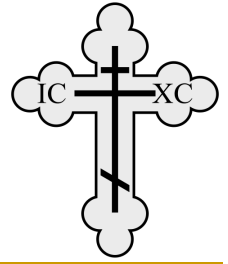




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SEPT. 2018

From the Metropolis Monthly Meditation by Fr. James Retelas

"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership."-1st Timothy 4:13-14

This was the opening scripture quote from the valedictorian of the Holy Cross Class of 2016, providing the context for a truly inspirational and challenging message. Notice the order Saint Paul lists for his spiritual son Timothy to follow. First, attend to reading, of course the reading of Scripture. Exhortation is second, and doctrine is last. Saint Paul is addressing those of us charged with the teaching ministry of the Church, pastors and lay people, so we need to make sure we have our priorities in order. As important as doctrine is, the only way to correctly and effectively apply doctrine is to know the Scriptures. We also need to know the Scriptures in order to exhort others.

The reason this message resounded with me then and to this day is because it reminds me of my personal shortcoming when it comes to the reading of Scripture. Looking back over 32 years of parish ministry, I believe I've preached (exhorted) proper doctrine, but I've neglected "the gift that is in" me by not giving Scripture its proper priority in my personal devotions. Some may think, "no big deal," as long as you stay true to Orthodox Christian doctrine. But therein lies the crux of the matter. What good is preaching correct doctrine to others, even the whole world, unless we are personally grounded in the Word of God? The priority of reading Scripture is central to our continuing formation in Christ: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

As much as I want to believe my heart is in the right place, the fact remains that God's word is the ultimate barometer for measuring my growth as a Christian, let alone a Priest. Indeed the "word of God is living and powerful," but its impact is for naught if we don't follow the lead of Saint Augustine: "At the high point of his spiritual crisis, wrestling with himself alone in the garden, St. Augustine heard a child's voice crying out, 'Take up and read, take up and read.' He took up his bible and read; and what he read altered his entire life. Let us do the same: Take up and read." (How To Read the Bible, by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, p. 1766, The Orthodox Study Bible)

May we endeavor to read the Scriptures more earnestly and grow closer to the very heart (Logos) of the Bible, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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Phone: (541) 683-3519

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

Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Parish Council prepares for our upcoming Parish Assembly this month we continue our budgetary efforts and preparations for elections to Parish Council in December. The Parish Council wishes to thank every ministry head & committee chair that worked with the Budget Committee to provide ideas, and input about inclusions in the budget. As we take this into account, our hope for next year & the following years is to greater improve the reach of our ministries & evangelism to our Parish family and the wider community that we serve of the Eugene and Springfield area. This time of year also brings about our discussion of Parish Council elections, the number positions, and the number of candidates who are running. We will be talking about what that means, and entails to serve on Parish Council at our Assembly later this month. Before then I just want express a few things. First, serving on the Parish Council is a great service to our Parish and God, done out of the desire to improve upon the foundations and work done before us. There is not one member of the Council that doesn't exemplify this. Further that the Parish Council is not political, there are no divisive sides, and we work together in consensus to reach all decisions. This has truly been a blessing of our service, that we are fortunate to experience. Our Parish Council, along with Father serves as guides to our ministries leading them in common direction to fulfill Christ's calling to us all. We seek to provide this opportunity to serve to all adult parishioners, younger and older, to express your voice on matters, provide your leadership experience, and grow our experience together.

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As we enter October, we need to reflect on 2018's stewardship and begin projecting forward to 2019. The faithful of Saint George have pledged \$137,819 in 2018. At the present time, eleven (11) of our stewards have completely fulfilled their stewardship giving for the year. This is very encouraging. We hope all stewards will check their upcoming September 30th giving statements and bring their stewardship up-to-date if you have not already done so.

