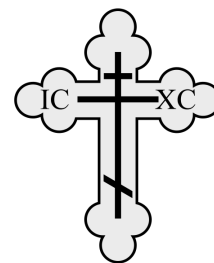




# Agape



**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SEPT. 2018**

Abandon the Faith? Really?

Why do people stop practicing the faith? Why are we seeing so many young people abandon the faith of their youth? Countless studies have been done trying to answer these questions. These studies usually have some good insights, from the changing culture, to parenting changes, to the need for the parish to be higher in the priority lists of families; all these answers and more contribute to the reasons why we are seeing such a “falling away” of people practicing the Faith. But, at the heart of all these answers and questions is a basic and fundamental challenge. As an old preacher once said “God ain’t got no grandchildren.”

This should not be surprising to us. The Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars. From this it is clear that solid theology is the key to good practice. In fact, warns St. Paul, some will “depart from the faith” precisely because of bad theology. So it really does matter what we believe. Because what we truly believe always (and I mean ALWAYS) shows up in our choices, our priorities, and our actions.

Of course, our Faith will ALWAYS be bigger than we can grasp! Orthodoxy embraces mystery as a good thing, not some puzzle that needs to be solved. Our Faith being forever a mystery doesn’t mean we can’t know anything. It just means we won’t know everything. And that is good for us because we prideful humans NEED humility more than we need answers!

Our Faith is also ALWAYS about a Person! Our faith isn’t mere religious philosophy. It isn’t merely a set of ideas or doctrines. Our Orthodox faith is centered and surrounded by and focused on a Person – Jesus Christ. This physical faith means I don’t pass on to my children mere ideas about God, but I forever encourage them to have a real, substantial, and life-changing relationship with a Person! This means if I abandon the Faith, I’m not abandoning an idea; I’m abandoning a Person, a relationship. That’s much harder.

Finally, our Faith will ALWAYS be meant to be SHARED! When I share my faith with others, I drive my own faith deeper in my heart. And I share my faith every time I choose to purposely live my faith by embracing the disciplines of my Orthodox Faith. When I fast, I share my faith. When I confess, I share my faith. When I make prayer, both personal and corporate, a priority, I share my faith. When my children witness me being Orthodox, they are given the greatest treasure I possess – the Faith!

Are you concerned about people abandoning the Orthodox Faith? Yeah, me too. Seems to me that a good way to prevent this from happening is to make sure our theology is solid. To make sure that our “Orthodoxy” leads to right practice (Orthopraxis). And since we are supposed to share our Faith with others, it’s best that we know what we are talking about first before sharing it with others.

Therefore, this September, I invite you to go back to school. Beginning September 16th, a 30-minute Adult Education class will be offered each Sunday. The adult class will take place in the nave, simultaneous with our Church School program taking place in their classrooms. I hope you see the importance of learning about the Orthodox Faith and being solid theologically. Christians are called to be life-long learners, so come and see and learn with us!

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

**Parish Council****Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

The Parish Council wishes to thank Froso Drakatos for her donation of the full cost of the new altar server robes, which should be finished in the next week or so. These will be utilized for years to come and looked after to extend the life of service. The Parish Council has given it's full support for Father's education plan starting in a few weeks. We ask that all please attend as we grow in faith and knowledge together. This growth in faith will also help all of us to be better evangelists in spreading the word of God and the Orthodox faith. We must come together more, before we can further reach out to our whole community of Eugene and Springfield and the wider area. We have great potential opportunities for us to better serve our community, but we have to take the steps to get there, and have the full involvement of our Parish family to take on those tasks. This will also grow our family through our loving works. Eventually in God's time we will build our traditional Byzantine church and the philanthropic efforts to support all our brothers and sisters in Christ and the involved ministries of our beloved Church.

In Christ,

Greg Sebastian  
President

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

What is stewardship? It is the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as individuals, as families, as a parish, as a metropolis, as a national church and as the Church Universal. Stewardship is our commitment to use our time, talent and treasure to the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledge-

ment of Christ's redeeming love and blessings. It is caring for the needs of others; offering one's self to God as He offered Himself for us; and it is what a person does after saying "I Believe" as proof of that belief.

