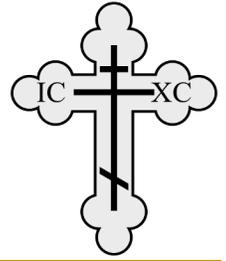




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JULY-2021

Dear Ones,

On July 12 we will commemorate one of the newer saints of the Church, Saint Paisios the Athonite. Saint Paisios was born in July 25, 1924 in the humble village of Farasa in Cappadocia, Asia Minor – modern day Turkey. He was baptized at the age of three weeks by the village priest, Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian, who foretold his life as a monk. A week following Saint Paisios' baptism the Turks drove out all of the Greeks from Asia Minor, sending them on a 400-mile exodus to Greece, where his family settled in Epiros.

Early in his life Saint Paisios gravitated towards the spiritual life, spending hours daily in prayer. During World War II he served in the military as a radio operator. In 1950 he went to Mount Athos, where he remained for most of the rest of his life, growing in spiritual stature through prayer, fasting, and many ascetical practices. In 1979 he moved to his final home, Panagouda Hermitage. Here he received tens of thousands of pilgrims, granting them, by God's grace, healing, advice, wisdom, and solace. He reposed in the Lord on July 12, 1994.

Saint Paisios is one of the most beloved modern saints in the Orthodox world because he was able to speak to us in contemporary language, using simple analogies that communicated deep spiritual wisdom. Central to Elder Paisios' spiritual life were the virtues of love, humility, and sacrifice. Depicted in his icon is a scroll in his hand which contains one of his well-known sayings, "Love and humility are the frequency in which God works" – meaning that we should turn the dial of our heart to the frequency of love and humility, so that God can work in us. He often described how our ego and selfishness push away God and those whom we love. Saint Paisios also talked about the importance of sacrifice and struggle. Through these we are able to break down our ego and draw closer to God. "The soft life makes people useless. Without toil and struggle sanctification doesn't come." He warned about the dangers of modern life with its conveniences and comforts. Though these comforts appear to help us, they instead make us more distracted, busier, and anxious – external noise contributing to internal discord. This thoughtful and relevant statement by Saint Paisios is especially poignant, as he observed this even before the internet, smart phones, and social media!

The increasing materialism of the modern world caused Saint Paisios great anguish. He warned that when we focus on material possessions we only become worried, anxious, and deadened to the spiritual life. "The person who is possessed by material things is always subjugated to unhappiness and anxiety: he trembles for fear that his things will be taken away from him." The Elder likened the materialistic person to a young bird in the shell who never comes out to "the heavenly flight in the life of Paradise," but just stays in the shell and dies. He warned, "Fly from your material possessions to the fold of the poor. Simplify your life so as to be freed from worldly anxiety, so that your life might have meaning."

Saint Paisios had great love and compassion for people living in the modern world. He prayed continually and used his God-given gifts of discernment and foresight to guide those who would visit him. He never berated people, but always encouraged them, giving hope in place of desperation. "My heart rejoices when I

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see souls who take heed and struggle in a world that has become full of little devils.”

May Saint Paisios continue to intercede for all of us!

Parish Council

**Dear fellow St George parishioners!
Greetings from the Parish council!**

As we approach the summer months, we want to encourage everyone to keep up the good work of being faithful to the parish. We are so grateful for everyone’s continued stewardship – both financially and with helping hands. Although the month of July is generally not as busy liturgically as the previous months have been, we look forward to worshipping together, as much as possible.

The Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted, as you know – so we will be working on how best to support one another as we transition back to a fuller worship experience again. Fellowship time will also begin sometime in the near future, with perhaps a few changes.

Please reach out to any of us, with your ideas or concerns. We love serving together for the growth of our beautiful Orthodox faith here in Eugene.

Your fellow servant,

Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161 or beckerettes@msn.com

Treasurer's Report

As of June 26, the account balances were:

Dedicated Account: \$89,197.32

Operations Account: \$58,621.52

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. The primary goal of stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Being a steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust, and then acting on those beliefs. As stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from God. Our faith encourages all who accept the Orthodox Church to become active participants in the life of our parish. Have you been cheerfully giving back to God a portion of the time, talent and treasure with which you have been blessed in 2021? It’s not too late.

CARE MINISTRY

We are delighted that we are slowly returning to regular scheduling. Some of our Homebound parishioners are fragile and we have been very careful to avoid visits because of COVID 19.. However, last month the Care Ministry provided meals for a family with a new baby, sent cards, and made telephone contacts.

As always, we need your help in identifying parishioners who need contacts (phone calls or visits), meals, or other assistance, Please contact Fr. Jerry or myself.

Gloria Zezeas-Timmons

Care Ministry Coordinator

Greetings from the Bookstore! And Happy Summer!

Every year, it seems the wait for summer to begin is endless....anticipating long, warm, leisurely days. Plans to "catch up" on things, to travel and visit family and friends. But somehow it's over much too soon, and there wasn't enough time for everything. So, the Bookstore Highlights this month are summer readings...books to read wherever you are.