It is also time for all of us to begin prayerfully considering how we will support Saint George in 2019. In those thoughts, please factor in how you can give of your time and talent in addition to your treasure. We need to remember our investments for God and His Kingdom never depreciate. They grow and grow like no other investment you have ever made.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are preparing for our annual Bake Sale & Craft Fair, which will be held in December. All are welcome to help us bake for the event. Please lend a hand - no experience is needed. You may come for as much time as you can spare. We appreciate the help!

KOULOOURAKIA

Monday, October 22 - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 23 - 2:00 p.m.

KOURABIETHES

Monday, November 12 - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 14 - 2:00 p.m.

We'll package cookies Tuesday and Thursday that week.

Please see Presbytera Maria or Julie Lenkoff with any questions.

Presbytera Maria**Greetings from the Bookstore!**

As we enter into the new Church year we would like to share with you an exciting change that will be happening in the Bookstore this October.

We would like to welcome Stella Kallianis as the new head of the Bookstore ministry. Stella has graciously agreed to step in to help keep the Bookstore up to date and running smoothly so that we can keep this ministry vibrant and growing. Brett and I will still be part of this ministry but due to increasing work and family obligations don't feel that we can give it the attention and consistency that it needs to keep it thriving. So let's give Stella our warm support and congratulations as our new ministry head! As for books.... be on the lookout for the arrival of Michael Shanbour's book " Know the Faith: A Handbook for Orthodox Christians". This is the book that Father is referencing in our Adult Education class that he is conducting after liturgy. We should have copies arriving by the beginning of October.

In Christ,
Cassandra Batterson

Greetings from the Missions and Evangelism Ministry Team:

“The Church needs to help people not feel lonely.”

This was a comment that was spoken to our group of Missions and Evangelism teams. St. George is part of a 4 parish Mission Insite project. We meet via conference every 2 weeks and encourage one another to find ways to spread Christ and Orthodoxy in our respective communities. Two of the parishes are from northern California and the other one is from Arizona.

No matter where we are located, we all share the desire to share our faith, and specifically the fullness of the Orthodox faith. So, that one comment started me thinking: what can we do to express our love to others and especially welcome anyone who walks into our Narthex on a Sunday morning? It isn't just up to the “greeters” and the welcome committee to help anyone who visits feel comfortable. As a visitor, maybe it's their first exposure to an Orthodox church. Maybe it's their first time to any church. Maybe it's been a long time since they even thought about God and going to church. Maybe they are looking for someone who might share the love for Christ with them. Maybe they are going to college here and hope to find a local parish to go to. Whatever their reason, let's look for opportunities to be inviting, welcoming and loving. We should be introducing ourselves and making them feel like we are so happy they have come to be part of our service today.

So, thank you each for considering how to continue to make St George a welcoming, friendly parish that lovingly practices the love of Christ to everyone!

Your fellow servant in Missions and Evangelism, Kathryn Becker

Care Ministry

How can the Care Ministry assist parishioners and their families? The Care Ministry Team is prepared to assist with the following services:

- * Meals – Illness, New Baby, Death/Memorials, Special Circumstances
- * Contacts – Visitations and Phone Calls to Hospitalized and Homebound Team is prepared to assist with the following services:
- * Remembrances – Cards as appropriate, Gifts for Homebound four times per year
- * Resources – Resource Notebooks in Library
- * Emergency Transportation
- * Emergency Childcare
- * Medical – Questions and Referrals
- Crisis Intervention – Arranged in coordination with Parish Priest

How is a referral made? A referral can be made directly to the Parish Priest or a member of the Care Ministry Team who will then contact the Care Ministry Coordinator for assignment. The responsible team member will make the necessary contact and arrange for the need to be met.

Referral Forms can be found in the narthex. When completed the form can be given to a team member or the Parish Priest.

Efforts will be made to fulfill requests without duplication of services. When an appropriate community resource is available, that information will be shared and made available.

Questions? Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions at zeazeastimmons@gmail.com or 541-484-0575.

Blessings, Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons

PHILIA

Our fundraising luncheon, the International Mini, is scheduled for October 7 during fellowship hour. We will have a variety of dishes from all over the world, music, dancing and singing. Please note that on your calendars. You are welcome to invite your friends and relatives. The food is on a donation basis and your generosity will be greatly appreciated. The money we raise goes towards the needs of the parish, parishioners, and the community as well.

We successfully completed our commitment to the Community Court Lunches for 2018 and have signed up for four dates next year. The recipients and Eugene Muni were very grateful.

Plans for the future:

- October 7 -International Mini
- Pastry Baking - October & November DTA

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

Next meeting: October 14, and November 11, 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

COFFEE CHAT :

A reminder that when hosting or bringing food to a potluck, please take your leftovers home, offer them to another parishioner or plan to add them to the fellowship table the following week. When perishable items are left in the church fridge, they end up spoiling and being thrown away. It would also be very helpful during potlucks if you would bring your food either in your own dishes which you can take home to wash or in disposable ones which could be tossed. It's not fair to have the few remaining parishioners end up with dish-washing duties.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

Please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com or plan to come during the week when the church is unlocked for your scheduled cleaning. And please remember that the fellowship hall is part of it. With 50 plus people trekking across it with drips, spills and food particles under tables and chairs, the floors can become pretty ugly. A full fledged mopping is not required. A quick sweep and spot cleaning with a spray bottle and a rag will work. Streaked dirt and sticky stains are not very appealing. All cleanup supplies can be found in the pantry.

Julie Lenkoff, Cleanup Coordinator (email: julielenkoff@comcast.net)

From the Missions...**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

The parish of Holy Cross has had a lovely September, including the celebration of the Feast of The Nativity of the Theotokos, a local outreach project handing out free water bottles to our neighborhood, and our Patronal Feast Day Liturgy and Fellowship. In the coming month, we are looking forward to an Evangelism presentation by Thomaida Hudanish as well as the continued re-development of our ministries from the ground up. We need your prayers as we navigate this challenging period of change and growth!

We would love to have you as our guest at any service; please check out our website for the current schedule: RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross Roseburg**Greetings from the Salem Mission,**

This past month three daughters from one family and an infant daughter of another family were baptized into the Church! Glory to God!

Please join us at the Salem Mission on Saturday, October 27th for a day with Presvytera Krista West as she explores "Envisioning the Kingdom: The Why and How of Beauty in the Orthodox Church." She will provide illuminating information on how beauty has been perceived and valued throughout the centuries and how it is very much a part of our calling as Orthodox Christians today, along with practical advice for bringing more beauty into our lives and our churches. She will also have her book and items from her websites available. This retreat is for EVERYONE, not just women!

Registration (with a suggested donation toward our building fund) begins at 9:30 a.m. Lectures begin at 10 a.m., and the day will conclude at 3 p.m. with snacks and lunch provided. You may also register online at <https://www.salemorthodoxchurch.org/events.html>

Maria Hauser

October Celebrations**Birthdays**

October 2nd-John Lallas
October 5th-Father Jerry
October 12th-Jo Ann Kluge
October 16th-Stephen Kaelin, Linnea Tsiftsi

Feast Days

October 20th-St Gerasimos
 Metropolitan Gerasimos
 Father Jerry

October 26th-St Demetrios
 Jim Stephenson, Dimitri Kokkino, Johanna Williamson, Demetre Markopoulos, Dimitri Lilles

Wedding Anniversaries**Baptized in Christ/Chrismated****Many Years! Chronia Polla!**

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in October are: Food prep on Friday, October 5th and the breakfast on Saturday, October 7th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Welcome:** On Sunday, September 23rd we welcomed Steve Tussing and his family to St George! For a time, Steve will be serving, part-time, as a Pastoral Assistant to Father Jerry and St George. Steve grew up in the Pacific Northwest where he attended George Fox University receiving his bachelors in Accounting & Psychology. While at George Fox, he met his spouse, Katie, and now, have been married 13-years and have four kids-Vasilia (12), Susannah (10), Joseph (8), and Maria (6). Steve converted to Orthodoxy from Protestantism while in college. Over the last 11-years Steve has worked in public accounting receiving his CPA, and then transitioned into the technology field focusing on information security and data protection (at Nike). Steve and his family were very involved at St John the Baptist in Beaverton over the last 13-years, where he served as Treasurer on the Parish Council for four years. Three years ago, Steve and his family decided to follow God's calling, move to Boston and attend Holy Cross. Steve graduated in May and moved back home last month. He and his family are excited about being back in the Pacific Northwest and this opportunity to serve within the Church. Welcome Tussing Family!
- **Church School and Adult Education Class:** The 2018-19 Church School year kicked-off on Sunday, September 16th with a blessing over the students and teachers. As a reminder, everyone is invited to attend Church School. We also began an adult education class which will take place each Sunday while Church School is in session. Everyone is invited to stay for the class.
- **Philia International Mini:** Please join us on Sunday, October 7th for Philia's annual International Mini Fundraiser. Our Philia group is the philanthropic arm of our parish and this event supports their efforts. Please come and support this event.
- **Monastery Visit:** We have another opportunity to visit St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA namely the weekend of October 12-14. If you haven't been to the monastery, this might be a good opportunity for you to visit. At this time there are 8 spots reserved for us. If more would like to go, I will check with the sisters to see if there is room. Please contact me as soon as you can if you are able to make this trip. In Christ, Lisa Lilles 541-746-5592 (please leave a message if I am not home!) Lilleslw@gmail.com
- **Monastery Benefit Dinner:** Abbess Efraxia and her Sisterhood cordially invite you to an evening of fine dining at the 12th Annual Monastery Builders Benefit Dinner and Auction, with guest speaker, Father Demetrios Carellas, to support Saint John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery, on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 5:30 PM. The event will take place again this year at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center, 402 East Scenic Drive, The Dalles, Oregon. You can RSVP online at stjohnmonastery.org
- **Envisioning the Kingdom:** The Greek Orthodox Mission Church of Salem invites you to a talk by Presvytera Krista West, titled, "Envisioning the Kingdom: The Why and How of Beauty in the Orthodox Church". The event takes place on Saturday, October 27th, beginning at 9:30 am with registration, and lectures from 10am to 3pm. Blanchet High School Chapel in Salem is the place where the talks will be given. There is a suggested donation fee of \$25/person, as this is a fundraiser for the Mission's Building Fund.
- **Parish Assembly:** Please join us on Sunday, October 28th for our Fall Parish Assembly. Your attendance and participation are vital so please save the date and plan to join us. In addition to ministry reports we will take the first look at the 2019 Budget. We also will be looking ahead to the Parish Council elections that will take place in December.

KOINONIA

	10/7	10/14	10/21	10/28	
FELLOWSHIP	Philia	Lenkoff	Rundt	Lenkoff & Bonosevich	
GREETER	Larisa L	Helen S	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Campbell	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	10/6 Zoumboukos	10/13 Anyone	10/20 Sollars	10/27 Anyone	

GET INVOLVED!!!

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

- PARISH COUNCIL** Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
- SAFETY COMMITTEE** Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
- BOOKSTORE** Stella Kakkianos 541-274-9110
- PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP** Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
- CHURCH SCHOOL** Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
- CHANTER/CHANT GROUP** Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
- FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN** Art Mehas 541-485-8671
- FELLOWSHIP** Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
- 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

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

A good word...

The person who belongs to Christ turns everything into prayer. He makes both difficulties and tribulations into prayer. Whatever happens to him, he begins, 'Lord Jesus Christ. . .!'.* Prayer is beneficial for everything, even for the simplest of things. For example, if you are suffering from insomnia, don't think about sleep. Get up and leave your bedroom and then come back in and lie down on your bed as if for the first time, without thinking about whether you will sleep or not, then concentrate your mind, recite the doxology and then repeat the prayer, 'Lord Jesus Christ. . .!'.* three times over and that way you will fall asleep.

The Life and the Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios" (1906-1991)