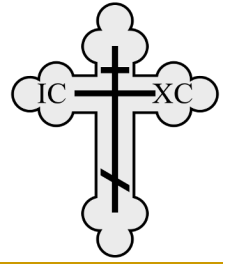




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OCT-2019

Dear Ones,

One of the most misunderstood Traditions in the Orthodox Church is the Sacrament of Baptism. First of all, the vast majority of people who are baptized are infants. They have no say in the matter and no memory of the service. Secondly, baptism is viewed as an event. It happens and then it is over. However, baptism is the initiation into an event that will last a lifetime, so it is not an end unto itself but rather it is a beginning. Most people think of baptism in the past tense, i.e. I was baptized, or I had my child baptized, as opposed to something that is present. To say "I was baptized" denotes an event that happened once and is now over. For those of us who are married, we don't say "I was married on (whatever date you got married)", as if to say that the marriage ceremony was an ending. We say "I am married," because the date we were married brought us into a state of being which continues to the present, with both joys and obligations. The day we are baptized, we might say, is the day that we married Christ. But throughout our Christian life, we remain "married" to Him, with the joys and challenges that come along with it.

Saint Paul summarizes the baptism services, when he writes in II Corinthians 1: 21-22, "But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put His seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." In these two verses, he summarizes what would become, and still is, the sacrament of baptism in the Orthodox Church. When a baptism is celebrated in the Orthodox Church, the one being baptized experiences three sacraments – Baptism (He has put His seal upon us), Chrismation (Given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee) and Holy Communion (God who establishes us with you in Christ). In baptism, we are initiated, which means God puts His mark on us. In the Old Testament, the mark of being one of God's children was a physical mark of circumcision. In the New Testament, the mark of God on us is indelible. It is made with water. But a mark is made on us nonetheless. In Chrismation, we are confirmed (or probably better made firm) in faith by having the Spirit placed into our hearts. To make an analogy, when we wash a car, we first wash and clean the dirt. Then we wax the car to protect it from getting dirty. Baptism and Chrismation work in almost the same way. Baptism washes us. Chrismation seals us. Finally, in Communion, God continually establishes Himself in us, and we in Him through Christ, Who comes into us in a physical and tangible way each time we receive Him.

There is one more aspect of baptism that we tend to forget. And that is that Christ "has commissioned us." (1:21) A commission in the military is an order to perform a specific task. One officer might be commissioned to lead a group of soldiers, another might be commissioned to oversee a ship and another might be commissioned to monitor security and intelligence. All military personnel are commissioned to do one thing – defend our country – but to do it in a different way. In the same way, all Christians are commissioned to do one thing – spread the Gospel – but we are commissioned to do it in a different way. Some will spread the Gospel as priests, some as Sunday school teachers, some as parents, some as encouragers, some as quiet witnesses. But all of us who have been baptized have received the same commission, the Great Com-

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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mission, to “go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) This is why this Gospel passage is read at every baptism, because everyone who has been baptized becomes a disciple and receives the same charge that the first disciples received after the Resurrection of Christ.

A commission in the military lasts for a certain amount of time. Every few years, the serviceman is given the opportunity to re-enlist or to retire. If he retires, his commission ends. If he re-enlists, his commission remains.

A commission to be a disciple lasts for a lifetime.

There will be many opportunities to leave the “army of Christ.” We have that opportunity daily through sin and temptation. However, we also have the opportunity daily to re-enlist in the army through prayer and repentance. We re-enlist in a more formal way through the sacramental life of the church, specifically through frequent receiving of Holy Communion and through the Sacrament of Confession.

We need to think of our participation in the Christian life not merely in terms of membership – that we belong – but in terms of commission – we are expected to do something and that something is to spread the Gospel. Of course, before we spread the Gospel, we must learn it for ourselves. So, we must be good learners, faithful followers, and also spreaders of the Gospel – this is the commission that we are all called to do, each of us in a unique way. Daily prayer affirms our commission. Weekly worship provides us a corporate affirmation, it’s where the whole local army (church community) gathers to affirm our commissions. Receiving Holy Communion strengthens our commissions because it gives us a personal encounter with our commander, our Savior, and allows us to carry Him in us as we go back out into battle.

Baptism is what initiates us into the faith. Chrismation brings the Holy Spirit and His grace into us. Holy Communion sustains us. And living out Christ’s commission is what should give us focus, purpose and direction.

