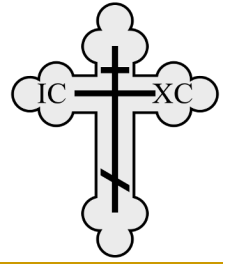




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH NOV.-2021

Dear Ones,

During his reign, Grand Prince Vladimir of Kyiv (AD 958-1015) sent his emissaries to tour the world in search of the True Faith. Upon their return they reported to him as follows, "Then we went to Greece [Constantinople], and the Greeks (including the emperor himself) led us to the edifices (Agia Sophia) where they worship their God, and we knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth, for surely there is no such splendor or beauty anywhere on earth. We cannot describe it to you; we only know that God dwells there among men and that their Service surpasses the worship of all other places... for we cannot forget that beauty"

One thousand years later, the church still stands as the place where we can go and worship God. It is still the place where God dwells among men. It is still a place of splendor and beauty. Our Service still surpasses the worship of all other places, and its beauty has the potential to change us. There is no other place in the world like it.

I often hear from parishioners that if it were possible, they would live in the church. For them it is a place of refuge, comfort, and peace. It is a place where they can be quiet and settled amidst the distractions and noise of life. I jokingly say to them that if their family calls in a panic asking where they are, I will tell them, "Have you checked the church?"

The church is where we belong. It is our spiritual home. It is a place of prayer, comfort, spiritual healing, and celebration. Our Church is so much more than a building. We enter our spiritual home to be a part of a community of believers who grow together as we share that spiritual life. Our church is not "ours" in a possessive sense, because all things belong to God and come from God. Rather, our church is "our" church in a "belonging" sense, all of us, all together. To be truly a member of the Church as Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another -- in worship, study, and service to others. To be truly a member of the Church, requires that we be stewards of the Gospel and the stewards of our parish. So, as you prayerfully consider your stewardship offering for the coming year, please be mindful that this is our home, our spiritual home, and that it takes all of us, all together, to make sure this church still stands.

Your 2022 Stewardship card is on its way to your home as well as a brochure from the Stewardship Ministries' department of the Archdiocese. We also invite you to two talks we are giving about stewardship on Sunday, November 14th & 28th. This will be a time to learn more about stewardship and how it impacts our parish. May God keep you and bless you!

In Christ, Father Jerry

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

Website: www.stgeorgeor.org
Email: frgerasimos@sntgrg.org

Greetings from your Parish council!

Kathryn Becker has stepped down from the Parish Council and as Vice President, Larisa Lilles has assumed the President's duties. Neal Zoumboukos was voted in by the PC in accordance with the Uniform Parish Regulations to take the empty spot. These changes will remain in effect until elections take place at the end of this year.

The PC has been working to support the St. George Learning Center as they near their opening date. We have also been working with the Sunday School team on how to best serve the youth of our parish, and on developing a plan for holding consistent and safe fellowship time after church. Many thanks to Mark Lipson and Liana Creech for working with Comcast to solve issues with our livestream. There has been a noticeable improvement over the past couple of weeks. We now turn our attention to working on the 2022 budget and PC elections for the new year.

May it be blessed!**Larisa Lilles****Parish Council President****Treasurer's Report**

As of 10/28/2021, our bank account balances were:

Operating Account - \$65,487.70

Dedicated Funds Account - \$87,226.56

FUNDRAISING

We are happy to announce that we are having a take-out holiday bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 20, and a Sunday in December before Christmas. This year it will be on a smaller scale than our usual bake sale, but still festive. Coming soon you will see flyers advertising the sale. We will sell baklava and dolmathes in November and baklava and a combination box of kou-rambiethes and baklava at the December sale. More details to come. Thank you in advance for your support of our fundraiser and our church.

Presv. Maria**Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County**

One of the local charities supported by St. George, Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County (RRC), is raising funds for refugees coming into our community. They are hosting an online fundraiser, Welcoming Our New Neighbors (W.O.N.N.) on Tuesday, November 16 at 6 pm. You can support their efforts to help refugees by purchasing the tickets to this online event. The tickets cost \$25 each and can be purchased from their website www.ccslc.org/wonn or by calling 541-345-3628 ext. 317.