The primary purpose of stewardship is to promote the spiritual growth of the steward. It is a part of our parish life to help the steward develop his or her faith and to grow in grace. It is not there just to finance the local parish - that is a secondary purpose. Thus stewardship is directed toward the inner person. Stewardship is about our personal salvation. Think carefully about the following two passages: The first is from Matthew 6, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The second is from II Corinthians 9, "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Our goal as a parish in the 2018-2019 Ecclesiastical year should be to strengthen our personal faith and increase our commitment to that faith. Please be an active participant in all the ministries of our parish and grow with Saint George.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

Our committee is looking forward to our annual Bake Sale and Craft Fair, taking place in December. We will need many bakers and helpers, so please see Presvytera if you're interested. Pastry baking will begin in October, so watch for the days and times to be posted. ALL are welcome to help. If you are interested in showing handmade crafts, please send see Julie Lenkoff to reserve a table at our craft fair.

**Presbytera Maria**

**Greetings from the Missions and Evangelism Ministry Team:**

The Missions and Evangelism ministry has been reviewing the data from an analysis that the Metropolis of San Francisco provided for us. This Mission Insite Report comes to us from an outside source which evaluated our local Eugene area within a 10 mile radius of our parish. It looked at many factors concerning our area including: population, race, age, income, marital status, adult education attainment, charitable giving tendencies and religious program preferences. Along with 3 other parishes that had their areas analyzed, we are beginning to not only review the data, but come up with strategies to reach our area for Christ.

We have been able to come up with some initial ideas, but executing any of them seems challenging. Will you please pray for us and come help us as we begin this process?

We will be meeting every third Sunday after Liturgy to continue our work. As we discuss these ideas with members from the other three parishes involved, we try to encourage and equip each other to spread Orthodoxy in our cities.

One final note: One of the other parishes shared that their best evangelistic tool is one man who is regularly sharing his faith and bringing others along with him! What could happen in our parish if many of us had this zeal for Christ and His Church?

**Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161**

**Care Ministry Questions & Answers**

What is the mission of the Care Ministry? It is to facilitate a caring ministry to meet the needs of St. George Parishioners and their families.

Who are the Care Ministry Team Members? This team of volunteers are dedicated St. George Parishioners who have a desire to assist those in need and are guided by their Orthodox Faith and love for one another. (New volunteers are always welcome)

What is the process for a Care Ministry referral? The Parish Priest will contact the Care Ministry Team when he becomes aware of a Parishioner's need. Care Team members will attempt to meet those needs. The Parish Priest will be kept informed and notified when the need has been met. Referrals can also be made directly by Parishioners or family members to the Care Ministry Team.

This can be accomplished by contacting the Care Ministry Coordinator or by completing a Referral Form.

Next month I will discuss the type of activities the Care Ministry can assist with.

Blessings, Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons  
Care Ministry Coordinator

**PHILIA**

Around 22 of us, kids included, showed up for the Liana's family goodbye party. Luckily, the Pizza Hut was not very busy at lunchtime as we pretty much took over the place. It was fun to just get together and visit. We took some photos and wished them well. And now they're in Romania. 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.

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches -September 21
- 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 zeazeastimmons@gmail.com. And if interested in Rada cutlery and products please ask Julie.

**Next meeting: September 9, and October 14, 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

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**COFFEE CHAT :**

Reminders: September 16th is a Holy Cross Charity Luncheon and September 30 is a Potluck. Please jot that on your calendars.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

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**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. We use it every Sunday. With 50 plus people trekking across it with drips and spills from coffee and juice cups and children plopping food particles under their tables and chairs, the floors can become pretty ugly. I know not every one has time or energy to do a full fledged mopping, but a quick sweep and spot cleaning with a spray bottle and a rag will be very helpful. Streaked dirt and sticky stains are not very appealing, especially when we invite visitors to join us.

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

**From the Missions...**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~**

Holy Cross has the blessing of hosting two Feast Days in September, and we joyfully invite you to worship with us! On Saturday, September 8, we will celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos with Orthros at 9 am and Liturgy beginning at approx. 10 am. On Thursday, September 13, Father will serve a Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (pre-communion prayers begin at 5:40 pm) followed by the beautiful service of the Blessing of the Holy Cross. Both of these services will be followed by a fellowship pot-luck meal (the meal on the 13th is a strict fast). Please don't let the lack of a dish to bring scare you off; there is always plenty, and we'd be honored to have you share these blessed events with us. For directions, please visit our website: [RoseburgOrthodox-Church.org](http://RoseburgOrthodox-Church.org).