Father Jerry

Parish Council

- Ann-Marie Kaelin provided the council with an update on the plans for chant group practices on Saturday afternoons. All would be welcome regardless of musical background. She also gave the council an update on Church School plans for the upcoming school year.
- Ron reported expenses in August were significantly greater than income. This was only the second time in 2019 that had happened. It is important parishioners keep their stewardship giving up-to-date.
- Costs for Frederica Mathews-Green's visit to Eugene have been solidified and met.
- New curtains for the Royal doors and Deacons' doors are being made and will be installed before the end of the year.
- There was discussion about opening an account with Central Print, but no motion to do so was made.
- Father has rearranged his office to his satisfaction; so for the time being, rooms will continue to function as they have been.
- Coordination and arrangements for Steve Tussing's ordination was the major topic of the meeting. Steve's ordination to the Diaconate will take place in Beaverton. His ordination to the Holy Priesthood will occur in Eugene. A luncheon in honor of Steve will take place after the Liturgy. With visitors from Portland, Salem and Roseburg, a larger venue will be needed.
- The last item discussed was the Metropolis Youth Safety program. Everyone who works with our youth will have to take part in this program.
- The next parish council meeting will be Monday, October 7.

Treasurer's Report

Operations Balance:

Dedicated Funds Balance:

Missions and Evangelism Ministry
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What is "The Prayer"?

If you had asked me that question when I was a Protestant, I would most likely have thought you were referring to the Lord's Prayer. But now, I have a different answer. During Thursday morning Bible study, we have begun to read the book "Words of the Heart" about the life of Gerondissa Makrina Vassopoulou. At the young age of 12, she was taught the Jesus Prayer by Father Ephraim Karagiannis. As we continued to read about her life, the authors would simply say "she practiced the prayer unceasingly" and "she was even more persistent with her prayer rope and the prayer". The prayer. The Jesus Prayer!

So I'm hoping we've all arranged our lives to be in the presence of Frederica Mathews Green Thursday Oct 3 for her talk on "the prayer"!

In other news from M&E – our small blue sign at the corner of Coburg and Hillview #1 now is 2 sided so folks can find us (or see us for the first time) traveling North and South on Coburg! We also have a new A frame sign for Sunday mornings that hopefully draws some attention. And we're still looking for a few more greeters, so please contact Larisa or Kathryn if you're willing to be added to the lineup! Fall is here! College is beginning! More visitors will be coming – let's make them feel welcome and at home here at St. George!

Your fellow servant, Kathryn Becker email: beckerettes@msn.com 971-506-7161

Greetings from the Bookstore!

Not only has the new Ecclesiastical year begun, but students are back in school, the days are getting shorter, and summer activities have started to wind down. Families are still busy, but perhaps families will be likely to spend more time at home and together. With this in mind, the Bookstore highlights "Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home," by Father Anthony M. Coniaris. This book includes chapters on: Creating a Faith Atmosphere at Home; Family: The Great Ascetic Feat of Christianity; Teaching Our Children to Be Good Stewards; How to Make a Family Prayer Corner; Teaching Our Children Values; and The Gift of Your Presence. It also includes chapters on the Liturgy, the Sacraments, Holy Week, Lent, and Pascha.

Also at the Bookstore this month: "Meditations for the Twelve Great Feasts, Becoming Fully Human in Christ." The book is organized according to the Ecclesiastical year from September through August, with both Julian (Old) and Gregorian (New) calendar dates.

And to prepare for the year 2020:

1. 2020 Calendar on the Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints & Fasting.
2. Calendar of Liturgical Seasons

The calendars are on display in the Bookstore. They can be purchased by advance order, and sign-up sheets are in the Bookstore.

Wishing you many blessings and much peace.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

PHILIA

It was great to have so many of our members volunteer for the community court lunches. Thank you all for your hard work! I know that it was appreciated. We are done for this year, but I will sign us up for more in 2020.

Reminder that on Sunday, October 6 we will be presenting our fun event, the International Mini Luncheon, which will take place during the fellowship hour, with Philia offering tasty dishes from around the world as well as some inside entertainment. It is one of our fundraisers and your generous contributions will be greatly appreciated. We have also created a Philia's Birth-day Box filled with little gifts for the younger children. The kids can chose whichever one they wish on their own Special Day.

- International Luncheon - October 6
- Pastry baking - October and November dates TBA
- Pastry and Gift Fair - December 7 & 8

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 meetings: October 13 and November 10, 2019 Come join us!

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

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are in preparations for the annual Bake Sale & Craft Fair, Dec. 7 & 8. Flyers and order forms will be coming out in the near future. This is our biggest fundraiser, so please invite friends and family to join us at the event and also to order pastry for the holidays. We need volunteers, so please see Julie or Presv. Maria if you'd like to help. We are taking reservations for our vendor tables at the craft fair. Please see Julie to reserve one.

We will be baking Greek cookies on the following dates (no experience necessary to help):

Koulourakia: Monday, Oct. 21 at 11 am & Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2 pm and 4 pm (two sessions)

Kourabiethes: Tuesday, Nov. 12, 11am and 3 pm (two sessions)

Baklava: TBD

Next committee meeting will be October 27.

Stewardship Report

Offerings of Talent (This is the third of a four part series on Christian Stewardship.)