If you're not able to participate in the W.O.N.N. online event, but would like to help, you can send your check donation to Catholic Community Services, 1025 G Street, Springfield OR 97477, Attn. W.O.N.N.

RRC is also accepting donations of household items such as furniture, kitchen items, and bedding, to help refugees make a new start in our community. If you would like to donate any of these items, you will need to contact a RRC staff, via their website, to make arrangements for the donation.

In Christ, Liana

Stewardship

In the Orthodox Church, we grow together as we share our spiritual life. We give sacrificially of our time, talent and our treasure to support our parish. When we give of our first fruits to our parish, we set our priorities with God and have a constant reminder that all we are and all we have are His. In addition, we are stewards of the Gospel. We should see our parish, not as it is, but as it should be. We need to offer our time, talent and treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential as Orthodox Christians.

Greetings from the Bookstore!

On November 21, we commemorate the Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, and on November 15, we will begin the Nativity Fast.

This month, the bookstore highlights excerpts from *Meditations for the Twelve Great Feasts, Becoming Fully Human in Christ, The Living Temple, The Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple*. The Virgin Mary's entry into the temple in Jerusalem, where, according to Tradition, she entered the Holy of Holies (the abode of the Ark of the Covenant) and where she dwelt in preparation for the birth of Christ. The entry of the Mother of God into the Temple of Jerusalem marks the beginning of a radical change in religious history. The Holy of Holies, being the dwelling place of the Word of God, the Ark of the Covenant, was inaccessible to human beings, but now enters a woman to become the holiest thing on earth; the ark of the Word made flesh. Now the human body is the holiest thing on earth, and each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit. As we ponder the wonder of God, who is infinite and who cannot be bound by the created universe, being conceived in the womb of a mortal woman, we are reminded of our exalted calling to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who cannot be contained. The human being has become the temple of God. This is the calling of every one of us, male and female, young and old, rich and poor. In realizing this calling to be the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, we discover the fullness of humanity: the image and likeness of God; we become priests of creation, charged with the special vocation of the first-formed to bridge and hold together flesh and spirit, sharing in both the animal and celestial kingdoms, binding together earth and heaven. This is what marks out the human being from the rest of the animal kingdom: Man alone has the power, the calling, the vocation to act as priest and steward of the earth and to offer creation back to the Creator, for man alone is endowed with the image and likeness of God. Thus, to be fully human is to be divine, and to give thanks and praise to the One who made us.

The Bookstore also highlights an additional excerpt: *The Image of God, The Nativity of our Lord*. We are so accustomed to the story of the Nativity that it is easy to forget how strange and amazing it is for God to be born. Christ is eternally begotten of the Father, but as a Person of the Trinity He cannot be born, since there was never a time when He was not. Yet there is more to the Nativity than the paradox of God's birth. The Church also calls us to wonder at the manner of his arrival upon earth. Forget all you know of Christianity for a moment, and consider: If God were to come down to earth, what would it be like? How would His coming be? (Would there be world events of immense magnitude? Wrath, darkness, destruction, mass hysteria?) He chooses to be born as a little child, a defenseless baby. That same God of almighty power, whose presence, if manifested to us, really would be a disaster of biblical proportions, comes to us in complete meekness and humility. The One whose face "no man shall see...and live" (Ex. 33:20) becomes a baby for us, revealing to us all that is pure and good in humanity, and, at the same time, the humility of God. We see in the Nativity the full meaning of humility, and in this humility, we see the true nature of God. For all that is truly good, pure, mighty, powerful, majestic, loving, and beautiful has no need to show off, no need to prove itself; it has no need to be compared to something else to be what it is. Thus God is not God simply because He is infinitely greater than we are, as though He needed us in order to be God. And so He comes to us in complete humility, in secret, poor and vulnerable. And in so doing He shows us that all that is truly good in humanity is also humble, and nothing more so than a newborn baby. If we consider the true nature of God, we will find ourselves moving from the initial surprise that God came to us as a baby to the conclusion that there could be no other way. Only in a baby could the Image of God be revealed to the world, inducing not fear and terror, but love and tenderness, revealing to us both the humility of God and the goodness and purity of God's creation. To become fully human is to become like God, and to become like God is to "become as little children" (Matt. 18:3).

