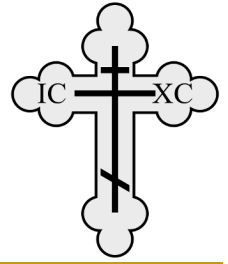




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SEPT. 2019

Parish Health

A blessed new Church Year to all!

Throughout our Metropolis recently, many discussions have taken place on the topic of parish health. In March, the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly “got the ball rolling” by having this topic as its theme. Fr. Evan Armatas led the Assembly through two-days of discussion outlining in four parts, the key questions parishes should be asking themselves. Questions such as, “Why does Parish Health matter; what are the barriers to Parish Health; and, what are the habits and signs of healthy parishes?” Fr. Evan also gave answers, and concluded his presentation by offering suggestions on how parishes can formulate a Parish Health Plan. Fr. Evan did a great job and his presentation was excellent. Lucky for you, you can access them yourself by going to the Metropolis of San Francisco website.

Following the Clergy-Laity Assembly, our ministry leaders gathered to view the presentations and the discussion continued. Following that, a number of “town halls” took place, wherein other questions were asked like, “Are our best years as a parish ahead of us or behind us, and, how would you describe the culture of our parish?” I am happy to provide you with the questions and answers from the town halls, at your request. But here, I would like to try and recap what came out of the various discussions we have had about Parish Health, and specifically, the health of our parish. The consensus is that our best years are ahead of us and that we are a thriving parish. Our people see our parish as spiritually vital and believe that we are “hitting it” in many areas of parish life. There are also signs that we are “missing it”, and that there are a number of barriers and obstacles that need to be addressed. Regarding the question, “If our doors closed tomorrow, who in the Eugene & Springfield area would notice or care?”, the consensus was that we still are not known in the communities which surround us and therefore, not many would notice or care if we weren’t around anymore. There were also questions asked at the town halls about the subject of change. Questions such as, “How do you view change; is pruning a good thing; and, are some losses actually gains?” These were the most challenging questions and in turn, the most telling.

There are many definitions of leadership. Here is one that I like: “Leadership is energizing a community of people toward their own transformation in order to accomplish a shared mission in the face of a changing world.” As I begin my thirteenth-year as your priest, I have as my goal to improve the health of the parish. Together, I hope we can address the areas where we are “missing it”, and those barriers and obstacles that are negatively impacting the health of the parish. I hope we also address our lack of “known-ness” in the community. I especially want to devote time to address the obstacles/barriers that result from under-developed leadership. I hope you will join me in this effort to make our parish healthier, for the glory of God and for the benefit of souls, ours and all those who join us in worship of the Holy Trinity.

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

Parish Council

Father began the meeting with a prayer and a question. What is our understanding of our own personal call? Something we all should ponder. Our Greeters Ministry is looking to increase its presence in the Nave as we enter a new ecclesiastical year. Do you have what it takes to be a Greeter? If so, see Larisa Lilles. Minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved.

We passed the Fire Marshall's second inspection and a schedule of maintenance has been formulated. A big thank you to Gloria and all those who assisted her. Our office computer has been updated. Plans for Frederica Mathews-Green's visit and presentation in October are proceeding. Seating in the fellowship hall has been increased and the east fence has been mended. Father is working on a TV spot with the Community TV station. The final accounting on the Greek Dinner was total income \$2216; expenses \$595; and a net of \$1,620 for parish ministries. Thank you to all who volunteered and participated.

Volunteers are still needed for church clean-up. The clean-up should be done as close to Sundays as possible. See Neal if you have questions. The Safety Team is forming up and getting ready for the new church year. The council is looking into having a commercial banking specialist on non-profits speak to the council about our growth and long-term plans. No decisions are being made, but plans must be developed. Work has begun on the path from the front of the church to the picnic area and the icon garden. A couple of trees by the northeast window of the church will be removed and replaced. Thank you Art.

A lot is happening at Saint George. Bring your talents and time and be an active part of our growing parish!

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Offerings of Time

(This is the second of four stewardship remarks regarding all aspects of stewardship; Time, Talent, Treasure.)

