

**EVERYONE: PLAN TO ATTEND...** the fall parish general assembly on Sunday, October 12 after Liturgy. The parish will vote to approve the 2026 budget, as well as making other important decisions. All parishioners are welcome, though only stewards may vote. (Become a steward by filling out a stewardship commitment card.) Please read the General Assembly packet that was emailed on Thursday. *Send questions in advance* to [bookkeeper@stjohngoc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stjohngoc.org).

**“FULLNESS OF THE FAITH” CATECHISM CLASS:** Learn about Orthodox spirituality, prayer, theology, iconography, and the 2,000-year history of the Church in this 12-week series. Classes are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (after 6:00 pm Paraklesis). *All are welcome*—to deepen their Orthodox Faith.

**WITNESS THE LATEST PLATOON ...** of 14 newly-enlisted soldiers for Christ, who will receive Holy Baptism on Saturday, October 11 at 11:00 am. All are welcome for this blessed sacrament and the reception following!

**LEARN TO BAKE THE OFFERING BREAD:** Christina B. is teaching how to bake Prospora loaves this fall. She will teach a one-day class for groups of 5 people starting with the first group on October 18. To learn this blessed skill, contact her at [christina@asapdx.org](mailto:christina@asapdx.org).

**JOIN THE ST. PAISIOS PARKING MINISTRY:** You can provide a tangible gift of your time and labor—a parking space in the St. John parking lot. By parking off of our property (and off of other private property!), those in greater need will have parking available for them. Please contact Fr. Matthew to join.

**FAMILY PROMISE NEEDS:** Please help us support Family Promise (Mission: caring for families experiencing homelessness) in their request for help with essentials for their families in need. Many of the items, such as toiletries, cleaning supplies, etc., We'd have to add to your own shopping list! There is a playhouse in the SFH with a list of items to contribute, items can be dropped off in the playhouse. See Lori S or Kendall M with questions. Thank you for helping us support the families of Family Promise!

**CORN MAZE TEEN OUTING:** 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders, join us for our Teen Outing on Saturday, October 11! Cost \$10. Dinner and rides to the corn maze provided! Meet at the church at 6pm. RSVP to Sam Swan.

**GOYA MEETING:** High schoolers (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>), join us for games, dinner, and discussion at the Seidel house on Saturday, Oct 18 after Vespers! Questions? Contact Sam S.

**ST. INNOCENT ORPHANGE & PROJECT MEXICO MATCHING GRANT CAMPAIGN...** is underway! Please donate generously by putting a donation in the blue cannister located on the narthex candle stand this fall. Every donation is doubled!

**LAST CHANCE FOR GREEK FESTIVAL!** Today is the last day of the Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland!

**METROPOLIS FALL RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULT:** Join other Orthodox Young Adults (ages 18–35) for a retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, CA, October 16-19—a weekend of hiking, prayer, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome, even those new to Orthodoxy! More info at: [gosfyouth.org/youngadults](http://gosfyouth.org/youngadults)

## THE MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



*The mission of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is to reach out and welcome all people to live an Orthodox Christian life, grow spiritually, and become disciples of Jesus Christ through serving others.*

Parish Council: Anderson (open) and Makarounis (close) Greeter: Don and Lori  
Cleanup Team 6: Kemper, Lindgren, Lowe, Cawley, Ercolani, Barnes, Makarounis



# St. John the Baptist

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla (503) 644-7444 • [www.stjohngoc.org](http://www.stjohngoc.org)  
Deacon Innocent Duchow-Pressley 14485 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton, OR 97006

October 5, 2025

### *St. Charitina the Martyr*

St. Charitina was from Amisos in Pontus and lived during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). Orphaned at a young age, she became the servant of a noble Roman Christian named Claudios, who brought her up as his own daughter. The young girl was very pretty, sensible, and kind. She imparted her love for Christ to others, and brought many to the path of salvation. She was meek, humble, obedient and silent. Although she was not yet baptized, she was a Christian at heart. She studied the Law of God day and night, and vowed to preserve her virginity as a true bride of Christ. Because St. Charitina brought many others to the Christian Faith, Dometios, one of the governors, came to hear of her and sent a letter to Claudios, ordering him to send the saint to him so that he might question her. Claudios had no doubts about the result of this interrogation. Grieved at the prospect of losing her, he put on sackcloth and wept bitter tears. Charitina comforted him, saying: "Do not grieve, my Master, but rejoice, for I am to become an acceptable sacrifice to God, for my sins and for yours." Claudios replied: "O Servant of God, remember me when you stand before the heavenly King in the ranks of the Holy Martyrs." The Saint was brought before a judge at the tribunal. He asked her: "Is it true that you are a Christian, and that you delude others by bringing them to your impious faith?" Charitina replied: "It is true