And also this month, the Bookstore has highlighted the meaning of the icon Jesus Christ, Pantocrator. That "highlight," along with the Prayer to Christ the Pantocrator, to "illumine our hearts, O Master, who lovest mankind...", is on display in the Bookstore.

Wishing you many blessings and much peace. In Christ, Stella Kallianis

PHILIA

Albeit not everyone was able to make it, we were able to squeeze in another pizza get-together in Julie's back yard. It was a very nice visit and the weather cooperated. And then our Philia group embarked upon our fun fundraiser, the International Luncheon Takeout, which, too, was deemed a great success. Thank you to all who cooked, packed, bought and enjoyed our tasty dishes. A few new ones were added this year to some old favorites. The proceeds will help with Philia's philanthropic endeavors.

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches - TBD

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

Next meetings: No meetings scheduled at this time. Just email updates.

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

Prison Ministry

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV) reads, "38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There are a lot of things in this life that can create or cause separation. For over a year we have been physically separated from meeting in our Prison Ministry Bible Study Group. People who are in prison face separation every day of their life. These verses though remind of us the essential connection - "the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"- and give hope. While on the surface we have not been able to enter into the prison, we have been blessed to be able to continue to send light into our group of men in the form of monthly reflections. We can pray for those who are incarcerated, and we can write letters. These seemingly small efforts are ways we can share our faith and God's love to help remind those for whom it is not so easy to come to church, or make it home for the holidays, or even make a regular phone call, that they are remembered, and they are not separated from God's love.

As we have done the past couple years, as part of our Prison Ministry Outreach, we will be sending Thanksgiving cards to the men in the OSP Bible Study group and a few others. We welcome you to send a greeting and sign these cards. Joanna will bring them on Nov. 14 and have them available for signing during the fellowship time. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry, those who are in prison.

-Joanna Jaquette

From the Mission Churches

Our thoughts and prayers are with you as we prepare to enter into the Nativity Fast, and we ask you to pray for us. May we all experience a fruitful season of repentance and anticipation of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

From Met. Seraphim of Kastoria:

“... Let us allow Basil the Great, who was not only a social father of the Church, but was also a great ascetic, who experienced fasting, was nourished by it, and taught it to his flock in Caesaria, to speak about it. His words have a lot to offer us: “Do you think I am resting the origin of fasting on the Law? Why, fasting is even older than the Law. . .

It is not a recent invention; it is an heirloom handed down by our fathers. . . . It is as old as humanity itself; it was prescribed in Paradise. It was the first commandment Adam received; “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ye shall not eat.” . . . We have been wounded through sin; we are healed through repentance, but repentance without fasting is fruitless.””

In Christ.

Maria Hauser, Holy Resurrection Mission, Salem

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

As we approach the Nativity Fast and commit to increasing our prayers, please pray for Holy Cross! We are actively searching for a new space as our current space is over-full. We are working to increase our Fellowship and Parish Care ministries, as well as continuing strong in our adult education classes. We currently have a new Catechumen, several regular visitors, and the return of a ‘founding’ couple from the Medford area. We are also grateful to announce a new member! Anna Rose Barry was baptized in Christ, taking the name Nectaria; please keep her and Godmother Eugenia in your prayers as well. We are grateful for these gifts! Please pray we continue to increase not only in numbers, but in Grace also. You are welcome to join us for a service; view our schedule at RoseburgOrthodox-Church.org.