The Greek word for time is "kairo." Its usage in the Septuagint suggests a "decisive point of time". As for the righteous of the Old Testament, they were blessed to wisely discern that all points of time are given by God. In its New Testament usage, "kairo" is given intensity by Jesus and the moral teachings of Paul. "Decisive points in time" are ever reoccurring in the Christian life and must be recognized and actualized. Our time should be wisely spent. We should find ourselves in Divine Services throughout the week (on time!) offering our supplications and our thanksgiving. We should find opportunities to study and grow in our faith. We should fellowship in filial love. We should minister to those in need. To neglect or deny the significance of our time in relation to our salvation is ultimately remaining blind to God's will.

Care Ministry

Are you seeking community resources? The Care Ministry has compiled two notebooks of resources for your reference. For specific disease information to child-care agencies, to legal assistance, and more, check out these resource notebooks located in our library.

Care notes: "Gratitude is the quality of being thankful; a readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. Giving thanks makes people happier and more resilient, it strengthens relationships, it improves health, and it reduces stress." -Dr. Anil Kumar Sinha

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons, Care Ministry Coordinator

August 31, 2019 Treasurer's Report

Operations Balance: \$46,805

Dedicated Funds Balance: \$22,112

Safety Committee

The Eugene-Springfield Fire Marshall, assigned to our church building and property, conducted their required, safety survey in July.

Classroom windows are operable and smoke/carbon monoxide detectors have been installed in each of those classrooms. All emergency lighting and exit signs function properly. Fire extinguishers have been serviced recently. Electric cords/extension cords meet safety requirements. Candle use was reviewed. Storage and decorative wall issues have been addressed.

We meet the fire code specifications in all areas and are ready for the re-inspection on August 2nd. We have set up a maintenance schedule to be conducted by members of the Safety Committee.

Thanks to those that helped by lending their timer and energy to this project

The next meeting of the Emergency Response Team, an integral part of the Safety Committee, will be on Sunday, August 4th, following Liturgy.

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons

Safety Committee Coordinator

Missions and Evangelism Ministry

Your Missions and Evangelism Ministry team is busy getting ready to host Frederica Mathewes-Green on Thursday, October 3. "The Jesus Prayer" is the topic of her presentation. As noted on the back of her book (of that title): "As you form the habit of saying this prayer in the back of your mind all the time, it soaks into you like dye into cotton, and colors the way you encounter every person and circumstance you meet. . . ." Since prayer, fasting and almsgiving are key elements of our faith, this talk will be ever so relevant to our lives. Many non-Orthodox Christians will also find this very helpful and intriguing. Please consider inviting anyone you think might be interested in learning about this ancient prayer handed down to us by the desert saints.

The talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Nave, preceded by a Paraklesis service at 6:00p.m. We still need lots of help! Please consider being part of the team. Please mark your calendars and let us know if you plan on coming. We do anticipate a crowd, as many people will be coming from outside our parish. And please let me know if you can help!

Kathryn Becker: email: beckerettes@msn.com 971-506-7161

Greetings from the Bookstore!

On September 1, Orthodox Christians symbolically celebrate the beginning of the new Ecclesiastical year as the day of Creation. It also is a day marked by prayers for the environment, reminding us to be good stewards of the world around us. Also this month, on September 14, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by St. Helen, the Mother of the Emperor of Constantinople.

SEPTEMBER BOOK HIGHLIGHTS:

"Living in God's Creation, Orthodox Perspectives on Ecology." The vision of Orthodox Christianity includes the ecology and caring for it, and it portrays Creation as God's epiphany and the human person as a connecting link between creation and Creator. "Living in God's Creation" speaks to the pressing matter of our responsibility towards God's creation, drawing on Holy Scripture, the teachings of the Holy Fathers, and Orthodox liturgical texts.

NEW TO THE BOOKSTORE - BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

"A Trace in the Sand. A Tale of the Holy Martyrs."

"The Purple Mantle," an historical novel set during the reign of the notorious persecutor of Christians.

"Royal Monastic," Princess Ileana of Romania.

