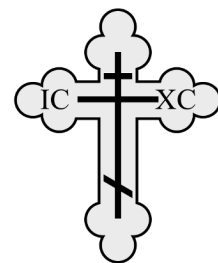




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH FEB-2021

Dear Ones,

A blessed new month to all!

In the concluding chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, St. Paul extends greetings to his co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord. He continues, "Greetings also to the church that meets in their house (kat' oikon ekklesia)" (Romans 16:5). The "Church in the Home (kat' oikon ekklesia) is the first church in which our children learn about Christ, faith and liturgical life. It is here where the theology of the Church comes alive. Today however, the "kat' oikon ekklesia", quite often is no longer the strongest link in the Body of Christ. The good news is that this is true more out of ignorance and lack of knowledge rather than rejection and disapproval. Therefore it is with great expectation and joy that I share with you that we putting together a study of the book, "Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home".

This study is open to all members of our parish, including children. Ideally, this would be something the whole family participates in together. Using the Zoom platform, we will gather weekly to go through the book together and touch on topics dealing with Holy Communion, fasting, blessings, prayers, icons, family liturgical practices and church practices, just to name a few. The beauty of this book is that the concepts are theologically sound and dealt with in a simple down-to-earth language. The book also provides us with some things to think about and do.

The Orthodox Church has always emphasized the home as the center of worship and religious education. The icon corner with its votive light are to be a constant reminder of the "church in the home". The Church can do nothing without the home. The home is the most influential school in the world, greater than Harvard or Yale. The question is not, "Is there a school under your roof" but, "How good is the school under your roof? What are you teaching? What are you not teaching?"

If you think that all of this talk about the home is a terrifying amount of responsibility on the home, you are right. But listen to what Scripture says about the home: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... (Duet. 6:3-7). If our children do not learn to know and love God in the home, they will be totally unprepared to go out into the world. If the one hour a week they spend in Church School is to be effective, it must be supplemented in the home, by informed, dedicated and faithful parents.

The Orthodox Church has also always emphasized "Koinonia", fellowship or community. Participating in this book study is a great way of developing the practice of weekly family home gatherings. Setting aside one specific evening each week as "Family Night" is a very effective way of strengthening the family bond and creating intimate space for each other. A special family time together each week will help revive the "church in the home" and be a continuous blessing to your children. I hope you will join us and participate together with your family. May it be blessed!

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

The new Parish Council started off the year with our first meeting on January 4, 2021. The following are on the Council this year: Kathryn Becker, President; Larisa Lilles, Vice President; Helen Spears, Secretary Liana Creech, Treasurer; and fellow workers: Mark Lipson, Kay Mehas and Katharine Drakatos. I know I speak for all of us when I humbly ask for your prayers and support during the upcoming year. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with questions, concerns, ideas, etc. Thanks to Judy Kennedy and Stella Kallianis, we now have a complete directory to use to reach out to one another via phone or email, or even slow mail! I want to again thank Neal Zoumboukos, Gloria Timmons and Stella Kallianis for their hard work on the parish council the last 2 years. As Kay said in her farewell note last month, 2020 was a challenging year for the parish in many ways. The council worked diligently to implement all the new and necessary guidelines proposed by both the Metropolis and the State of OR to keep us safe during the pandemic. We are hoping the new year will bring changes that are more positive to our parish health. The online streaming has been wonderful! Thanks again to Mark Lipson and Pete Drakatos for all their hard work on this. Mark is our master mind behind our reservation system and YouTube streaming! It works so well and is such a great way to ensure everyone who wants to be at Liturgy can be! I want to encourage you to not be hesitant to sign up. If you are a little nervous about the possibility of a crowd, come on a Wednesday! The overflow area in the Fellowship hall is working well for all services. We are ensuring that there is good air flow in all areas, and everyone is masking up! The Parish Council met Monday to start considering "goals" for the upcoming year. Some of the highlights are:

- 1) Emphasizing liturgical worship
- 2) Enhancing our Prayer Ministry
- 3) Establishing a "signature outreach ministry"
- 4) Book studies for individuals & families
- 5) Small groups based upon geographical area to enhance community/fellowship.

In this continuing difficult time, I like to remember these verses from the Priest's prayer at Epiphany. *"Today we are free of the ancient grief, and like a new Israel have been redeemed. Today we are delivered from the darkness and are-*

bathed in the light of the knowledge of God. Today the world's gloom is dispersed in the epiphany of our God. Today the entire universe is lit as by a heavenly torch."

May we live in this reality in 2021!

Your servant, Kathryn Becker

Treasurer's Report

As of January 24, the balance in Dedicated Funds account was \$77,099.20 and the balance in Operations account was \$64,741.08.

Care Ministry

Valentine's Day is one day in which we express how much we care, In what ways do you show caring to others? One way to show your appreciation is to reach out to a Christian brother or sister who inspired you, supported or encouraged you, or assisted you in a time of difficulty.

I encourage each of you to send a note or a Valentine to this special parishioner. Think what a surprise it would be to receive an unexpected expression of kindness!

