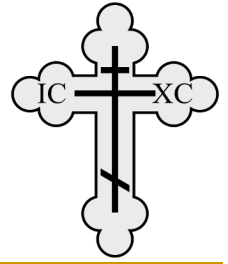




# Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OCT-2020

Dear Ones, "Now Is the Time"

As the temperatures cool into autumn, we find that while we've been waiting for things to get back to "normal," we'll now settle for whatever the "new normal" establishes itself as, just so we can get on with our lives. In many ways, our lives are on hold until the world settles into some kind of normal. As unusual as the situation is, we've been in this way of thinking before. Many times in our lives we may have thought, "If only such-and-such would happen, then things would be great!" And so forth. We likely have come to some realization in the present condition that in order for us to move forward with our lives, particularly on what we may consider essential activities, that we have had to adapt and accommodate new ways of doing things so that we can go about those essential pursuits. We have come to recognize that some aspects of our lives which we may have thought of previously as essential are now moved to the optional-until-life-is-normal-again list. For some, this list of optional activities includes life in the Church.

Saint Paul and the early Church did not exist at a time of ideal stability to create optimal conditions for the message of Christ to spread. Rather, the first century was a time of upheaval, of what was their "normal," marked by territorial occupation by an empire hostile to them, to their culture, and to their religion – especially as it would come to be realized, this new religion of Christianity, which would eventuate unprecedented attempts by the empire to exterminate it. We know from the letters of St. Paul, that he and the other apostles had to endure afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, and hunger. That's a long list, and far more than what we of our modern lives centered on technology, convenience, and hand sanitizer, could likely endure.

There were many reasons why Paul and the other apostles could have put their urgent mission of preaching the Gospel and planting Churches on hold to wait for a better time, since there were many forces working against them. They could have waited for the right moment, for a more acceptable time, to do their work, but they didn't wait. St. Paul and the others pressed forward with the mission God had given them. They showed themselves as servants of God by cultivating purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, genuine love, and truthful speech, by the Holy Spirit and with reliance on the power of God.

Clearly, St. Paul felt a sense of urgency and determination that didn't wait for what may seem like the acceptable time to eventuate. In fact, he said, "Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation." God has His timing. "Paul teaches us that God worked His salvation for all of humanity with perfect timing. Jesus came at the perfect time." Thus, God's timing is perfect, and the question is not, "When will the time be perfect for us?" but rather, "Will we participate in this perfect and acceptable timing of God's work in the world?" Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. May we accept the Lord's invitation that He may work His will in us. May we strive to manifest the evidence of the Holy Spirit working in us by attributes that reveal the fruits of the Spirit rather than of our passions. And thus may we endure, with God's help. Amen.

*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

I would like to share with all of you thoughts from the St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery, Goldendale, WA -September 2020 newsletter: "...a little spiritual nourishment during these challenging times we are going through.

" Words of our Holy Geronda Ephraim of blessed memory": "Our Christ thundered and continuously thunders from His Holy Gospel": 'If one of My servants, who is baptized in My name and remains faithful, confesses Me before men, if any brave athlete competes in the contest of My name and proclaims I am the True God Who came in the flesh, Who was crucified and resurrected for the love of man, I will also confess him before the angels of My Father, before the angels of Heaven' (cf.Lk.12:8)

This past month has been even more difficult due to the addition of the many days of ash and being unable to freely leave our homes and breath easily and for some of our most vulnerable parishioners to even attend church and take communion. The words of Elder Ephraim and the Gospel reminds us that as we humbly maneuver through trying times that our Lord God is always with us. We as a Parish Council realize how difficult it is and important it is to keep in touch in this Covid/Ash era. We encourage you to call another parishioner, just to say hi and enjoy hearing their voice.

## Your Parish Council

## Stewardship Report

A Reflection on Christian Stewardship by Saint John Chrysostom

"Do I possess the house in which I live? No, it is only on loan to me from God while I remain in that place. Do I possess the clothes I wear? No, they are on loan to me until they wear out, or until I give them away to someone in greater need. Do I possess this body that you see before you? No, it was lent to me by God when I was born; and He will take it back when I die. Do I possess the mind that is composing the words that I write? No, that too was lent by God at my birth and will go when I die. So do I possess anything? Yes, I possess the virtues, which during my life have grown and flourished within my soul. Inasmuch as I have grown in faith, I possess faith. Inasmuch as I

have grown in gentleness, I possess gentleness. These things are immortal; they are divine gifts, which God will not take away, because He wants heaven itself to be filled with virtue. And, of course, I possess my soul, in which these virtues have their roots."

## Church School Report

"With discernment, parents should help their children, from a young age, to draw near to Christ and to experience, from that young age, the higher joys – the spiritual ones. When they start going to school, they should teach them, little by little, to read spiritual books and help them live spiritually. Then they can become angels and their prayer will have greater boldness before God. Such children are a spiritual investment for the family. Specifically, the Lives of the Saints greatly assist children in the spiritual life. When I was little, I would take those little books with the Lives of the Saints that were available in those years, and I would go into the woods to study them and to pray. I was flying with joy. From the age of ten to sixteen, when the Greek-Italian War began, I lived a carefree spiritual life. Childhood joys are pure; they leave a lifelong imprint on a person, who will find himself very moved by (the memory of) them when he is older. If children live spiritually, they will live joyfully in this life and rejoice eternally in the presence of Christ in the afterlife."

St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, Spiritual Counsels IV, "Family Life"

Join us, starting Sunday, October 4, as little by little, we read spiritual books together, learning about the lives of the Saints and God's Kingdom. For now, church school will take place in the nave immediately following the Divine Liturgy with a brief lesson for all ages through middle school. High school students are invited to participate in The Relationship Project, led by Mikaela Jacquette. May we have the intercessions of St. Paisios, so that we too may experience spiritual joy.

Ann-Marie Kaelin

## GREETINGS FROM THE BOOKSTORE!

### October Highlights:

This month, the Bookstore highlights focus on the newly Baptized and Chrismated into the Orthodox Christian faith. May you be blessed!

- \* Come, Let Us Worship. A Practical Guide to the Divine Liturgy for Orthodox Laity
- \* When You Pray. A Practical Guide to an Orthodox Life of Prayer
- \* Toolkit for Spiritual Growth. A Practical Guide to Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving
- \* My First Orthodox Prayer Book (for young children)

October Book Sale: These books focus on "Family and Relationships" and "Spirituality and Religion." The books will be on display in the Bookstore.

- \* To Open One's Heart. A Spiritual Path
- \* Becoming Orthodox. A Journey to the Ancient Faith
- \* Short Trip to the Edge, A Pilgrimage to Prayer
- \* Blueprints for the Little Church: Creating an Orthodox Home
- \* Close to Home, One Orthodox Mother's Quest for Patience, Peace, and Perseverance"
- \* Marriage, An Orthodox Perspective
- \* Marriage as a Path to Holiness, Lives of Married Saints.

Words for Thought as we continue to endure and accept the many challenges and difficulties of recent months (from Scripture; paraphrased from Metropolitan Gerasimos' 9/27/20 Liturgy and Ordination Services at Holy Cross Church, Belmont, California; and excerpt from a letter written by St. Seraphim to his spiritual child as a consolation and counsel that God the Creator addresses to a man's soul.) Do we align our lives to God's timing, or do we wish our lives aligned as we choose? Whatever our journeys, "such is God's timing," so let us accept difficult times as an invitation to work His way in us and to manifest the Holy Spirit through us.

"Remember that every obstacle is a Divine lesson; therefore, place your heart in the words I have declared to you today -- This was from me. Keep these words. Know and remember -- always, wherever you may be -- that every sting will be softened when you see Me in everything. All has been sent to you by me for the perfection of your soul." St. Seraphim

As always, thank you for supporting the Bookstore! I wish you good health and wellbeing, many blessings, and much peace. **In Christ, Stella Kallianis**

### Missions and Evangelism Ministry: My Story-Kay Mehas

As part of the Missions and Evangelism Ministry report, I am asking individuals to share their journey into Orthodoxy. This month, we are blessed to learn how our beloved PC president, Kay Mehas, became an Orthodox Christian.

