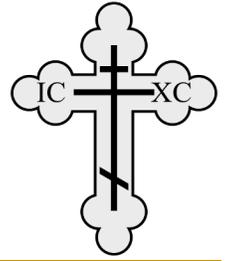




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH JUNE-2021

Dear Ones,

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

When is a person considered “educated”? Is it when they attain a degree? Is it when they attain to a certain social status? Is it when they are famous or well-known? Is it when they attain to a high position of power? The ancient Greeks believed that the purpose of education was to form good citizens. They believed that the pursuit of truth, beauty and goodness would lead to the acquisition of the virtues and would result in a civil society. So they developed an educational philosophy and model to achieve these desired results. For thousands of years, their model of education served as the basis for learning and schooling. So if you had the opportunity to pursue and education, you would have learned according to the Classical method. Many of the Church Fathers were educated according to this method, but they redefined the purpose of education out of their love for Christ. The Church Fathers believed that the purpose of education should be to form Christ-likeness in us. They believed that the pursuit of truth, beauty and goodness would form Christ-likeness in us because Christ Himself was the purest personification of truth, beauty and goodness. They also leaned heavily on instilling the virtues as a practical way of educating people. But they were also steeped in secular learning as well. They all received a well-rounded education with proven results as they competed in the “amphitheater” of ideas, philosophies and debates. Some were concerned about some of the secular learning that was prevalent in those days. St. Basil, in a letter to some young men, said that they should be like a bee, going from flower to flower, and if they found sweet nectar in that flower they should draw from it. But if they found sour nectar, they should not draw from it, but rather move on to the next flower. Using this illustration, St. Basil distinguished between learning/education that was beneficial and would help a person attain to Christ-likeness, and to learning/education that would lead away from attaining to Christ-likeness. Of course, he left it up to each of those young men to choose whatever path they desired.

Many parents of school-aged children have shared with me that the events of the eighteen months have forced them into looking closer at how their children are being educated. Up until recent times, parents were those primarily responsible for the education and formation of children. The role of the school was to partner with parents in the carrying out of their responsibility and to support the values the parents wanted to instill in their children. The role of the school was to be a “garden of flowers” for students to draw sweet nectar from in their pursuit of the acquisition of the virtues and the learning of the true, beautiful and good.

In an attempt to address the concerns of parents, a group has been meeting to consider what our parish could offer in the way of an educational ministry. Drawing from our rich educational inheritance, the group came up with a model that brings together home, church and school. The focus will be on a “living” education and the formation of the individual person through relationship and exposure to what is good, beautiful and true. A flyer (DRAFT) included in this issue of the AGAPE will give you an idea of what they are planning. I will be providing weekly updates via email and can put you in touch with the planning group. By God’s grace, the St. George Home-School Community Learning Center will open this Fall. May it be blessed! *Fr. 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

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Parish Council**Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!**

Greetings from the PC! Our last meeting was the night of Monday of Bright Week and we were all still basking in our wonderful Pascha weekend.

As a PC, we want to again express our sincere gratitude to all those who gave of themselves throughout Lent and Holy Week. It is truly a blessing to see the beautiful flowers, hear the beautiful chants, listen to the readings, worship with one another and then to top it all off with a yummy Pascha meal! Thank you to all those who gave us these blessings! Having the tent was an extra super benefit this year with Covid, so thanks to the anonymous donor for that as well! As we celebrated Mid-Pentecost May 26, Father reminded us that we will be having Liturgy next year with a group of children who will be attending our new St George Home-school Community Learning Center. The PC is very excited about this new ministry and whole heartedly supports it. We hope all of you will, as well. Thank you especially to the "A" team – Alli Hughes, Ashli Mueller and Ann Marie Kaelin for their hard work planning this and bringing it to us for approval.

May we all serve our risen Lord whole heartedly!

Your fellow servant, Kathryn Becker

Treasurer's Report

As of May 27, the balances in the bank accounts were:

Operations \$62,757

Dedicated Funds \$89,197

CARE MINISTRY

Occasionally, a parishioner will ask how they can assist the Care Ministry with one of their tasks without making an actual commitment to join this ministry.

For example if they would like to make a meal for a family in the case of a new baby, illness, or bereavement, they would be referred to Ann-Marie Kalen. For all other tasks such as helping with gifts and deliveries to honorees or home-bound parishioners, assistance with cleaning and moving, and emergency childcare and transportation, please call or E-Mail me, and I will put you in touch with a contact person.

As always, your assistance is needed to help this ministry become aware of any parishioner in need of visits, meals, and other ways in which we can help.

