



EASTERN ORTHODOX  
**CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION**  
MILWAUKIE, OREGON

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## CELEBRATING THE HARVEST

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In September, Annunciation celebrated its fourth annual Harvest Festival, and it was a sight to behold. Beautifully decorated and set beneath the great, old trees, with tables met by laughter and gumbo, and the air charged with storytelling and music, the Harvest Festival was full of a life that seemed drawn straight from some shire town or pastoral village of simpler times. To have such an event very near the hustle and bustle of a metropolis, in the midst of many of our busy lives, was a profound blessing. Of course, thanks is due to Matushka Molly and the Harvest Festival Committee for organizing such a day, to the many, many people who provided food, entertainment, and helping hands, and most of all to our Lord of whom St. James wrote, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.”



(Photo Credit: Janelle Honeycutt)

For those unable to attend the event, while unfortunate to miss such a lovely gathering, perhaps the greater loss is having missed the famed dessert and pie contests, whose participants did not disappoint! *(continued on pg. 2)*



There was a huge spread of desserts to suit every sweet-tooth imaginable, but at the end of the day, the judges had to decide on seven dishes that somehow exceeded the rest. The winners of the contests were:

### **Best Dessert**

**1st Place:** Matushka Teresa for the Decadent Chocolate Cake

**2nd Place:** Shannon Wolfberg for the Honey Bun Cake

**3rd Place:** Mindy Clark for the Banana Pudding

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### **Best Pie**

**1st Place:** Lori Aveling for the Crunchy Caramel Apple Pie

**2nd Place:** Peter Olson for the Pumpkin Pie

**3rd Place:** Matushka Molly for the Vodka Crust Apple Pie

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### **Honorable Mention & Harvest Rose Award for the Best Presentation**

Kathryn and Larissa Toth for the Apple Sunrise Dessert

## A TRIP TO WILDWOOD

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*(Pictured left: the Church at St. Herman's Monastery; pictured right: the Annunciation group with the four nuns of St. Xenia's Skete by the St. Seraphim of Sarov Shrine)*

Early in October, Annunciation sent its largest group ever to assist the nuns of St. Xenia's Skete in Wildwood, CA, prepare for winter. The beautiful forest property was buzzing not only with the eighteen parishioners transporting wood and brambles across the plot but also with the chainsaws and motorized woodsplitter (though there was no shortage of our own Paul Bunyans who put the machines to shame!) that cut the wood into pieces fit for the skete's many stoves. While the primary goal for the trip was to help the nuns, perhaps those greater blessed were those from Annunciation. To participate in daily prayer and services and to sit under spiritual readings at both St. Xenia's Skete and St. Herman's Monastery (just down the road from St. Xenia's, where the men stayed) was an experience of grace and relief from earthly cares. In Celtic Orthodoxy, the language of "thin places" is used to describe those holy, geographical locations where the presence of Christ can be felt potently, in part due to the devotion of men and women in prayer there for a great length of time, wearing down the veil thinner and thinner, so to speak, between this world and the realms of the unseen. Often times, these thin places coincide with monasteries, and St. Xenia's and St. Herman's are no exception.

Thank you to all the parishioners who dedicated their time, resources, and/or money to the nuns of St. Xenia's Skete! The trip there was blessed in many more ways than one.

# ON CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

from Matushka Connie

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The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is off to a beautiful beginning. The children began with practical life work and are now working with liturgical colors and items on the altar. There are a total of 14 children enrolled in two different sessions so far on Wednesday mornings and Sundays right after Liturgy. We will be receiving



several more over the next few months as children may join us after their 3rd birthday. The program is for 3-6 yr. olds. If you are interested in having your child participate contact either Matushka Connie, [cshank33@gmail.com](mailto:cshank33@gmail.com), or Matushka Molly, [mollyshw@gmail.com](mailto:mollyshw@gmail.com).

*(Public Service Announcement on pg. 5)*



**Want to help with the Catechesis Room for our young children?**

We are in need of a Bissell carpet sweeper (pictured right) to keep our Atriums nice and tidy. Please contact M. Connie or M. Molly if you are interested in helping out in this way.



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## AROUND THE PARISH

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### *- New Catechumen -*

Annunciation continues to be blessed by the addition of new catechumen. Entering the catechumenate within the past month were Matthew, Noel, Addison, and Reese McNutt, as well as Travis Eby. The McNutt family anticipates being baptized under the names Matthew, Elizabeth, Euphemia, and Lucia (respectively), while Travis has decided on the church name Severus.

A good word for both catechumen and baptized alike comes from **St. Symeon the New Theologian** who wrote, "Some praise life in the desert, others life in monasteries, still others in a place of authority among people... I would not give preference to any of these, nor to say that one is worthy of praise and another of censure. In all ways of life, blessed is the life lived for God and according to God in all actions and works." May Christ have mercy on us to follow this blessed way!



*- Youth Group Trip to St. John's Monastery -  
with Oscar David*

The Church youth made an overnight pilgrimage to St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery in Goldendale, Washington, Sept. 1-2. While there, they bonded through fellowship, were instructed in the lives of Saints by one of the nuns, and attended a traditional Greek Divine Liturgy with many of the local faithful at the monastery cathedral.



*If you have submissions for the newsletter,  
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