- *Renewing You, A Priest, A Psychologist, and a Plan.* This insightful book includes key principles for living a healthier life spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally. The life lessons are grounded in both wisdom and experience.
- *His Life is Mine, St. Sophrony.* Contemplation, prayer, spirituality – these words have become popular in our day among those despairing the banality and emptiness of the contemporary scene. But popular as well are a myriad of pseudo-spiritualities, each offering its own shortcut to spiritual satisfaction. This book deals with prayers, especially the Jesus Prayer, and is permeated by the awareness of prayer as not just the cultivation of a particular spiritual state, not the investigation of an abstract idea or dissolution in an anonymous Whole, but an encounter with the personal Being, I AM, demanding in turn our own growth in personhood.
- *Formation and Struggles, the Birth of the Church, AD 33-200.* The author describes challenges from both inside and outside of early Christian circles – the Jewish-Christian "family" quarrels, the threat from imposed Roman cultic practices, and the seductive Gnostic influences – that both threatened early church communities and, at the same time, strengthened their identity as reflective followers of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ.
- (A very short read.) *Introduction to the Jesus Prayer, by H.R.H. Princess Illeana of Romania.* (Excerpt) Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me, a sinner. I have often read the Jesus Prayer in books and heard it in church, but my attention was drawn to it first some years ago in Romania. There in a small Monastery of Sambata, tucked away at the foot of the Carpathians, in the heart of the deep forest, its little white church reflected in a crystal-clear mountain pond, I met a monk who practiced the "prayer of the heart." Profound peace and silence reigned at Sambata in those days; it was a place of rest and strength – I pray God it still is. I have wandered far since Sambata..... About Princess Illeana: The Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA, was founded in 1967 by Mother Alexandra (the former Princess Illeana of Romania) whose dream it was to provide a place where American Orthodox women from all ethnic backgrounds could come to live the monastic life and benefit from a liturgical cycle in English. The desire of her heart was to provide a fountain of spiritual refreshment to the people of the country that gave her a home after her exile from Romania.

And For the Children:

- *The Suitcase, A Story about Giving.* This sweet story portrays the heart of the Gospel in a way that captures the imagination of children and adults alike. Woven throughout are glimpses into Jesus's very own teaching from familiar Bible stories – such as the mustard seed and pearl of great price. In addition to being a delightful book, *The Suitcase* is a springboard for discussion about giving, serving, and sharing our faith.
- *The Praises, Psalm 148.* Powerfully illustrated, *The Praises* invite everyone and everything in the whole creation to praise the Lord. The angels and animals and natural elements, with every living thing headed and cared for by human beings of every age, gender, class and nation, are commanded to sing and dance and make melody to the Creator of all.

With wishes for many blessings and much peace. In Christ, Stella Kallianis

PHILIA

Our first and only walk by the river on June 4 was very pleasant. It was nice to be once again in the company of friends. It would be even nicer if those who are interested would organize one or two. Just pick a day, a spot, a time and let us know. And a very big thank you to all who participated in putting together bagged lunches for the Community Court. At this point, we have completed all the ones we had signed up for in 2021.

Plans for the future: Happy Fourth of July!

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.

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

This year July 25th has been set apart as the Sunday for Prison Ministry Awareness. Below is an excerpt from the Encyclical by Archbishop Mark, OCA, better explaining the importance of this day. For those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry outreach please visit their website here: <https://theocpm.org/>

After a year of isolation, we are experiencing the full joy of our freedom this summer. Many of us are making up for lost time: taking trips, seeing our friends, and most importantly, returning to our churches in person. For our brothers and sisters in prison, it has been a hard year as well. Lockdowns meant many of the 2.3 million men and women incarcerated in the United States were in truly deep isolation without visitations from family, friends, and clergy. As restrictions now ease, we are called more than ever to exercise our own freedoms to serve those who have suffered emotionally, physically, and spiritually over these last months. Now is the moment to cherish our blessings by sharing them with those who our Lord has commanded us to see Himself in.

Along with those in prison right now, we can find the Lord in the faces of those who have been released from prison and are seeking to find community in our parishes and rebuild their lives through the Orthodox way of life. We can also visit the Lord in caring for the family members of prisoners. Indeed, the staggering rates of incarceration in the US make it difficult to find an Orthodox parish in our country that does not have a parishioner deeply affected by the incarceration of an immediate family member.

As the Episcopal Moderator of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, I respectfully request you observe this day of awareness. The Holy Orthodox Church, through Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, brings the mercy, forgiveness, and love of Christ to those people who need hope and healing living in the darkness of prison.

As Saint Isaac the Syrian says, "A cruel and merciless heart is never purified. A merciful man is the doctor of his own soul because as a strong wind from his heart, he drives out the darkness of the passions." Please show mercy to our brothers and sisters in jails and prisons across the United States on July 25th.