If you are an interested parishioner whose passion is helping others, please see

Fr. Jerry or myself to learn more about how you can participate in this important Ministry.

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you very much to the forty-one families and individuals who have submitted their 2021 stewardship card. This includes five new stewardship members to our parish. If you haven't filled out a card, please do so. They are located in the Narthex of the church. Or you can call 541-683-3519 and leave a message on the church line, and we will mail you another card for you to complete.

Have a blessed new year,

Your Stewardship Committee

Greetings from the Bookstore! February Highlights

This month, the Bookstore will highlight books for children:

- **The Lives of Saints: Friends of Christ (January and February):** Friends of Christ is a new, twelve-volume series of books for young people. Each beautifully illustrated volume contains the lives of five Saints, which take children on a journey where the real events of history inspire them to love the Lord and His wondrous deeds in the lives of the Friends of Christ. Every day – and for everlasting ages – our Church celebrates! It honors the memory of all those who honored our Lord and His Church with their lives – the saints. They are men, women, and even young children. These books are dedicated to the friends of Christ, the Saints. The January volume contains the lives of St. Basil the Great, St. George the Neo-Martyr of Ioannina, St. Mark of Ephesus, the Venerable Ascetic Xenia, and the Venerable Ascetics Xenofon, his wife Maria, and their two children Arkadios and John. The February volume contains the lives St. Nikiphoros, St. Haralambos the Hieromartyr, St. Theodora the Empress, the Venerable ascetic Philotheir the Athenian, and the Great Martyr Photini the Samaritan woman. Each volume also contains a morning prayer to one's patron saint, glossary of words within the stories, as well as a large decal of the Saints of that month.
- **Everything Teaches Us about God:** The world is like a giant puzzle God made that teaches us about Himself. Every piece – earth, sea and sky, plants, animals, and people – reveals something about who He is and why we're here. Everything Tells Us about God will help children recognize the beautiful and sometimes mysterious pieces of this puzzle for themselves.
- **The Creation of the World.** God was from the beginning. There was nothing else, only God. In His mind, God planned for the world. It was a beautiful plan, full of brightness and lovely colors. The world was like a giant puzzle God made to tell us about Himself – The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Every piece whispers one of his secrets – all we need to do is listen.
- **My Prayer Book:** Prayer is essential. It is the very breath of the human soul. Through the helpful explanations and vivid illustrations of this book, one can learn, together with our children, what every Orthodox Christian needs to know in order to love this life breath of the soul. Along with the many prayers, there are explanations for each to help one understand the prayers, their meaning, and when they can be used.

Thank you for your continued support of the Bookstore! I wish you many blessings and much peace.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

Missions and Evangelism Ministry:

As an outreach effort in our community, we are happy to announce that we have become a community partner of the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County. The coalition partners with Catholic Community Services of Lane County (CCS) to serve refugees, asylum seekers, people who have gained asylum, and other immigrants in Lane County. Volunteers and staff support clients as they integrate into the community, and facilitate access to language classes, English tutor and interpreter services, social services, physical and mental health services, legal services, housing, employment, and more. More information to come soon!

If you're interested in learning more about this ministry and how you can help, contact Helen Spears or Liana Creech.

PHILIA

Our plans for the months to come are formulating. On Sunday, February 28 we are hoping to celebrate Nikki's birthday with a group visit in her front yard. With balloons, cupcakes and good wishes. In customary pink and black. Also in the works is our Augment Your Lent Event, a sale of lenten foods to start off the Paschal journey and to raise funds for our Community Court Lunches. A take-out menu / order form will be forthcoming. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Plans for the future:

- February 28 - A birthday visit to Nikki's front yard
- March (TBA) - Augment Your Lent Event
- Community Court Lunches - March 12 - Ann-Marie // April 16 - Heather // May 7 - Pres and Julie // June 11 - Helen and Larisa.

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

Next meetings: No meetings scheduled at this time. Just email updates.

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

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

Prison Ministry Update

Due to the continued restrictions because of Covid, the Orthodox Bible Study continues to be on hold. We are thankful that the chaplains are helping us send some kind of reflective readings to our group one time a month, and we are almost done reading the first chapter in St. Paisios of Mt Athos book: Spiritual Struggle. This section deals with thoughts of a cunning man and a spiritual man, plus how thoughts reveal our spiritual state. We hope these readings are helpful during this time of uncertainty. Most of the Adults in Custody (AIC's as the State of Oregon calls those incarcerated) belong to the 1b group to receive vaccinations. They remain, however, at greater risk than most due to the inability to socially distance, and in some cases living in dorm rooms with 60-100 people. The Oregon State Penitentiary is presently listed at a Tier 4 level meaning they are under quarantine for 14 days. There are 56 active cases at present. Please continue to keep these men, and all those incarcerated in your prayers. I would encourage you to check out The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry and their blog: Behind the Bars. You can find it here: <https://theocpm.org/news-and-media>

Thank you,
Joanna Jaquette

From the Church Plants:**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -**

On January 30th we celebrated the feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs, commemorating St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. The communion hymn for this feast is so beautiful: Their sound has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. Alleluia. Even in this modern age with an endless news cycle and multiple platforms for expression, there are few things that make it to the ends of the earth! The good news that we've been given is powerful, clear, and timeless. Our mission is to faithfully share this with those around us; to ensure that the sound of the gospel is heard in every corner of our world. It takes courage, but is so desperately needed. May we have the intercessions of the Holy Hierarchs!