Why did I become Orthodox? It all started when I fell in love with a very devote Greek Orthodox man. I remember at our wedding, my Aunt came up to me and said our wedding was like an opera. I think she was referring to the chanters. They were magnificent! But not part of my protestant upbringing. As I look back, I realize what a gift it was to marry an Orthodox Christian. Each day I find such richness and love that our faith brings to all of us. After over fifty years of marriage, I can say that as an Orthodox Christian, I am continually growing in the faith, yet realizing how much more there is to learn! It has been a blessing. I had no idea I would be receiving so much when I fell in love. It is a lifelong quest to humbly pursue knowing and understanding my faith as an Orthodox Christian. I feel so blessed to be on this journey!

If you'd like to share your journey, please contact me at [beckerettes@msn.com](mailto:beckerettes@msn.com)

**Love in Christ, Kathryn Becker**

**PHILIA**

Creativity had to come into play when it came to fundraisers in the year 2020. With large gatherings disallowed, it put a temporary halt to our fellowships and therefore Philia's normal International Luncheon had to be refigured. However, it looks like our new idea of presenting this as a takeout seems to be working. At least so far. Several of our members volunteered to prepare a variety of meals with an international flavor, a menu was created and we received a bunch of requests. Now the real work begins with the cooking and the baking! Thank you to all the participants on both ends! All orders can be picked up and paid for with cash, checks or credit cards on Sunday, October 4, in the courtyard of the church. As always, we appreciate all of your support. Thank you!

Plans for the future:

- International Luncheon Takeout on Oct 4, 2020. (pre-ordered)

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

Next meetings: October 11 and November 8 on ZOOM.

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

**CARE MINISTRY**

We are seeking those interested in joining the Care Ministry-This is a ministry serving parishioners and their families. Some of our projects are:

- 1) Preparation & delivery of Mercy Meals in cases of bereavement, hospitalizations, & new babies
- 2) Making phone calls and visits to the Homebound
- 3) Creating gifts for special occasions for the Homebound
- 4) Facilitating resources and referrals as needed
- 5) Availability to Priest assisting parishioners as needed
- 6) Plan, promote, and facilitate parishioner-involved events
- 7) Work in coordination with the Parish Council, Church Committees, & Church Organizations as needed.

We recognize that our Care Ministry volunteers possess several different talents based on backgrounds, experiences & interests. Volunteers can choose an area of preference in which to work.

Please contact Gloria Zezeas-Timmons at 541-484-0575 or E-Mail at zezeastimmons@gmail.com.

Blessings to you and yours,  
Gloria Zezeas-Timmons  
Care Ministry Coordinator

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

This year, we were not able to gather for our Feast Day (Holy Cross, Sept.14) due to the wildfires in our area. As I sat at home, struggling with my disappointment, I recalled the words spoken by Metropolitan Gerasimos on the occasion of our Naming in 2015. On that day, he reminded us that the way of the Cross is not an easy one; the Cross means sacrifice, struggle, and courage. At the same time, it also means great blessing for those willing to take it up. What a profound comfort these words have for us right now! Let us commit ourselves to the way of the Cross and so glorify God in our struggles! Thank you so much for your prayers for us; We ask that you keep in prayer Catechumen John S., as well as all our young adults and teachers as they begin the school year.

*O Cross, you are the guardian of the whole world.  
O Cross, you are the height of the Church's beauty.  
O Cross, you are what strengthened the emperors,  
O Cross, the believer's firm support.  
O Cross, the glory of Angels and the defeat of demons.*

*In Christ ~ Lisa Buck***Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,**

We are so happy to congratulate Fr. Steven and Presv. Katie Tussing along with their children Vassi, Suzy, Joe, and Maria on the elevation to the priesthood! It feels like it took a long time for the day to arrive, and yet it all happened so fast! Our Holy Resurrection Mission parish is so excited and very blessed to have them serving our community.

AXIOS!

**With love in Christ,  
Maria Hauser**

## October Celebrations Birthdays

October 2nd-John Lallas  
October 3rd-Helen Spears  
October 5th-Fr. Jerry  
October 10th-Joanna Jaquette  
October 15th-Reuben Avalos  
October 16th-Stephen Kaelin

## Feast Days

October 20th-St Gerasimos the New Ascetic  
Metropolitan Gerasimos  
Fr. 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:** As of the printing of this edition of the AGAPE there was no news regarding the resuming of the First Saturday Breakfast.
- **Dear Father and wonderful Parishioners of St. George:** Your blessings! Thank you for your very generous gift to IOCC! During these difficult times, it is GREATLY needed and appreciated! Despite the challenges of the CoVid19 crisis, we will continue to offer disaster relief and development programs in the U.S and around the world! Thanks to your kindness, we can do this! Be safe and healthy, In Christ, Nick Kasemeotes | Development Officer, International Orthodox Christian Charities.
- **Live-streaming:** Live-streaming of the Divine Services will continue. 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](http://www.stgeorgeor.org).
- **Additional Services:** In addition to Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Orthros & Liturgy, we will be offering additional services in the month of October. These include: Orthros & Liturgy on Thursday, October 1st, beginning at 8:30 am, Orthros & Liturgy on Wednesday, October 7th, October 14th(MVP) and 28th, beginning at 9 am, and Orthros & Liturgy on Tuesday, October 20th, beginning at 9 am.
- **Baptized in Christ:** In September we received Georgia Hensley, daughter of Travis & Katie Hensley, into the Church. Her sponsor is Liana Creech. May she live for us!
- **Faithtree's Relationship Project:** Our Metropolis has provided each parish with a new youth and young adult ministry resource called the "Relationship Project". This resource is designed to help youth and young adults center their lives on Christ in an increasingly confusing world. We are excited to offer this resource here at St George and will begin doing so this Fall.
- **Cleaning Help:** Due to the pandemic our schedules for Fellowship and Cleaning have gone by the wayside. While we still cannot host a Fellowship event, there is always cleaning to be done. Actually, there are even more opportunities for stewardship of your time and talent in cleaning the church facilities. Therefore, you should notice that I have added back names to the cleaning schedule on the next page. If you are willing and able to clean please know that we appreciate the help. If you are still uncomfortable with helping, we understand.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report as of Monday, September 28
- Operations Balance: \$53,038
- Dedicated Funds Balance: \$70,140
- **FUNDRAISING Report:** Our committee is in the process of determining what our Holiday Bake Sale will look like this year. In December we will have a "take-out" event, where we will require pre-orders. The people in the kitchen will follow strict food-handling guidelines and the number of people in the kitchen will be reduced. Having said that, if you would like to assist in preparing pastry, please contact me. More information to come! Pres. Maria

# KOINONIA

	10/4	10/11	10/18	10/25	
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>					
<b>GREETER</b>					
<b>PROSFORON</b>	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<b>READERS</b>	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
<b>CLEANING CREW</b>	Spears/ Kennedy	Markopoulos	Bill & Lisa Lilles	Hutanu/Mueller	

## 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>	Kay Mehas 541-954-0152
<b>SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
<b>BOOKSTORE</b>	Stella Kallianis 541-274-9110
<b>PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP</b>	Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
<b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>	Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
<b>CHANTER/CHANT GROUP</b>	Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
<b>FAMILY WELLNESS</b>	Ashli Mueller 541-731-3319
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
<b>GREETERS</b>	Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
<b>CARE MINISTRY</b>	Gloria Zezeas 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>ies</sup>  
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church  
202 Hillview 1  
Eugene, OR 97408-5018

## A Good Word...

What saves and makes for good children is . .

“What saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home. The parents need to devote themselves to the love of God. They need to become saints in their relations to their children through their mildness, patience, and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children. And the joy that will come to them, the holiness that will visit them, will shower grace on their children. Generally the parents are to blame for the bad behavior of the children. And their behavior is not improved by reprimands, disciplining, or strictness. If the parents do not pursue a life of holiness and if they don't engage in spiritual struggle, they make great mistakes and transmit the faults they have within them. If the parents do not live a holy life and do not display love towards each other, the devil torments the parents with the reactions of the children. Love, harmony and understanding between parents are what are required for the children. This provides a great sense of security and certainty.” – St. Porphyrios