



RELIGION

Send notice of your church activities and events to:
Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

Chanukkah represents Jewish victory over oppression

The Jewish holiday, Chanukkah, is observed for eight days, beginning with the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Because Chanukkah occurs near Christmas each year, many people have the misconception that Chanukkah is the "Jewish Christmas." However, Chanukkah has nothing to do with Christmas; it is no more the "Jewish Christmas" than Kwanza is the "Black Christmas."

Chanukkah is not one of the great Jewish festivals, and bears no aura of sanctity. No special ceremonials have been built around it; there is no cessation of work.

Chanukkah differs from all other Jewish festivals in one important respect; its origin is not lost in the dimness of antiquity. It is a dated festival, a festival that commemorates great events in the history of the Jewish people — the revolt and victory of the Jews, under the leadership of Judah Maccabee and his brothers of the Hasmonian family, against the imperial rule of the Syrians, under

Emperor Antiochus Epiphanes.

The Chanukkah lights originated in an old nature festival, that was observed in winter by certain Jewish groups, in the season when the days begin to lengthen. In time the lights were eventually tied up with Chanukkah.

In order to imbue the Chanukkah lights with a religious aura, with a sacred tradition, the legend of the flask of oil was created.

"What is Chanukkah?" asks the Gemara, a Jewish holy book and the answer given there is that the army of Antiochus, when it occupied the Temple, defiled all the oil that was stored therein. When the Hasmonians won, they searched the Temple and found only one small flask of oil bearing the seal of the High Priest, containing only enough oil to light the Menorah for one day. A miracle occurred, and this oil lasted for eight days. The next year these days were declared a festival, with prayers of thanksgiving to God.



Nirah Blom, age 2, enjoys her plate of potato latkes at Chanukkah fundraiser held by the New Jewish Agenda on Saturday.
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)



Dancers highlighted the Guadalupe Day fiesta at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.
(Photo: Kris Altucher)

Guadalupe Day celebrated by Hispanic community

by Robert Lothian

The Hispanic congregation of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Northwest Portland paid homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint, with a mass and fiesta Wednesday evening, Dec. 12.

Father Frank Knusel presented a sermon in Spanish on the significance of Guadalupe for Latin people. His comments were accompanied by guitars and a chorus singing in Spanish. Poinsettias, red roses and a large Mexican flag framed a gold and turquoise image of the "brown-skinned madonna."

After the mass, children and adults in colorful costumes entertained the congregation with Mexican music and dancing. Included was an exciting (if dangerous) "machete dance," which sent sparks flying as the large knives flashed and clashed.

Soledad Grefnes, secretary of the Mission of St. Patrick in Portland, said the fiestas in Mexico on Dec. 12, which is one of Mexico's greatest national holidays, "are something like this only 100-200 times more."

According to legend, the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared three times to Mexican peasant Juan Diego at Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City, the last time on Dec. 12, 1531. The Spanish had recently conquered Mexico, and Catholicism was supplanting the former Aztec religion. Tepeyac had been the sanctuary of the Aztec's mother goddess. According to the

legend, Guadalupe appeared in the form of an Indian woman and spoke to Diego in the Aztec language.

To some people, the legend signifies the overcoming of the Aztec religion by Catholicism. To others, it represents the overcoming of Catholicism by the Aztec religion.

On December 12, thousands make the pilgrimage to Tepeyac from all over Mexico. People in need pray to Guadalupe year-round, and many Mexicans attribute to her the source of their health and happiness.

Special Holiday Services

St. Andrews Catholic Church

N.E. 9th and Alberta

December 24th
6:30 p.m., Caroling
7:30 p.m., family Mass
11:15 p.m., Caroling
12:00 a.m., Midnight Mass

December 25th
9:30 a.m., Mass and
Gospel Choir
12 noon, Mass
Merry Christmas and God Bless

The Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church
Telephone: 287-6691 or 666-1577

"The Church on the Grow" II Peters 3:18
Pastor A. Bernard Devers, I

3924 N. Williams Ave.

Telephone: 287-6691 or 281-0547

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. • Wednesday Evening, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. • Sunday Evening, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 6:30 p.m.

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the Bible says...
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HEBREWS 12:14

Tuesday: Bible Band 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.
U.P.W.W. 6:30 p.m.
Evangelistic Worship 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday: Noon Day Prayer
Friday: "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 p.m.
Saturday: Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.

Community Directory and profiles

Ads On This Page Are Of Local Businesses That Are Helping Build A Better Community

AUTO

BROADWAY TOYOTA
307 N.E. Broadway
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 284-1105

Broadway Exxon
Complete Car Care Center. Atlas Products. Towing Service. Service all foreign & domestic. Our mechanic, Chuck Kneiss, will be on duty 8:5 a.m. - 6 p.m. We open 6:12 M-S & 7:11 Sunday.
Brad Morris, Station Manager
519 N.E. Broadway
284-5050

BEAUTY

ja'bell's
BEAUTY & BARBER SUPPLIES
(Retail & Wholesale)
Hours: 9-7 Mon-Sat
5834 N.E. Union Ave.
(503) 281-6393

Make this directory work for you.
Call 283-2486.

MRS. C'S WIGS
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707 NE FREMONT
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500 N.W. 23rd Avenue

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PHARMACY

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281-9931

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Injury, Automobile, Criminal Defense, Wills/Probate, Drafting, Divorce, Traffic, Domestic Violence

"GENERATIONS"
Catering Service
Mexican, Vietnamese and Regional Dishes
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(503) 289-9814

PHIL REYNOLDS MEDICAL CLINIC
Walter C. Reynolds, M.D.
Kajana H. Rajdev, M.D.
Physicians & Surgeons
15 N. Morris St.
287-4532

CANACE NATUROPATHIC CLINIC
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(503) 289-9814

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Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
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Phone: 284-3979

ALLEN TEMPLE CME CHURCH

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Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 11:00am
Christian Youth Fellowship 6:00pm
(second and fourth Sundays)
Elonza J. Edwards (Pastor)

THE MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

N.E. First & Schuyler • 284-1954

John H. Jackson, Minister, M.Ed., M.D.
9:30 A.M. Church School
11:00 A.M. Congregational Worship
5:00 P.M. Vesper Service
10:00 A.M. Baptism Fourth Sunday
11:00 Communion Each First Sunday

The American Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches of Oregon: Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention: National, Oregon, Portland Ecumenical Ministries, American Bible Society, M.&M. Board.

Prison Ministries, Inc.

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Portland, OR 97227
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- Prison Ministries provides: Chapel services, counseling and visitation.
- Prison Ministries is: A non-profit, religious, tax deductible, organization (IRS 51-0173823).
- Financial support: Churches, individuals, businesses and foundations.
- Prison Ministries, Inc. member of: APCCA American Protestant Correctional Chaplain Association, Associate member of: ACA American Correctional Association

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW CHAPTER 1

- 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
- 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
- 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

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1480
A.M.

Sunday
Mornings
8:30 - 9 a.m.