With much love and thanks in our risen Lord,

†Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, OCA

From the Mission Churches

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

The Feast of Pentecost is often touted as the 'Birthday of the Church' with good reason: it was then that the Holy Spirit first descended and filled the followers of Christ, empowering them to become witnesses of the Gospel to all the world. It is awesome to consider that the Holy Spirit continues to be with us, empowering us to live for Christ and to share the Good News to the world! Please continue to pray for Holy Cross, that we will follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we struggle to build a Eucharistic community here in Douglas County. We also ask that you pray for our newest Catechumens: Evan, Haniya, and their two children. We will have a reduced summer schedule, so you may see some of us attending services at St George. We also invite you to join us for a Saturday Liturgy here in Roseburg. You can check the schedule by visiting our website: RoseburgOrthodoxChurch.org.

With Love in Christ ~ Lisa Buck
Holy Cross, Roseburg Oregon

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are looking forward to our first altar server ministry mini-retreat in July. This will be an excellent opportunity for men and boys 9 years old and up to explore joining the altar server ministry. Working closely with the clergy to conduct the divine services in a prayerful manner is the primary role for those who serve in the Holy Altar. There are many seen and unseen practical duties to help the priest, depending on age and experience, such as: faithfully attending and arriving early to the services, preparing and lighting candles (and some day for us, the hanging vigil lamps), preparing the censer, prayerfully cutting the prosphora, maintaining inventory of liturgical supplies, and learning the divine services and their responsibilities throughout each specific service. The most important aspect of this ministry is learning to serve with focused prayer and respect, representing the angels who are the heavenly servants of God attending the Holy Altar. May the service of this next generation always be for the Glory of God.

In Christ,
Maria Hauser
Holy Resurrection Mission, Salem

July Celebrations

Birthdays

July 4th-Rosemary Buck
July 10th-Elizabeth Hughes
July 17th-Judy Sebastian, Judy Kennedy
July 20th-Dimitri Lilles
July 28th-Jerry Rundt
July 29th-Leda Litke
June 21st-Aftasie Doran

Feast Days

July 17th-St. Marina
 Omilie Doran

July 18th-St. Elizabeth Grand Duchess
 Isabel Jaquette

July 20th-St. Elias the Prophet
 Lenny Buck

July 26th-St. Paraskevi
 Paras Markopoulos

July 29th-St. Julia
 Julie Lenkoff

July 31st-St. Benjamin of Petrograd
 Ben Hauer

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 near future. 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.
- **Restrictions Lifted:** Significant changes will take place this month with regards to the restrictions we have been living with for the last year. These changes will effect people differently so let us be respectful and understanding. Please be on the look out for communications from us, via emails and phone calls, regarding these changes. Feel free to contact Father or any member of the Parish Council with your questions and concerns.
- **Congratulations:** The whole community congratulates Dimitri Lilles, son of Andrew and Larisa Lilles, on attaining to the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boys Scouts of America. Due to the pandemic, Dimitri had to wait an extra year to receive his award. That day finally came on Sunday, June 27th. Dimitri was honored not only with that award but several others., having earned a total of 36 merit badges (15 more than required). Congratulations again to him and his family.
- **Oneness:** Rachel Hauser and Andrew Mixis were joined in marriage on Saturday, June 19th, at Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Yakima, Washington. Johanna Williamson and Reuben Wilson were joined in marriage on Saturday, June 26th, here at St. George. We wish both couples "Many Years" of wedded bliss and all good things in abundance!
- **St. George Home-School Community Learning Center:** We are currently seeking tutors for our new educational youth ministry, which is opening in Fall 2021. As a community learning center, our program will combine home-centered learning with tutoring services, grounded in the life of the Orthodox Church. We are looking for tutors who love Christ and have a desire to help families educate their children in an Orthodox learning environment. Tutors will be onsite three days per week as well as offer flexible office hours to students and families.
- **Men's Fellowship:** Our Men's Fellowship gatherings will take place on Saturday, July 3rd at noon. We will meet at Coldfire Brewery. All men of the parish are invited.
- **Baptisms:** Please be in prayer for Travis & Katie Hensley, and Rick Moore and his three boys, who will be received into the Church by baptism, this month. The baptisms will take place on Saturday, July 3rd (Travis & Katie), and Saturday, July 10th, (Rick and the boys). May they live for us!
- **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 email her at sumstine@gmail.com
- **Cleaning Help:** We are updating the cleaning schedule for the coming months. 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.

KOINONIA

	7/4	7/11	7/18	7/25	
FELLOWSHIP					
GREETER					
PROSFORON	Creech	Lilles	Kaelin	Markopoulos	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
READERS	Brad Thomas				
CLEANING CREW					

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
- STEWARDSHIP Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
- GREETERS Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
- CARE MINISTRY Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
- PRAYER CIRCLE Elizabeth Sumstine (sumstine@gmail.com)
- MISSIONS & EVANGELISM Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
- FUNDRAISERS Presbyteria Maria 971-678-5112

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

A Good Word...

When someone injures us in whatever way, whether with slanders or with insults, we should think of him as our brother who has been taken hold of by the enemy. He has fallen victim to the enemy. Accordingly, we need to have compassion for him and entreat God to have mercy both on us and on him, and God will help both. If, however, we are filled with anger against him, then the enemy will jump from him to us and make a mockery of us both. A person who condemns others does not love Christ. Our egotism is at fault. This is where condemnation of others stems from.