Love, thoughts, and prayers, to each of you,

Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons

Care Ministry Coordinator

Sharing this note I received recently:

Greetings!

Please accept this small donation towards work for Christ.

P.S. Thank you for the cards, prayers and ministering to us prisoners!

With thanksgiving for my brothers and sisters in Christ,

JJ

Greetings from the Bookstore! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Although we have observed and rejoiced the Lenten Season and Pascha, the spiritual journey continues. With twelve Great Feasts during the Liturgical Year, in addition to other commemorated and celebrated Feast Days, one can maintain their spiritual journey throughout the entire year, hopefully with the same spiritual depth, intensity, and fulfillment.

This month, the Bookstore highlights Remember Thy First Love, the three stages of the spiritual life in the theology of Elder Sophrony. (Excerpt from the Forward) “The essence of this way of divine ascent is presented to us here by Father Zacharias. He outlines for us the three stages of the spiritual life as he shares with us the teaching of Elder Sophrony, who followed the path trodden by St. Silouan. He describes the first stage as a visitation of the Divine Spirit, which encourages man to conclude a covenant with God. The second stage consists of a long and arduous struggle through God's providential withdrawal of His grace; it is during this stage that we learn the painful truth about ourselves as we are instructed in the ways of the Lord by the Holy Spirit. The last stage involves our reacquisition - this time for all eternity - of the inalienable grace of salvation. So read on, dearly beloved reader, and take careful note of every detail, for you hold in your hands a salvific map by which to travel, drawn by experienced guides, St. Silouan the Athonite, Elder Sophrony and Archimandrite Zacharias. They will be by your side on your way to spiritual wholeness.”

In addition, for children (as well as adults): The Hidden Garden, a story of the heart. Within every heart is a hidden garden. We can neglect it until the weeds take over and the flowers wither and die. Or, with the help of Christ, we can care for it and make it a place of beauty, grace, and joy. This charming parable will encourage children (and adults) to open the gate to Christ and tend the garden of their heart with loving care.

“Now that I tend to the garden every day, so many good things end up growing there. Prayer, forgiveness, peace, and love are the fragrances that dance in the air above the climbing rose.”

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

Missions and Evangelism

This time of year, the Missions and Evangelism ministry of the Metropolis encourages each parish to donate funds for the mission efforts of our metropolis. This year, each of the 6 mission parishes has asked for a grant to do specific projects for their parish. I thought I'd share the highlights of the two parishes we are most closely connected to.

Salem Parishioners at Holy Resurrection are focused on making the church services more accessible to parishioners by revising and printing new books for Vespers and other services. They are also putting funds towards Newly Illumined Baskets, organized by the parish bookstore. These baskets will include items for the prayer corner and beyond, to give new parishioners a jump start with practicing their faith in the home. Finally, Holy Resurrection is designing and printing new business cards and welcome packets.

Roseburg The Holy Cross parish has requested their grant to do 3 things:

- 1) hiring a photographer to take photos during Holy Week, to more accurately represent their community on their parish website.
- 2) fund sound equipment for a parishioner-led project to produce a podcast about Orthodoxy in Southern Oregon, and
- 3) building the items they need to set up their transitional space for worship quickly and easily. These items will also be ready for when they have the opportunity to rent and move to a larger space of their own.

The main way to give to these projects is online at groworthodoxy.org through Charity.GoFundMe. There is a link for our parish there. If you would prefer not to donate online, there are a few of the boxes to collect your money available in the fellowship hall. I would also like to encourage you to place your donation in an envelope and place directly into one of the offering boxes. Please indicate that the money is for Missions and Evangelism.

Thank you so much! Kathryn Becker

PHILIA

Two years ago, in 2019, when the word pandemic was just a word, Philia started a new activity. Hiking. It became a fun, healthy, friendly pastime, one that not only gave us means to exercise, but allowed us to discover new places around town, a chance to visit and produced some happy photos to display on our picture board. And now, with sunny skies and hope on the horizon, we, once again, decided to resurrect this fun activity. Our first one will be this Friday, June 4. Just a nice pleasant walk by the river. We will meet at 11:30 at the Owen Rose Gardens. Please send me an email if interested in taking part. And if someone else would like to lead the next hike or walk, pick a day, a spot and time and let us know.

Plans for the future:

· Community Court Lunches - 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.