Also on September 8 we'll be showing love to our neighbors by handing out free water bottles at a neighborhood block party. The goal of this endeavor is simply to get to know people and offer them what Christ has so abundantly given to us: His joy and love. Please pray for us, that we might clearly shine the light of Christ to a dark world!

**In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross Roseburg**

**Greetings from the Salem Mission,**

Please save the date and join us in Salem 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." Learn the theological and historical understanding of many aspects of beauty within the church. She will also have her book, "The Garments of Salvation: Orthodox Christian Liturgical Vesture" and items from her websites available. Registration 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.

This one day retreat is being offered as a fundraiser for our building fund. Online registration is also available now at our website.

A blessed new ecclesiastical year to you all!

Maria Hauser

## September Celebrations Birthdays

**September 6th-BaiLeigh Moling  
September 7th-Kevin Kaelin  
September 11th-Nikolai Lilles  
September 21st-Rachel Hauser  
September 26th-Katherine Drakatos**

## Feast Days

**September 9th-St Anna  
Ann Marie Kaelin**

## Wedding Anniversaries

**September 1st-Father Jerry & Presbytera Maria  
September 10th-Shawn & Marci Moling  
September 13th-Michael & Liana Creech  
September 21st-Brett & Cassandra Batterson**

## Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

**September 12th-Michael Creech  
September 15th-Octavian Moling  
September 21st-Brett & Cassandra Batterson**

**Many Years! Chronia Polla!**



## News and Events

## What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in September are: Food prep on Friday, September 7th and the breakfast on Saturday, September 8th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **A Note:** *"I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me and my family out with assistance for our power bill. No other church would help, mostly cause we are not members. Thanks again and I hope you have a great day"*. Let me add my thanks to hers' for those who give alms!
- **Charity Luncheon:** A Charity Luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 16th following the Divine Services. A delicious meal will be provided by Peter Drakatos, the host with the most. Proceeds from this event go to support Holy Cross Seminary. Please plan on participating in this event and please be generous in your support of our seminary.
- **Welcome:** Please join me in welcoming Steve Tussing to St George! Beginning on Sunday, September 23rd, and for the foreseeable future, 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 (5). 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!
- **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
- **Save the Dates:** Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Phoenix, OR, invites you to a series of talks on "Acquiring the Mind of Christ", by Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St Tikhon Monastery in South Canaan, PA., Friday-Sunday, September 28-30th. Also present will be a Myrrh-Streaming icon of St. Anna. For more information please see the flyer posted in the Fellowship Hall. Abbess Efpraxia and her Sisterhood invite you to their annual fundraising dinner in the Dalles, on Sunday, October 18th. Flyer to come.

The ladies of Philia bidding Liana a fond farewell!



# KOINONIA

	9/2	9/9	9/16	9/23	9/30
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Mehas	Strand	Charity Luncheon	Markopoulos	POTLUCK
<b>GREETER</b>	Larisa L	Helen S	John & Gloria	Stella K	Jerry R
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Strand	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	Freezer
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Pascha	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	9/1 Kaelin	9/8	9/15	9/22 Sollars	9/29

## 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>	Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
<b>SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	Gloria Zeazeas Timmons 541-484-0575
<b>BOOKSTORE</b>	Brett & Cassandra Batterson 541-345-5248
<b>PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
<b>CHANTER/CHANT GROUP</b>	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
<b>FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN</b>	Art Mehas 541-485-8671
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>GREETERS</b>	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
<b>CARE MINISTRY</b>	Gloria Zeazeas 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

<sup>iesi</sup>  
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church  
202 Hillview 1  
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

A good word...

Christ stands at the door of our soul and knocks for us to open to Him, but He doesn't enter. He doesn't want to violate the freedom which He Himself gave us. The Book of Revelation says this in so many words: Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone will hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and I will dine with him, and he with Me. (Revelation 3:20) Christ is courteous. He stands outside the door of our soul and knocks gently. If we open to Him, He will enter us and give us everything -- Himself -- secretly and silently.

From "Wounded by Love: The Life and the Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios" (1906-1991)