With love in Christ - Lisa Buck

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Our Men's and Women's Ministry groups are planning to begin meeting again since the long interruption due to the virus. No restaurant or home gathering, but a little circling of chairs, discussion, purchased snack and coffee directly following a divine liturgy for a short time. The women will be discussing the Epistle of the day with Fr. Steve, and the men are in the process of deciding what their focus will be.... along with donuts!

In Christ,

**Maria Hauser
Holy Resurrection Mission, Salem**

February Celebrations Birthdays

February 3rd-Ashli Mueller
February 4th-Rachel-Leah Avalos; Ellie Hartman
February 10th-Theodore Lipson
February 13th-Isabela Jaquette
February 15th-Bill Lilles; Octavian Moling
February 19th-Richard Green
February 22nd-Tyler Campbell
February 27th-Nikki Lenkoff; Mahtot Shitie
February 29th-Debbie Hall

Feast Days

February 26th-St Photini
Debbie Hall
February 29th-St John Cassian
Jeremy Mueller

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.
- **Live-streaming:** Live-streaming of the Divine Services will continue into the new year.. 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.
- **A Lenten Journey to Great & Holy Pascha:** I am excited to share with you that the Metropolis of SF's Christian Education Ministry, in collaboration with the Orthodox Youth Mentorship Program of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Camarillo, CA., is sponsoring an 11-week virtual youth religious education program that you are invited to participate in. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to participate in and this program creates an opportunity to enhance fellowship and friendships across our Metropolis. Our religious education director Ann Marie Kaelin and I believe this opportunity is too good to pass up therefore we will pause the in-person talks we have been giving, so that everyone who wants to participate, can participate. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required, prior to Friday, February 5th. For more information and to register, go to www.http://religioused.sanfran.goarch.org/
- **Memory Eternal:** The servant of God, Elias Gillette reposed in the Lord on January 6th, after a long battle against cancer. May his memory be eternal!
- **Oneness in Christ:** The servants of God, Joshua Salter and Violeta Draghici, were joined in marriage on Saturday, January 9th. Their sponsor is Andrew Kokkino. The wedding was live-streamed to Romania as the pandemic prevented Violeta's family from attending in person. We wish them many years of wedded bliss and sacred oneness in Christ!
- **Baptized in Christ:** The servant of God Basil Avalos, son of Reuben & Jamie Avalos, was baptized on Sunday, January 10th, following the Divine Liturgy. His sponsor is Mark Lipsom. May he live for us!
- **Additional Services:** In addition to Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Orthros & Liturgy, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord on Tuesday, February 2nd, beginning at 9 am. There will also be weekday liturgies on Wednesday, February 10th, 17th and 24th, also beginning at 9 am, with the 17th being a "MVP-only" liturgy.
- **House Blessings:** This time of the year is traditionally the time for House Blessings. If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact Father Jerry to make an appointment.
- **Prayer Team:** Did you know that there is a team of parishioners devoted to praying for you, and for those you know who are in need of prayer? These faithful brothers and sisters comprise our Prayer Team and are ever ready to take on requests for prayer. At this time, Elizabeth Sumstine is the contact person for the Prayer Team. If you would like to contact her please contact Father Jerry.
- **Brrrrrr:** With the continuation of Winter, we will still be dealing with colder temperatures. Due to the virus, we must keep spaces well ventilated. While we try to find a good balance, please remember to dress warmly for church.
- **Cleaning Help: like** We are updating the cleaning schedule for the coming year. If you would like to be added or removed from the available families to clean the church, please email Kathryn Becker at beckerettes@msn.com. As far as February goes we thank the following parishioners for giving of their time and helping keep the church looking beautiful!
 - January 31: Hutanu/Mueller
 - February 7: Kaelin
 - February 14; Jaquette
 - February 21; Drakatos
 - February 28: Andrew Lilles family.

KOINONIA

	2/7	2/14	2/21	2/28	
FELLOWSHIP					
GREETER					
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	Hutanu/ Mueller	Kaelin	Jaquette	Drakatos	A & 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	Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
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

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

A Good Word...

Complete trust in God-- that's what holy humility is. Complete obedience to God, without protest, without reaction, even when some things seem difficult and unreasonable. Abandonment to the hands of God. The words we repeat during the Divine Liturgy say it all: 'Let us commend our whole life to Christ our God.' The secret prayer of the priest says the same thing: 'We commend our whole life and hope to Thee, O loving Master, and we entreat You and beseech You and supplicate You...' To You, O Lord, we leave everything. That is what trust in God is. This is holy humility. This is what transfigures a person and makes him a 'God-man'.

St Porphyrios