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

The Bible study continues to be on hold at the Oregon State Penitentiary. The Governor has been slowly allowing visitation to open up as the risk level of Marion County has been reduced to lower levels. This may mean that Volunteers will soon be allowed back in to the facilities as well. In the meantime the men will be receiving a copy of the transcription of Fr. Jerry's sermon from the Sunday of the Paralytic, they will also receive the next section from St. Paisios' Spiritual Counsel III: Spiritual Struggle. We are starting Chapter 4 covering "The Struggle Against Thoughts." I can only imagine what this year has been like for "our guys," and am so thankful we have been able to send in greetings and reflections. My hope is that through these correspondences, not only will the men see the love of Christ, but they will be provided with tools to help them when they face discouragement or despondency from the on-going isolation. Please continue to keep this group, and Prison Ministry in general, in your prayers. Thank you! Joanna

Thank you-Joanna

From the Mission Churches**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

If you've been wondering lately how America can unify, heal, recover, and grow it's in these three words: Christ is Risen! This is the life-altering good news we have to share to those around us! This is why we strongly support the Metropolis Missions and Evangelism Ministry. This ministry plants and supports missions here in the West, and also gives every parishioner the tools needed to bring the Gospel to our neighbors. Please join us in contributing to the Missions to America campaign that is running through Pentecost. Funds collected go directly to projects that share the Faith right here in America. This year, the ministry is funding special projects in the 6 missions in our Metropolis, enabling them to reach further into their communities. May the light of Christ illuminate our country!

**Truly, He is Risen! ~ Lisa Buck
Holy Cross Mission, Roseburg**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**In Christ,**

**Maria Hauser
Holy Resurrection Mission, Salem**

June Celebrations Birthdays

June 8th-James Stephenson
June 9th-Paras Markopoulos
June 11th-Peter Karadontes
June 15th-Hailey Campbell
June 16th--Larisa Lilles
June 17th-Ron Muresan
June 18th-Julie Rundt
June 19th-Maedot Shitie
June 21st-Aftasie Doran

Feast Days

June 3rd-St Kevin
Dn. Kevin Haan, Kevin Kaelin

June 27th-Myrrhbearer Joanna
Joanna Jaquette

Wedding Anniversaries

June 6th-Bill & Lisa Lilles
June 15th-John & Georgia Lallas
June 27th-Mark & Maria Hauser

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

June 14th-John Timmons
June 26th-Lester & Debbie Wilson

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.
- **Additional Services:** In addition to Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Orthros & Liturgy, there will be, at least weekly, additional opportunities for worship. There will be Orthros & Liturgy on Wednesday, June 2nd; 16th; and 30th (Holy Apostles). There will also be Orthros & Liturgy on Thursday, June 10th (Holy Ascension), and the 24th (Nativity of St. John the Baptist). Please check your weekly bulletin for schedule updates and changes.
- **A new addition:** On Monday, May 24th, Joshua Salter & Violeta Draghici welcomed a new addition to their family. Please join me in congratulating them on the birth of their son, Victor Maximilian Decebal Sebastian Salter! May he live for us!
- **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, June 5th at 1 pm. We will meet at Coldfire Brewery. All men of the parish are invited.
- **Sacred Oneness:** Rachel Hauser and Andrew Mixis will be joined in marriage on Saturday, June 19th, at Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Yakima, Washington. We wish the couple "Kala Stefana" and we congratulate their parents, Mark & Maria Hauser and Mr. & Mrs. George Mixis. 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 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 March goes we thank the following parishioners for giving of their time and helping keep the church looking beautiful! The June schedule is below:

Week of June 7: Neal Zoumboukos and Arin Carmack

Week of June 14: Avalos

Week of June 21: Stella Kallianis and Liana Creech

Week of June 28: Bill and Lisa Lilles

KOINONIA

	6/6	6/13	6/20	6/27	
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	Zoumboukas/ Carmack	Avalos	Kallianis/ Creech	Bill & Lisa 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	
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	Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

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Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
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Eugene, OR 97408-5018

A Good Word...

Seek love. Ask God for love every day. With love comes all the abundance of blessedness and virtue. Love [others] and you will also receive their love. Give God all of your heart, so that you may remain in His love. “He who abides in love abides in God, and God in Him” (1 John 4:16).

You should take great care in your relationships with one another and respect each other as sacred persons, as images of God. Be attentive to the feeling of love, because when the heart is not warmed by pure prayer, love is in danger of becoming something fleshly and unnatural (contrary to its nature); it is in danger of darkening the mind and of burning the heart.

We must examine ourselves daily – perhaps our love is not flowing forth from the bond of our common love for Christ; perhaps it is not welling forth from the fullness of our love for the Lord. The person who is vigilant to preserve the purity of his love is guarded against the traps of the evil one. These traps try – slowly and gradually – to convert our Christian love into something commonplace or sentimental.