that I am a Christian, but I did not delude others. On the contrary, I lead them from deception to the path of truth, bringing them to Christ." Then the judge ordered her hair to be cut off, but by the power of God, her hair grew back even longer than before. Then burning coals were placed on her head, and vinegar was poured over her scorched flesh. They stabbed her with flaming sticks, and burnt her with candles. Finally, they tied a stone around her neck and threw her into the sea. She cried out: "This is my Baptism." The stone was loosened and sank, and God delivered her from the sea unharmed. When the judge saw her on the shore, he ordered her seized, stripped naked, and tied her to a wheel over burning coals, but once again St. Charitina was unharmed. The judge became furious and tore the nails from her hands and feet, and broke her teeth. She was then to be defiled. Fearing this dishonor, she prayed that God would receive her soul before these vile men defiled her; and so, as she prayed, she surrendered her pure soul to God. When they saw that she was dead, she was tossed in the sea. Her body was brought to the shore three days later. Her master Claudios found her body and buried her with appropriate honor and reverence. Fragments of St. Charitina's holy relics are found in the Monasteries of Kykkos, Cyprus, and Jerusalem of Boeotia.

**WELCOME VISITORS** to the original Christian Church. At St. John the Baptist you will experience the sacred worship of God as it has taken place for 2,000 years. Our community is a dynamic witness of authentic Christianity, and we welcome all people.

Please note that Holy Communion is reserved only for canonically baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared—through prayer, fasting and regular Confession—to receive the Sacrament. However everyone may receive blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. If you have any questions about your experience, please speak with one of our clergy.

#### **HYMNS OF THE SMALL ENTRANCE**

##### **Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal Fourth Mode)**

From on high did You descend, O Merciful Lord. For us did You endure three days in the tomb that we may be released from passions in this world. You who are our resurrection and our life, glory unto You, O Lord.

*Ex ípsus katílthes, o éfsplanghnos, tafín katedthéxo tri-ímeron, ina imás elefthérosis ton pathón. I zoí ke i Anástasis imón, Kýrie, dthóxa si.*

##### **Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Second Mode)**

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for you have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the stream Him Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, having contested for the truth, you rejoiced to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God has appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting to us great mercy.

##### **Kontakion of the Theotokos (Second Mode)**

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

#### **EPISTLE READING**

##### **II Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1 (Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)**

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

#### **GOSPEL READING**

##### **Luke 6: 31-36 (Second Sunday of Luke)**

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

*Saint Silouan of Mount Athos insisted that because love of enemies is a fruit of grace, it is essentially through prayer that it can be obtained. Several times he urged us to "ask the Lord with our whole being to give us the strength to love all men." He also advised to pray to the Mother of God and the Saints: "If we are incapable [of loving our enemies] and if we are without love, let us turn with ardent prayers to the Lord, to His Most Pure Mother, and to all the Saints, and the Lord will help us with everything, He whose love for us knows no bounds." St. Silouan confessed that he himself constantly prayed to God for this: "I continuously beg the Lord to give me the love of enemies. . . . Day and night I ask the Lord for this love. The Lord gives me tears and I weep for the whole world." Wishing in his universal love for all men to receive such a gift, he links them to himself in his prayer: "Lord, teach us through Your Holy Spirit to love our enemies and to pray for them with tears . . . Lord, as you prayed for your enemies, so teach us also, through the Holy Spirit, to love our enemies."*

*- On St. Silouan the Athonite (September 24)*

### **PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**

**Orthros** 8:45 am  
**Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am  
Fellowship, Sunday School & Theology  
101 Adult Study follow  
Greek Festival at Holy Trinity

#### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 6**

**St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Innocent of Alaska**  
**Orthros** 7:15 am  
**Divine Liturgy** 8:15 am

#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7**

Building Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8**

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Wednesday Coffee Hour 11:00 am  
**Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist** 6:00 pm  
NO Catechism Class

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9**

**Akathist to the Mother of God** 9:00 am  
**Nurturer of Children**  
Work Party at the Forerunner Property 4:00 pm  
Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 pm

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10**

Passport Night at Agia Sophia Academy 6:00 pm

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11**

**Group Baptism** 11:00 am  
**Orthodox Marriage of James (Preston) & Thecla (Karla) Gabbard** 1:30 pm  
**Memorial of Dee Pennock (4 years)** 5:00 pm  
**Great Vespers** 5:00 pm  
Teen Outing (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) to the Corn Maze 6:00 pm

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12**

**Orthros** 8:45 am  
**Divine Liturgy** 10:00 am  
**Catechumen Prayers** 11:45 am  
Fellowship follows  
No Sunday School or Theology 101  
Fall General Assembly 12:30 pm