

Frs. 4th Ecumenical
Council
New Martyr
Elizabeth

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Titus 3:8-15  
Matthew 5:14-19

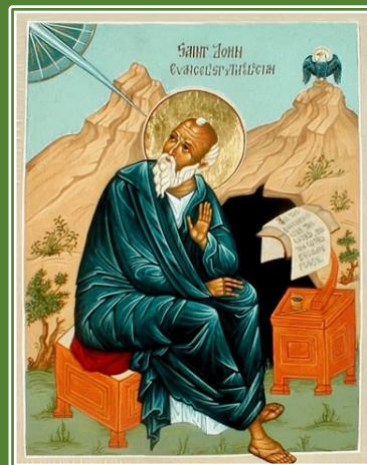
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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders

Coffee Hour Hosts:
J. Alvarez / Watson

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

~~~~~ Weekly Bulletin Sunday, July 19, 2026 And the Days Following ~~~~~



O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.

Parish Events and News

Saint John's Eagle River Institute

August 1-5, 2026



Register Now for Eagle River Institute Meals and Childcare

Our annual Institute now provides childcare for ages 1-10 so parents can attend sessions more easily. We also provide meals between classes on weeknights for attendees. It is important that everyone register today so we can arrange childcare and meals: [ERI Registration 2026](#). The brochure provides detailed information about topics and a schedule: [ERI Brochure 2026](#). The ERI website will be updated with this information soon.



Coffee Hour This Sunday - July 19, 2026 Group Mark (3) - Third Sunday of the Month

Hosts Families: Jennifer Alvarez / Watson

Snacks: Alexander, Artz, Burkowske, Cook, Doss, B & D Dunaway, Dyal, Fletes, P. Gillquist, Griffith, Hattenburg, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Justus, Kendall, Labrecque, Lowry, Marcus, O Medders, T & L Mellor, Northey, Palmer, Polson, Scherer, Sorensen, J & A Stiehr, A & J Temple, Unser, Wasile, Wolkoff

~~~~~ Next Sunday - Group John (4) - July 26, 2026 - Hosts: Dn. J & D Ray / Sbdn. S. Alvarez

Snacks: J. Alvarez, S. Alvarez, Arvidson, Burton Cooley, Dougherty, FrM & KhB Dunaway, Goetz, Gresset, Haines, Hawi, D & S Ihde, M Johnson, Keener, Kies, Macalino, Mason, Minea, J Northey, Parker, DnJ & D Ray, Schlicting, Sparks, J. Stiehr, Templeton, Van Dyke, Watson

The St. John Bookstore has Received a Shipment of Icons.

Stop by on your way to coffee hour Sunday to see what's new.



Out of Church Office and Working from Home

"I am scheduled for hip replacement surgery on July 21, and will be working from home for a few weeks as I recover." —Maris Kelly

St. James House Weekly News



St. James House Café
Come Sit and Enjoy a Cup of Coffee and
Catch Up With Friends
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am to 9am

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

"Checking In" with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email cathedral@stjohnalaska.org

Dates to Remember



Men's Book Club - Wednesdays 7-8pm

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, you can text Sam Lowry at 616-928-5181.

Birthdays This Week

July 19 - Dn. Pat Lamb

July 24 - Tommy Drennan

July 25 - Jennifer Saur

July 25 - Elias Drennan

M A N Y Y E A R S !





Remembering in Prayer...

*Jennifer Saur
Sam Stogsdill
Travis Cook
Maris Kelly*

*Sylvia Villafana
Matt Komar
Ben Polson*

For those suffering from the devastation of war

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- * Presbyter Daniel Arthur Ryan - July 7, 1984
- * Theodore Max Wells - July 14, 2009
- * Marlene Faye Dyal - July 24, 2005
- * Robert Guio - July 27, 2024

M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **July** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, July 25. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

THE SYNAXARION



Elizabeth & Barbara, the New Martyrs of Russia – July 18

On July 18, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Martyrs Elizabeth and Barbara of Russia.