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

November Celebrations Birthdays

November 1-Parry Newton-Jones
November 10-Omilie Doran
November 14th-Penny Newton-Jones, Luke Bentley
November 20th-Julie Lenkoff
November 23rd-Hermela Mekonnen
November 24th-Pete Drakatos, Katherine Hauser
November 27th-Emily Kaelin
November 30th-Ann Marie Kaelin

Feast Days

November 8th-Holy Archangels

Michael Buck, Michael Creech, Michelle Creech,
Mikey Creech, Mikaela Jaquette

November 9th-St. Nektarios

Nektarios Kaelin, Diane Monger

November 14th-St. Philip

Richard Green, Brad Thomas

November 25th-St. Katherine

Kay Mehas, Katharine Drakatos, Katie Hauser, Tina
Avramidis

November 26th-St. Innocent

Leo Hall

November 30th-St. Andrew

Andrew Lilles

Wedding Anniversaries

November 15th-Panajiotis & Ann

November 19th-Dimitri & Elena

November 22nd-Mark & Joanna

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:** 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.
- **St. George HSCLC:** We are excited to announce the opening of the St. George Home School Community Learning Center! After many months of work by the "A Team" (Alli Hughes, Ashli Mueller, and Ann Marie Kaelin), the school year will commence on Tuesday, November 2nd. May God bless this holy work by your prayers!
- **Services:** To provide an opportunity for Learning Center students to participate in weekday services, we are making a slight change in the schedule of weekday services. Beginning this month, weekday services that fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays will begin at 8:45 am (PCP-Pre-Communion Prayers) followed by the Divine Liturgy at approximately 9:15 am. There is one exception this month namely, there will be Orthros & Liturgy on Thursday, November 25th, for the feast of St. Katherine the Great Martyr and to give thanks to God on Thanksgiving Day.
- **Stay Connected to the Metropolis:** Text SFNEWS to 22828 and subscribe to the E-News from the Metropolis of San Francisco. It's a great way to stay connected to the latest ministry information from the Metropolis. Sign up today!
- **Safety Committee:** We thank Gloria Zezeas Timmons and John Timmons for their work in establishing and coordinating our Safety Committee! They will be stepping down from coordinating the committee and handing things over to Norman Hartig, effective immediately. We also thank Norman for stepping up and assuming the role of coordinator.
- **Stewardship Campaign:** Our annual stewardship campaign is happening this month and soon you will be receiving your stewardship packet. This year's theme is, "Our Church, Our Spiritual Home", and we hope you will take a few minutes to read over the packet materials. In addition to the packet, we are having two, "Stewardship Talks", to offer you an opportunity to learn more about stewardship and its impact on our parish. Those talks will take place after the Divine Services on Sunday, November 14th & 28th. Thank you for your continued support!
- **Prayer Team:** Did you know that there is a team of parishioners devoted to praying for you, and for those you know who are in need of prayer? These faithful brothers and sisters comprise our Prayer Team and are ever ready to take on requests for prayer. At this time, Elizabeth Sumstine is the contact person for the Prayer Team. If you would like to contact her please email her at sumstine@gmail.com
- **Cleaning Help:** A special thanks to those helping with the cleaning of the church. Please consider joining the others in this labor of love. "Bless those who love the beauty of Your House, O Lord".

Nikki and Friends celebrating Halloween
 "Friends" are Theodore & Ahadu



KOINONIA

	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	5th week
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
CLEANING CREW	Neal & Arin	Stella & Liana	Monica & Ashli	Fr. & Pres.	Bill & Lisa

GET INVOLVED!!!

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
SAFETY COMMITTEE	Norman Hartig 541-344-8759
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	Liana Creech 541-285-4469
STEWARDSHIP	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
GREETERS	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
CARE MINISTRY	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
PRAYER CIRCLE	Elizabeth Sumstine (sumstine@gmail.com)
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
FUNDRAISERS	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

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

A Good Word...

Everything you do, all your work, can contribute towards your salvation. It depends on you, on the way you do it. History is replete with monks who became great saints while working in the kitchen or washing sheets. The way of salvation consists in working without passion, in prayer....

May God give you the strength to keep your spirit, your mind, and your heart in the spirit of Christ. Then everything that happens to you can very quickly be radically transformed. What was tiresome and discouraging will disappear, transfigured by your desire to be there where Christ your God is....

St. Sophrony