

*Andrew the
First Called*

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1 Corinthians 4:9-16  
John 1:35-51

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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

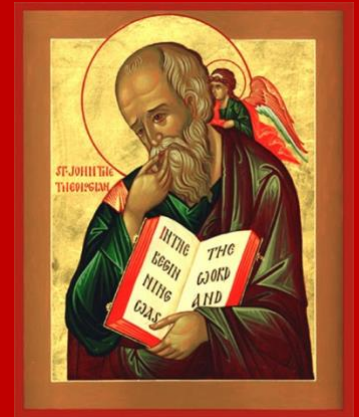
Epistle Reader:
Jerry Finkler

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Clodfelter / Gillquist

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

*Sunday, November 30, 2025
And the Days Following*

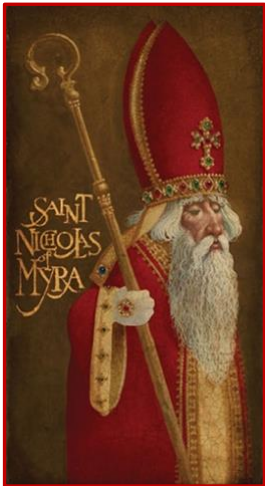


O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.

Feast Days and Services

Next Friday ...

Saint Nicholas of Myra Feast Day December 6
Great Vespers for St. Nicholas – Friday Evening,
December 5, at 7:15pm



*We will celebrate this day as part of our Advent preparations by sharing gifts
put in our shoes during Vespers for the Feast Day.
Please leave your shoes in the Church Basement if you wish to receive a gift.*



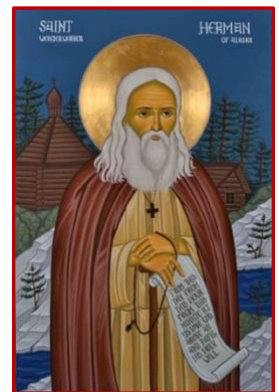
Next Week...

Saint Herman of Alaska Feast Day December 13
Akathist Hymn to St. Herman - Friday Evening
December 12, at 6:15pm



Following the “Akathist” Hymn there will be hot spiced tea and cookies in the upper parking lot to share around a campfire. Children can bring sleds to sled on the hill. A few sleds from the school will be set out too.

**See announcement below that Fr. Marc put together for upcoming festivities that celebrate St. Nicholas, St. Herman and St. Ignatius during this season.
You can also click [HERE](#)*





We will also have a **“Cookie Exchange and Giveaway”** on Saint Herman’s Night. Families are invited to bring 4-dozen holiday cookies divided into small baggies with 3 cookies each. Before the Akathist Hymn begins, these are arranged on tables set up in the Narthex, labelled with the family name and kind of cookie. After the Akathist, one member from each family can go in line along the tables and pick up a bag of cookies of each kind. (Bring your own container.) Even families who do not bring cookies should be able to receive cookies to take home. Mary Curry will again help direct the “Cookie Exchange and Giveaway” this year. Please text her at (907) 764-9696 if you have any questions.

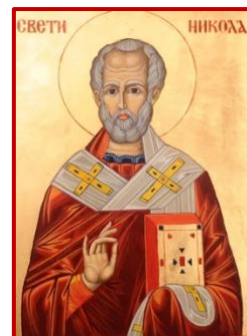
Parish Events and News

Saint John’s Advent Celebrations for 2025

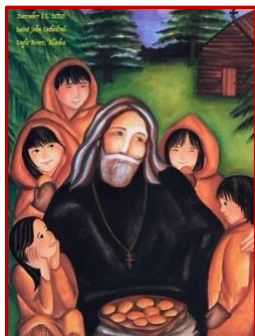
Saint Nicholas Dec. 6 - Saint Herman Dec. 13 - Saint Ignatius Dec. 20

It is important that St. John’s Church family has many occasions both to pray together and to play together, especially during the dark winter months in Alaska. The commemoration of three Saints, each observed one week a part, provides an opportunity for such celebrations that have become an important part of our Advent season.

Saint Nicholas of Myra is remembered on December 6. We will celebrate this day on **Friday, December 5 at 7:15pm with Great Vespers**, a service about 45 minutes long. The earlier time will serve families better also. It is a fun custom that people leave their shoes in the basement as they come so that during Vespers Saint Nicholas might visit and fill them with a small gift. This custom comes from the story of Saint Nicholas secretly dropping a gift of gold coins through the window of a poor family and having it land in a hung stocking below.



Saint Herman of Alaska is remembered on December 13. We will celebrate this day on **Friday, December 12 at 6:15pm with the “Akathist” Hymn**. This Hymn recounts many

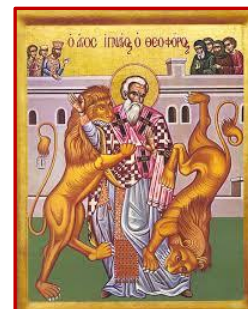


aspects of Saint Herman’s life on Kodiak and Spruce Island and his work among the native people of Alaska. There is a good amount of congregational singing, and the service lasts just over half an hour, so it is manageable for families with children. Following the singing of the Akathist Hymn we will have a cookie “exchange and giveaway” with a campfire and spiced tea and cookies to share outside. This idea is inspired by the story that Saint Herman made cookies for the native children in Kodiak. The cookies can be festive and non-fasting because the suggestion is that they can be frozen and enjoyed later during the Christmas season.