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

Family Wellness Ministry

Several months ago Fr. Jerry introduced me to the Family Wellness Ministry of our Metropolis. I was excited to hear about this ministry (and the possibility of bringing it to St. George's) since it is essentially dedicated to fostering genuine connections amongst the families of a parish. The ministry website describes this mission in the following way:

"We have been created by God to connect with others face-to-face and heart-to-heart. We are called by our Lord to love, to listen, to care for and comfort. . . . to bring families and loved ones together, to connect through the heart for deeper Christ-centered relationships. . . . Faced with the many challenges of living in a society wrought with divorce, addiction, abuse, and shifting moral values, we see more and more families struggling to keep their families together and their relationships meaningful. Our age of social media, created for the purpose of helping people connect, in many cases is having the opposite effect. . . . Our Family Wellness Ministry is committed to respond to these challenges by encouraging families to reconnect "face-to-face and heart-to-heart".

Rather than drifting further from one another, this ministry challenges us to draw closer, to really "see" one another and engage in each others lives, within the greater context of the life of the Church. To this end, we have decided to make our first project a Young Families Group. We will dedicate one Saturday per month (during the 2019-2020 school year) to facilitating community and connection between the families of our parish. Details will be forthcoming. I look forward to connecting with all of you!

In Christ, Ashli Mueller

For articles and resources, you may visit www.familywellnessministry.org

PHILIA

With all of Philia's hard work we now have enough money to share with many deserving local and international charitable organizations, and of course, any parishioners experiencing issues and in need of a helping hand. That means we will have to continue our fundraising efforts and thus have begun planning our International Mini Luncheon. A fun event, it will take place on Sunday, October 6, during the fellowship hour, with Philia presenting tasty dishes from around the world and more. Your generous contributions towards this will be greatly appreciated.

Our group has also been enjoying spending time together hiking local trails and celebrating the particular accomplishments of our members. The latest was a dinner at BJ's with Liana for passing her exams. And one of our cherished members just turned 90! Congrats to Leda!

- Community Court Lunches - August 16 and September 20.
- International Luncheon - October 6.

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

Next meetings: September 1, and October 13, 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

Prison Ministry Update...

Fr. Jerry and I were only able to hold Bible study the first week of August, as the OSP chapel was shutdown Aug. 19-21. We had some very good discussions during this meeting though, one focusing on abortion. We are presently working on making an icon prayer card for the men that will have a prayer for those considering abortion on one side, and the icon He who loves the Innocent on the reverse. Hopefully this card will touch their hearts, and strengthen their faith as they pray for those involved in what is often just a polarized political topic of discussion for them.

In addition to this, I wanted to share the eager reaction of our newest pen pal. Last month's Agape offering shared the need for pen pals, and we had at least one person start writing one of the men. He came up to me at the beginning of the meeting and said, rather excitedly, that he had received a letter from his pen pal. I think at first he might have doubted that someone would come through because it had been a couple months, and most people in prison have an expectation that they will be forgotten while incarcerated. It was really great to see his appreciation. Thank you again to those of you who have joined us in this outreach as letter writers. If anyone else is interested, there are more people who would like a pen pal. It is a great way to be involved in offering a cool cup of water to Christ.

Please continue to keep these men and this ministry in your prayers. Thank you,
Joanna Jaquette

Church School

What good fortune therefore it is to receive a good, truly Christian upbringing, to enter with it into the years of youth, then in the same spirit to enter into the years of adulthood. —St. Theophan the Recluse

The 2019-20 church school year will begin on September 15, with the blessing by Father Jerry. All youth, ages three through high school, are welcome and encouraged to attend class, which meets directly after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Glory to God, our numbers have increased; therefore we are adding a class. There will be five classes: ages 3-5, kindergarten through second grade, third through fifth grade, middle school, and high school. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our faith, to read the lives of the Saints together, and to develop close friendships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me: (541)335-1331. May it all be blessed!

Ann-Marie Kaelin

From the Missions...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~ "The power of Your Cross, O Lord, in truth is very great!"

If you attend Orthros or Vespers, you will hear numerous hymns to the Holy Cross of Christ. It is referred to as a weapon against the adversary, a trophy invincible, and more. Countless miracles have happened when it is present, and the demons tremble before it. We make the sign of the Cross "to acknowledge that all of our faculties (mind, heart, and soul) and all of our strength (shoulders) are being dedicated to the service of God through the Cross of Christ, the sign of our redemption".* The priest blesses with the sign of the Cross, the Church Fathers taught about the precious wood of the Cross, and it is revered by the Saints (there is a great story about St. Paisios, who had so much love for the Cross that upon seeing two sticks that had fallen onto the ground in the shape of the Cross fell down and venerated it!).

We invite you join us in honoring and venerating the Holy Cross at Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 13/14. Both Great Vespers (Friday, Sept. 13, 6 pm) and Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Saturday, Sept 14, 9 am) will be followed by fellowship and a fasting meal.

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

* Fr. George, "The Sign of the Cross", St. Andrew GOC; read this great article at: <http://saintandrewgoc.org/home/2016/4/5/the-sign-of-the-cross>

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

Congratulations to the newly illumined John and Rebecca Jolliff, received into the church August 4th! May God grant them many years!

The hymns for the Ecclesiastical New Year on September 1st are another opportunity the Church gives us to reorient our minds and hearts in prayer and service as we begin the cycle of services. In August we celebrated the Dormition of the Theotokos and the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner. This month we begin the cycle anew with the Birth of the Theotokos.

Apolytikion: Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.

Kontakion: You who created all things in Your infinite wisdom, and set the times by Your own authority, grant Your Christian people victories. Blessing our comings and goings throughout this year, guide our works according to Your divine will.

**In Christ,
Maria Hauser**

September Celebrations**Birthdays**

September 7th-Alexis Rundt, Kevin Kaelin

September 11th-Nikolai Lilles

September 21st-Rachel Hauser

September 26th-Katherine Drakatos

Feast Days**Wedding Anniversaries**

September 1st

Fr Jerry & Pres. Maria (28)

September 10th

Sean & Marci Moling

September 13th

Michael & Liana Creech

September 21st

Brett & Cassandra Batterson

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

September 12th

Michael Creech

September 25th

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 6th and the breakfast on Saturday, September 7th . Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Many Years! Many Years,** to Leda Litke who turned ninety-years young in August!
- **Vacation:** Father Jerry will be on vacation and out of the office from Thursday, August 29th, through Saturday, September 7th.
- **Openings:** There are three openings for someone to volunteer to clean, (8/31, 9/14, and 9/21). 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.
- **Master Study Series:** The Hagia Theodora School of Byzantine Iconography in Newberg, OR will be continuing their Master Study Series, with a one-day workshop on Saturday, September 21st. For more information please check the flyer in the Fellowship Hall.
- **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.
- **Willamette Valley Hospice:** The community is invited to a free event at Salem's Riverfront Park at 7:30 pm on September 5, 2019. Willamette Valley Hospice welcomes all who have experienced the death of a loved one to come celebrate, honor, and remember their loved ones with a short program including a veteran honoring ceremony. In honor of the 1500 hospice patients Willamette Valley Hospice has served over the past year, a glowing luminaria will be placed along the park paths in remembrance of each patient. Community members can order personalized luminarias to honor their loved ones at wvh.org. The lit paths will be open until 9:00 pm and a variety of musicians will be present while attendees enjoy the reflection walk. Call 503.588.3600 for more information or questions.

Toasting Liana's most recent achievement!



KOINONIA

	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22	9/29
FELLOWSHIP	Rundt/ Campbell	Mehas	Charity Luncheon	Creech	Stephanie, Stella, Gloria
GREETER	Stella	Helen S	John & Gloria	Jerry R	Larisa
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	8/31 Open	9/7 Sollars	9/14 Open	9/21 Open	9/28 L & A 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

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

A Good word...

'You've got to get out of your head and into your heart. Right now your thoughts are in your head, and God seems to be outside you. Your prayer and all your spiritual exercises also remain exterior. As long as you are in your head, you will never master your thoughts, which continue to whirl around your head like snow in a winter's storm or like mosquitoes in the summer heat. If you descend into your heart, you will have no more difficulty. Your mind will empty out and your thoughts will dissipate.

Thoughts are always in your mind chasing one another about, and you will never manage to get them under control. But if you enter into your heart and can remain there, then every time your thoughts invade, you will only have to descend into your heart and your thoughts will vanish into thin air. This will be your safe haven. Don't be lazy. You will find life in your heart. There you must live.'

St. Theophan the Recluse