Talent is best understood as gifts of the Holy Spirit, "charismata." Some of these gifts are spiritual manifestations, bestowed through the anointing with Holy Chrism, while others are gifts that are bestowed through the laying on of hands in the Rite of Ordination. It is this continuous presence of the Spirit that makes possible the constant, progressive, personal growth of the Christian into the image and likeness of God. In God's wisdom, we were all created to be different in our abilities and talents. The purpose of our unique, personal gifts, as attested by Scripture, is for the benefit of all. In this way the Church is built up as the Body of Christ of which we are all members. As for each member, each is equally as important as the next for the overall life and working of the body. The challenge is to not only discern God-given gifts, but also to employ them to His Glory

From the Missions...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

As we move forward into the Liturgical Year, it is good to take a moment to note recent accomplishments. We are grateful that Father Jerry makes the trek for services here, and we are excited to be able to add one Orthros service a month starting in October. The choir is growing both in quantity and quality. The chapel beautification project was very successful, thanks to wood work by Lester Wilson and weekly flowers by Shonna Barry. Our Parish Health Planning has been very inspirational and continues with another session this month. Monastery Pilgrimage has become a big part of our parish with the Lloyds leading parish trips to Golden-dale regularly. For all these things we give thanks and glory to God!

We also want to thank you for supporting our Feast Day on Sept 14. We had a lovely service, and were especially blessed by the attendance of Greg Sebastian and Steve Tussing. We'd love to see you all visit Holy Cross this year!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

Salem Mission Autumn Greetings,

Please remember the catechumens of the Salem Mission in your prayers:

Philip, Joel, Crystal, Moses, Jude, Ezra, Josh and Jeffrey in Tokyo, Japan

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfill every good resolve and work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

In Christ,
Maria Hauser

October Celebrations**Birthdays**

October 2nd-John Lallas

October 5th-Father Jerry

October 16th-Stephen Kaelin, Linnea Tsiftsi

Feast Days

October 20th-St Gerasimos the New Ascetic

Met. Gerasimos

Father Jerry

October 26th-St Demetrios the Great Martyr

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 4th and the breakfast on Saturday, October 5th . Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Events this month:** There are a number of events this month that deserve your attention and consideration. The first takes place on Thursday, October 3rd, at 7 pm, as we welcome Frederica Mathews-Green to Eugene. She will be giving a talk on the “Jesus Prayer-The Ancient Desert Prayer that Tunes the Heart to God”. We will offer the Service of Paraklesis prior to the talk (6 pm). The second event is Holy Trinity’s annual Greek Festival in Portland, Friday, October 4th-6th. The third event is the 5th Annual Men’s Ministry Retreat, organized by the Men’s Ministry at Holy Trinity in Portland. The dates of the retreat are Friday, October 18th-20th. Dr. Deacon Euthym Kontaxis is the retreat master and he will be speaking about how to find balance in the spiritual life. This is a retreat for men only. The fourth and final event is the annual Monastery Benefit Dinner. This blessed event will take place on Sunday, October 20th, in the Dalles, OR. For more information about all these events please see the flyers posted in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Openings:** There are openings for someone to volunteer to clean, (10/12 and 10/19), and for someone to host Fellowship on 10/27. Please consider giving of your time to help fill these openings. In addition, Bonnie Sollars can no longer serve as the coordinator of Fellowship and Cleaning, so we’re in need of a replacement volunteer. Please see FJ if you would like to volunteer.
- **Monthly Celebrations:** Each month I print the names of those celebrating a birthday, name day or feast day, that month. I pull that information from our old database, and in turn, miss many celebrations. Stella has volunteered to help with the new database and with data entry. Please see Stella or myself, so we can add your celebrations to our new database and honor you on your special days.
- **Our Great Intercessor–** We would like to purchase 30 copies of “The Small and Great Paraklesis and the Lamentations”, which is published by the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Theotokos-The Life Giving Spring in Dunlap, CA. If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of this beautiful new service book, please see FJ.
- **2020 Ecclesiastical Calendars:** We also need to purchase Ecclesiastical calendars for the coming calendar year so please consider making a contribution towards that cost. Please see the St Nicholas giving book.

HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY TO AHADU!



KOINONIA

	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27	
FELLOWSHIP	International Luncheon	Markopoulos	Mehas	OPEN	
GREETER	Stella	Helen S	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	10/5 Sollars	10/12 OPEN	10/19 OPEN	10/26 B & L Lilles	

GET INVOLVED!!!

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Neal Zoumboulos 541-344-4485
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
PRAYER CIRCLE	Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
FUNDRAISERS	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

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

A Good word...

You don't become holy . . . "You don't become holy by fighting evil. Let evil be. Look towards Christ and that will save you. What makes a person saintly is love."

Above everything is love. The thing that must concern you, my children, is love for the other person, for his soul. Whatever we do, whether it is prayer or offering advice or pointing out some error, let us do it with love. Without love prayer is of no benefit, advice is hurtful and pointing out errors is harmful and destructive to the other person who senses whether we love him or not and reacts accordingly. Love, love, love! Love for our brother prepares us to love Christ more. Isn't that perfect?

St. Porphyrios: