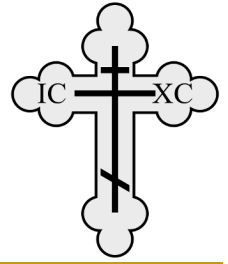




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SEPT-2020

Dear Ones,

A blessed new Church Year to all!

If a time-traveler from the Early Church secretly followed you from Monday till Saturday evening, would they be able to tell you're a Christian? The answer for many of us just isn't very clear... and that's no accident. Many Christians live lives indistinguishable from secularists. The reason? Well, quite simply, secularism is the default state of our culture. It's the water we swim in – the air we all breathe. Or, as author Craig Gay put it in his book, "The Way of the Modern World," the problem isn't atheism. In fact, a red-blooded atheist is hard to find. The problem, he said, is "practical atheism." It's not that people do not believe in God, it's that they live as if God is largely irrelevant. That's what secularism does to us. It doesn't disprove our faith, it dismisses it. It makes faith an issue of personal, private belief, disconnected from the outside world. Catholic philosopher Charles Taylor has written the monumental work on the subject called "A Secular Age." The marginalization of religious belief in our world, Taylor argues, has led to "disenchantment." While God's revelation in creation was obvious to prior generations, we completely miss the sacred things revealed in the way the world is made and ordered.

Scripture's metaphors make no sense in a disenchanting culture. As practical atheists, we are deaf to the heavens' loud proclamation of the glory of God. Stars and rainbows remind us more of human achievement and self-determination than they do of God's promises. Even breathtaking events like weddings, the birth of a child, or even death itself, fail to remind us of God's eternal attributes. In other words, we live in a world where the assumptions that govern how we think and what we do are almost always secular ones. Whatever people may say on surveys about their religious beliefs, the fact is that modern, Western life is overwhelmingly lived without even considering God.

Living as a six-day secularist, shaped by secular assumptions and rituals, has very serious and practical consequences. Good things result from our hard work and planning, we think, not from the gracious hands of our loving Father. Also, because God is not easily replaced as an organizing principle for life itself, many of us today find ourselves living lives of fragmentation – our thoughts, emotions, and desires constantly pulling us in opposite directions; the changing values all around us giving us worldview-whiplash. Still, worst of all, practical atheists are always subject to idolatry. As John Calvin said, humans are incurably religious creatures, and our secular age offers all kinds of God-replacements: sex, self, stuff, state, science. Ironically, a secular age is still filled with faith – just in all the wrong gods. These gods mark us in their images in profoundly dehumanizing ways.

The only way to be distinctly Christian in today's culture is to consciously and intentionally swim against the secular currents. First, we need to recognize them, as well as how they sweep us away.

Thank God this is not only possible; it's been done before. Christians throughout history have had to swim against cultural currents opposed to their beliefs. Many not only succeeded in keeping their faith but in transforming the surrounding culture. May it be true of us!

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

Our Liturgical new year begins Tuesday, September 1. In conversations with parish council members about the start of the new Church year, it became obvious how important it is in the life of an Orthodox Christians. Statements such as: "It is a time to be hopeful, to reflect on the past and to start a new." "Being an Orthodox Christian is a wonderful journey in which our goal is to continue to grow closer to Christ." "Every year we can look back and then plan the best steps forward in our desire to learn more about our faith." We are blessed that there are many ways to continue our journey in Orthodoxy. Some ideas are listed below:

- Go to one more church service a month.
- Select a Saint: Read a book or books about the life of the saint.
- Devote time each day to read the Daily Epistle and Gospel Readings.
- Listen to Orthodox podcasts about the fullness our faith.
- Make a commitment to help someone you know that is in need.
- Join a prayer group or Bible Study.
- Become active in one of the many church ministries.
- Set a special time aside every day to pray.

This list could be pages long, above is just a beginning list. What is most important is that whatever you do, do it with love, peace and joy in your heart for all mankind. Saint Paisios said that everything we do should be done with 'philotimo'.

May this year be a special/joyful journey for you to know the full beauty of our faith and become closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Your Parish Council

Stewardship Report

A STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: GIVING OUR GIFT(S) WITH FAITH IN CHRIST

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, sent His Disciples into the crowd to ask the crowd they give what they could for the benefit of all. May we be encouraged, knowing that He will bless our efforts and multiply our own gifts today, just as He did that day, making our individual sacrifice an abundance.

FUNDRAISING

As Fall approaches, we will be assessing in what capacity we can do any kind of fundraising. We have some ideas and will first be addressing our Holiday Bake Sale. Most likely, as things stands now, it will be a "take out" event. We will do our due diligence to make sure all preparations follow health guidelines. More to come! Thank you for your support!

Treasurer's Report

As of August 26 with all August bills paid, the Operations Account Balance is \$56,371.

The Dedicated Funds Balance is \$69,990.

Greetings from the Bookstore! And a blessed Ecclesiastical New Year!