St. Elizabeth was an older sister of the Empress Alexandra of Russia, and was married to the Grand Duke Serge, a younger son of Tsar Alexander III and the Governor of Moscow. She converted from the Protestant faith to Orthodoxy several years after her marriage of her own free will, and organized women from all levels of society to help the sick and needy.

Grand Duke Serge was killed by an assassin's bomb on February 4, 1905, just as St. Elizabeth was leaving for her workshops. She visited her husband's killer in prison and urged him to repent, giving him an icon. She eventually built a shrine over the site of her husband's martyrdom (which was said to have been destroyed by Vladimir Lenin himself in 1917).

After her husband's murder, she began to withdraw from her former social life. She founded the Convent of Saints Mary and Martha in Moscow, a community of nuns which focused on worshiping God and helping the poor. She sold all her fine clothes and jewels and moved out of her palace into the buildings that she had purchased on behalf of the convent.

St. Elizabeth and her sisters continued to visit the poor and hungry in Moscow. During the First World War, she nursed sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals and on the battle front. She was respected and admired throughout Russia and people came to her for spiritual direction.

After her brother-in-law, Tsar Nicholas II, abdicated the throne and he and his family were placed under house arrest, St. Elizabeth was urged to abandon her convent and seek shelter with her remaining family in Western Europe. She refused all offers of help, saying she would not leave the other sisters and would die in Russia if that was His Will.

On Pascha 1918, Soviet soldiers came to the convent and ordered her to leave Moscow to join the royal family near Ekaterinburg. She was allowed to leave with a novice, Sister Barbara, but was not permitted to say goodbye to the other sisters.

After arriving in Ekaterinburg, St. Elizabeth was denied access to the Tsar's family. She and Sister Barbara were placed in a convent, where she was warmly received by the sisters.

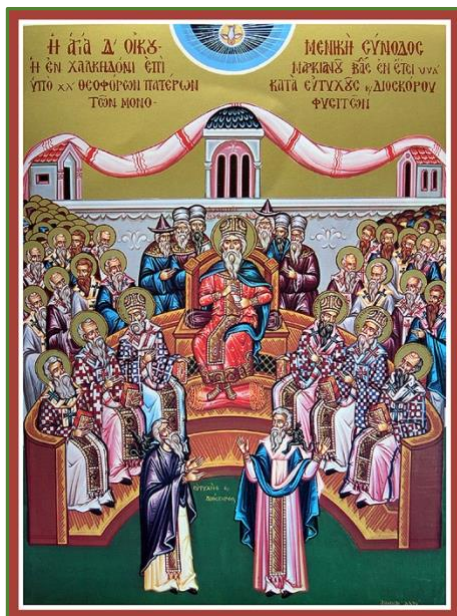
At the end of May St. Elizabeth and St. Barbara were moved to the nearby village of Alopevsk with the Grand Dukes Sergius, John, and Constantine, and the young Count Vladimir Paley. They were all housed in a schoolhouse on the edge of town. St.

Elizabeth was placed under guard but was permitted to go to church and work in the garden.

On the night of July 17/18, they were all taken to a place in the woods, twelve miles from Alopevsk, and executed. Grand Duke Sergius was shot, but the others were thrown down a mineshaft, with grenades being tossed in after them. St. Elizabeth lived for several hours and could

be heard singing hymns by local villagers who came up to the mineshaft after the murderers had left.

A few days later, the bodies of St. Elizabeth and St. Barbara were recovered from the mineshaft after the pro-Tsarist armies took Alopaevsk. They were ultimately taken to Jerusalem in 1920 and buried in the church of St. Mary Magdalene on the Mount of Olives.



Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council July 13-19

On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

Verses

*Shunning opposite errors like the sea monsters Scylla and
Charybdis,*

The Fathers steer the Church on a straight course to safety.

The Holy Fathers were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The heretics considered His human nature less perfect, and His divine nature more perfect. This false teaching arose that Christ's human nature dissolved itself in His divine nature: like a cube of sugar in a cup of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites ("mono", meaning "one" and "physis", meaning "nature"), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. This Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human nature. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two full and complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any mingling or change.

By the intercessions of Your Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson