespers, as many as are able immediately begin carrying our church items over to transform the space into a very spacious Nave. This way, so far, we no longer need to require people to sign up for Sunday mornings. Another advantage is the improved acoustics compared to our regular space in their chapel. Then after Communion Prayers, everything is hauled back. We're grateful for everyone who so faithfully pitches in so that it all gets done quickly.

**In Christ,  
Maria Hauser**

**November Celebrations****Birthdays**

**November 1st-Parry Newton-Jones**  
**November 8th-Isabella Avalos**  
**November 9th-Diane Monger**  
**November 10th-Omilie Doran**  
**November 14th-Penny Newton-Jones, Luke Bentley**  
**November 20th-Julie Lenkoff**  
**November 22nd-Hermela Mekonnen**  
**November 23rd-Pete Drakatos**  
**November 27th-Emily Kaelin**  
**November 30th-Ann Marie Kaelin**

**Feast Days**

**November 8th-Archangels**  
 Michael Buck, Michelle Creech, Mikey Creech  
**November 9th-St Nektarios**  
 Brian Kaelin, Diane Monger  
**November 14th-St Philip the Apostle**  
 Richard Green, Brad Thomas  
**November 25th-St Katherine**  
 Kay Mehas, Katharine Drakatos, Kathryn Becker  
**November 26th-St Innocent**  
 Leo Hall  
**November 30th-St Andrew**  
 Andrew Lilles, Andrew Pirrello

**Wedding Anniversaries**

**November 15th-Panayiotis & Ann Leith Katsoyanos**  
**November 19th-Dimitri & Elena Kokkino**

**Baptized in Christ/Chrismated**

**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.
- **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](http://www.stgeorgeor.org).
- **Additional Services:** In addition to Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Orthros & Liturgy, we will be offering additional services in the month of November. These include: Orthros & Liturgy on Tuesday, November 4rd, Wednesday, November 11th, November 18th(MVP) Saturday, November 21st, and November 25th; all beginning at 9 am.
- **Room in the Inn:** Thanks to some generous donations of time, talent and treasure, we have been able to increase capacity for those who wish to worship with us in person. The Fellowship Hall is now equipped with 20+ additional seats, and a projector/screen that allows for participation in the services in real time. This means that everyone who wishes to be in person for the services, will have that opportunity.
- **Brrrrrr:** With the coming of Winter, comes colder temperatures. Due to the virus, we must keep spaces well ventilated. While we try to find a good balance, please remember to dress warmly for church.
- **Baptized in Christ:** In October we received Gabriella Kosgei, daughter of Titus & Million Kosgei into the Church. Her sponsor is Hewan Berhane. May she live for us!
- **Crown them with glory and honor:** We congratulate Greg Sebastian and Melissa Tierney on their recent engagement, and we wish them "Kala Stefana".
- **Nativity Fast/Psalter Group:** The Nativity Fast begins on Sunday, November 15th, and goes for 40-days in preparation for the birth of Christ. The idea of a Fast is to encourage us to carve out more time for God and our souls, in place of satisfying our bodily needs. One of the ways of doing that is by participating in our Psalter Group. As in previous years, Johanna Jaquette has offered to organize and facilitate the group. I encourage you to reach out to her and participate!
- **Cleaning Help:** Due to the pandemic our schedules for Fellowship and Cleaning have gone by the way-side. While we still cannot host a Fellowship event, there is always cleaning to be done. Actually, there are even more opportunities for stewardship of your time and talent in cleaning the church facilities. Therefore, you should notice that I have added back names to the cleaning schedule on the next page. If you are willing and able to clean please know that we appreciate the help. If you are still uncomfortable with helping, we understand.



*Another successful and delicious International Luncheon, Covid-style!*

# KOINONIA

	11/1	11/8	11/15	11/22	11/29
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>					
<b>GREETER</b>					
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	Orgill
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	Lenkoff Lilles	Kaelin Jaquette	Hartig Carmack	Campbell Lipson	Carroll

## 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>	Kay Mehas 541-954-0152
<b>SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
<b>BOOKSTORE</b>	Stella Kallianis 541-274-9110
<b>PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
<b>CHANTER/CHANT GROUP</b>	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
<b>FAMILY WELLNESS</b>	Ashli Mueller 541-731-3319
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>GREETERS</b>	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
<b>CARE MINISTRY</b>	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
<b>PRAYER CIRCLE</b>	Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
<b>MISSIONS &amp; EVANGELISM</b>	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
<b>FUNDRAISERS</b>	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

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

### **A Good Word...**

**In the Eucharist, those who are separated and estranged from each other by human frailty are brought together into the perfect and intimate unity of the One Body in Christ...The faithful are "co-members" of each other through Christ in the Church...**

**Spirituality, in every celebration the whole Church, "the whole company of heaven", takes an invisible, yet real part. This unity extends not only to all places but also to all times. It includes, all generations and all ages. The living and the departed are to be "commemorated" at every celebration of the Divine Liturgy. It is not only a remembrance, in a narrow and psychological sense of the word, not only a witness, or our human sympathy and concern, but rather an insight into the universal fellowship of all believers, living and departed, in Christ, the common Risen Lord."**

**Georges Florovsky**