Bookstore Highlights: Atlas of Orthodox Christian Monasteries

During this time of so many restrictions, we may have missed annual visits or a pilgrimage to a monastery. Nonetheless, one can be reminded or plan for next year. The Atlas of Orthodox Christian Monasteries draws on extensive research, as well as stories and anecdotes, and reveals the surprising spiritual appeal of monastic life for 21st century America. Twenty-three selected monasteries share their "insider stories" with readers and share a glimpse into realities of everyday life in an Orthodox Christian monastery.

Words for thought to begin the New Year: (Excerpt from Embracing the Desert in Our Hearts, 9-2-2017, Orthodox Christian Network)

Famous French author, poet, and aristocrat Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once wrote in his acclaimed masterpiece "The Little Prince": "What makes the desert beautiful ... is that somewhere it hides a well." There is a well in this fallen world that will make all things new again and restore their meaning — it is God. The search for this well is always driven by Christian hope, faith, courage, and love. This well, hidden in the recesses of the desert, was discovered by the ascetics and it transformed them and the throngs who flocked to them for help. This well exists in our world. It is the Church, out of which flows grace into our hearts, and from where we gain strength during those difficult times. It is our lifeline ... for this reason we must attend the Holy Liturgy weekly and commune frequently, to replenish our supply, to irrigate the barren desert inside of us, to learn to love God and to depend on Him for all our needs.

The Lord shall guide you always, and will satisfy thy soul in drought, and thy shall be like a watered garden. (Isiah 58:11)

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

Missions and Evangelism Ministry: Our Story

In the summer of 2011, we visited a "Glendi" Greek festival at St. John the Baptist GOC in Beaverton. We went for the food, but we found something much better! Here is a very short version of what happened next. My husband, 8th grade daughter and myself went inside for Greek coffee and dessert. While sitting there, I noticed some stories printed on a board, entitled "My Journey into Orthodoxy". I was intrigued — I thought people were born Greek Orthodox! Next we went on a church tour. I saw cookbooks for fasting, someone painting icons, and then I read some of the Divine Liturgy. I'm not sure what prayers I read, but I was struck with the beauty of them. Our tour guide said, "we trace our faith back to the apostles." I thought, "then you know what the apostles knew and you know what the Bible really means!"

You see, I had been a serious studier of the Bible for about 12 years, by then. I was coming to the conclusion, that the more I studied, the less I understood. This revelation felt like a breath of fresh air. I would be able to understand how to really live a Christian life! We next walked into the Nave and there I saw all the icons — "the great cloud of witnesses" from Hebrews. Wow!

Then our guide took us forward to the iconostasis and he proceeded to explain baptism and sang "whoever has been baptized in Christ, has put on Christ." He was in tears as he shared his faith with us. My daughter and I both felt so peaceful in that beautiful space.

Over the next few weeks, two different people I knew told me they were Orthodox and one gave me a stack of books to read. Thus began the journey! About 1 1/2 years later, the three of us were brought into the one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church. All these years later, our journey still continues. Thank God.

If you would like to share your journey to encourage others, please contact me at beckerettes@msn.com

Kathryn Becker

PHILIA

2020 has been a tough year for everyone. Luckily, our group seems to be doing okay, but the restrictions of the pandemic have hindered our fundraising efforts. We are the philanthropic arm of St. George, and our finances are dependent on these types of events. The money we raise goes towards helping those in need. Whether it is for our parishioners who may require a helping hand, community services like Oregon Food Bank, Eugene Mission, Meals on Wheels and others, or world organizations like IOCC, Doctors Without Borders and more. Father's discretionary fund also depends on our quarterly contributions. Earlier this year, we already missed a couple of such opportunities due to Covid-19. On Sunday, October 4, 2020, we are scheduled to host our International Luncheon during the fellowship hour. However, since that will not be possible, we are hoping to follow the lead of some of the local restaurants and in lieu of dining-in, offer instead an INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON TAKEOUT. This would be only for our parishioners, and hopefully, you will all support our efforts. The plan is to send out a Takeout Menu for your viewing pleasure, with the hope that you will find something that might pique your interest. You can place your order for the items of your choosing and pick them up on October 4 in the church parking lot. We will accept cash, checks or credit cards. A raffle for some very nice goodie baskets is being considered as well. Being non-profit we will also be happy with monetary donations of any size which would be tax deductible. As always, your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Plans for the future:

- Community Court Lunches on Sept 4, 2020 (Heather and family).
- 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 zeazeastimmons@gmail.com.

Next meetings: September 13, 2020 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

RESOURCES. . .RESOURCES. . .RESOURCES:

COVID19 has certainly created new realities for children, youth, adults, and seniors. We are seeing those who are anxious, fearful, depressed, lonely, unsure of self, lack confidence, sadness, easily annoyed, Lane County has been deemed to be "Agency Rich." There are many helping agencies such as: public, private, religious, and college/university affiliated & some with support groups. If you or someone you know needs assistance with these challenges, please contact Fr. Jerry or a Care Ministry Team member. If appropriate, referrals will be made to a community agency who can help with ideas, solutions, coping skills, etc.

In this time of uncertainty, please pray for your St. George family and families everywhere that we may face our new realities with faith, hope, and love. As individuals, we can exhibit good listening skills, optimism, encouragement, and compassion when meeting others.

Resource Notebooks, compiled by a Care Ministry Team member, can be found in our Library.

Blessings,

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons

Care Ministry Coordinator

From the Missions...

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner". - John 5:19

The beginning of the Church year is usually a time when our strategic plans are put into action with the kickoff of ministries and projects. This year our plans have been totally upended! What feels like an obstacle is truly an opportunity: we have a chance to set aside our own objectives and align with what God is doing. The fact that this is a challenging endeavor highlights just how deeply we become attached to our own thoughts and plans. Here are some things we see the Father doing at Holy Cross:

- With the development of online offerings, we are able to attend more than ever before! From metropolis seminars to the Clergy-Laity Congress to Byzantine chant classes, our knowledge base and connections are growing.
- Our Metropolis has provided the parishes with the Relationship Project, a class helping youth and young adults center their lives on Christ in an increasingly confusing world. We are excited to offer this class to our young adults!
- We have been able to increase our services offered by adding a Readers Orthros service.
- We will also be celebrating our Feast Day this month - the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14. Please pray for us, that we may be able to see what our Father is doing, and do likewise.-**With love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck**

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It was a great blessing to have an Open-to-All Sunday on August 16th. We were able to reserve Blanchet's Lee Center (cafeteria) and set up the Nave area very similarly to our set up in the chapel. An additional special bonus was that the acoustics are so much better there also. It was a lot of work to move most everything back and forth, but very worthwhile to have the opportunity to not worry about limited space. Most people stayed afterward for a bring-your-own picnic and some extra visiting. Hopefully we will be able to do this on a regular basis.

**With love in Christ,
Maria Hauser**

September Celebrations Birthdays

September 7th-Kevin Kaelin
September 11th-Nikolai Lilles
September 16th-Mikaela Jaquette
September 21st-Rachel Hauser
September 26th-Katharine Drakatos
September 30th-Ahadu Yilma

Feast Days

Wedding Anniversaries

September 1st
Fr Jerry & Pres. Maria (29)
September 10th
Sean & Marci Moling
September 13th
Michael & Liana Creech
September 21st
Brett & Cassandra Batterson
September 30th
Mark & Joanna Jaquette

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:** As of the printing of this edition of the AGAPE there was no news regarding the resuming of the First Saturday Breakfast.
- **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.
- **Additional Services:** In addition to Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Orthros & Liturgy, we will be offering additional services in the month of September. These include: Orthros & Liturgy on Tuesday, September 1st, beginning at 9 am, for the Beginning of the New Church Year; Orthros & Liturgy on Tuesday, September 8th, beginning at 9 am, for the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos; and Orthros & Liturgy on Wednesday, September 16th (MVP), 23rd and 30th, beginning at 9 am, for an additional opportunity for you to receive the Eucharist.
- **Baptized in Christ:** On Sunday, August 30th, the Hughes Family were received into the Church. Stephen's sponsor is Mark Jaquette, and he was baptized "Stephen" (Protomartyr); Alli's sponsor is Joanna Jaquette, and she took the name Theodora (St Theodora the Virgin Martyr); Sophia kept her name as did Elizabeth. Lily took the name Mary (of Bethany...Lazarus's sister). The three girls have as their sponsor Ashli Mueller. May they live for us!
- **OCMC's Trek for Missions:** OCMC's Trek4Missions, is a virtual fundraiser that's "going the distance to share the Faith". The Trek started on August 9 and goes until September 14. Our "Bikin' & L'eggs" team has been walking, running and cycling to meet our goal of completing 1,200 miles and raising \$2000 dollars, in support of a new generation of missionaries bringing the Gospel message to those who have not heard. You can help by donating in support of our team's effort. Please contact Father Jerry to learn more.
- **IOCC:** The good folks at IOCC are hard at work to bring relief to those impacted by the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. They were one of the first relief agencies on the ground there and from their reports, there is great need there. It is also likely that they will offer help to those impacted by Hurricane Laura and the fires in California. Please consider making a donation to IOCC for the good work they are doing.
- **New Church Year:** September 1st marks the beginning of the new Church Year and the resuming of our ministries and programs. In the coming days, the various ministries will be sharing the plans they have made. Our hope is that we will be able to return to some level of normalcy in September.
- **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.

KOINONIA

	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27	
FELLOWSHIP					
GREETER					
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas
CLEANING CREW	Kallianis	Avalos/Creech	Sebastian/ Muresan	Spears/Kennedy	

GET INVOLVED!!!

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Kay Mehas 541-954-0152
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	Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
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...

“Our Orthodox Faith is perfectly and profoundly conceived. What is simple is also what is most precious. Accordingly, in your spiritual life engage in your daily contest simply, easily, and without force. The soul is sanctified and purified through the study of the Fathers, through the memorization of the psalms and of portions of Scripture, through the signing of hymns and through the repetition of the Jesus Prayer. Devote your efforts, therefore, to these spiritual things and ignore all the other things.”

St. Porphyrios, Wounded by Love