“Cookie Exchange” Details: Families are invited to bring 4-dozen holiday cookies divided into small baggies with 3 cookies each. Before the Akathist Hymn begins, these are arranged on tables set up in the Narthex, labelled with the family name and kind of cookie. After the

Akathist, one member from each family can go in line along the tables and pick up a bag of cookies of each kind. (Bring your own container.) Even families who do not bring cookies should be able to receive cookies to take home. Meanwhile, outside the Cathedral there will be fire-pits in the upper parking lot below the sledding hill. There will also be a table outside with hot, spiced tea and cookies to enjoy right away. Families are invited to visit outside around the fires and children can play on the sledding hill.

Saint Ignatius of Antioch is remembered on December 20. We will celebrate this day on **Friday, December 19 at 7:15pm with the Great Vespers**. Saint Ignatius was a bishop and martyr in the early Church. One legend says he was one of the children brought to Jesus and blessed by Him. This day also begins the special “Holy Week” leading up to Christmas. Beforehand the interior of the Church is decorated, and families bring a poinsettia to place in front of the Icons. On December 20 we set up a simple Nativity scene on the porch of the Church.



Come and enjoy these Advent celebrations!

In Memory of Fr. Michael Oleksa



Matushka Xenia Oleksa and her family asked if we would say memorial prayers this Sunday for Father Michael Oleksa, who fell asleep in the Lord two years ago. She and her family are also providing a meal in his memory for Coffee Hour following Liturgy. May his memory be eternal.



Coffee Hour This Sunday - November 30 Fifth Sunday of the Month

Hosts Families: Clodfelter / Gillquist

Meal Provided by Matushka Xenia Oleksa and family

Anyone can bring something but it is not required this Sunday. Everyone please pitch in for clean-up though. Thank you

~Advent Fasting Season~

Next Sunday – Group A – December 7 Hosts: Goetz / Lindblom

Snacks: Abel, Bower, Cook, Cooley, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey, Patras, Sorensen, Stallman, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Weaver, Wells



Children's Choir Practice This Sunday at 12pm

Children ages 4 through high school are welcome to join the Children's Choir. We will begin practice this Sunday for St. Nicholas Day and Christmas at 12:00. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Kies.

Opening the Door to Orthodox Christianity

“The Divine Liturgy” this Thursday, December 4 – 6to7:30pm

Advent Project - 2025



Hello everyone, it's that time of year to start collecting for our 2025 Advent project

This year we will be gathering items for Homestead Elementary's weekend food bag program and for the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center (DSKHC).

Homestead Elementary distributes shelf stable food bags to over 100 children in Chugiak and Eagle River each weekend that need food when out of school. The school is asking the community for support with providing food items.

In addition, DSKHC recently provided me with a list of items they are in dire need of. DSKHC provides shelter for up to 75 women, warm clothing, job assistance, laundry, showers, mail service, and meals to roughly 300-400 people in need every single day. If you are willing to contribute, please bring the following items to the good works basket collection in the Narthex over the next several weeks or contact Sydney Ihde for more questions or ways to contribute.

Thank you! -Sydney Ihde (907)854-5517

Items Needed: Individual packs of Ramen / Protein/granola bars / Hand warmers / Warm long socks (wool preferably) / Large cans of mixed vegetables / Bulk coffee

Sister of Mary and Martha Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2025

We watched amazing and beautiful northern lights show outside the church.

Opening prayers by Katy Arvidson

Announcements –

- Change in Leadership: Elisa Betson is stepping down as vice president of the Sisters of Mary and Martha.
- Hannah Hanna has accepted role of co-president along with Katy Arvidson.
- Lori Mellor is now in charge of Liturgical Decorating
- We are beginning a sign-up sheet for individuals and families to help decorate for Feast Days. A sign-up genius will be available later so people can sign up online as well. Rhonda is working on an official manual to help with decorating expectations and guidelines.
- Katy Arvidson reviewed the framework for Sisters of Mary and Martha specifically fellowship opportunities. We handed out signup sheets for different ministries and women have the chance to sign up for a ministry.
- Antiochian Women's Retreat (more information available on the bulletin board in the church basement)
- St. John's Women's Retreat to happen February 7th. An informational flyer with additional information has been sent out. The bake sale last Sunday helped begin funding for the retreat. The women were able to raise \$480.00.
- Advent Outreach Project – Homestead Elementary Food Drive for students who do not have food on the weekends. More information to follow and how we can help donate to this cause.

Speaker Stories-

- Tanna Terrell shared her story about coming to Orthodoxy
- Emelia Lam shared her story
- Cara Fletes shared notes on Active Listening.
- Katy Arvidson explained a sewing craft. Women worked on a sewing craft for the remainder of the meeting time.

Local Community News

Beans Cafe/Western Alaska Flood Relief

Collection for the month of December will be suspended so we can focus on the Advent Project coordinated by Sydney Ihde.

News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



Monthly Newsletter – Click [HERE](#)

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

“Checking In” with Each Other

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

Rides Needed for Oksana Atrz to Get to Church

Please consider if you could drive Oksana to church on one of the following Sundays of the 8 weeks listed. It would be especially helpful if we had 8, or several drivers, to cover the need.

And it is awesome for us all to help gather the church together for Divine Liturgy!

Please let Dn. Kevin know which dates you can cover. He is at doughertykb@yahoo.com or 907-947-5345. And if you can only drive one way, that is still helpful!

The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride:

**November 30 – Alex T. ☺ // December 7 ____ // December 14 ____ // December 21 ____
December 28 ____**

Dates to Remember

‘Moms with Little Ones’ Reading Group – Wednesdays 10am

We will meet at the St. James House If you have any questions, contact Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.



Men's Book Club

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.



Women's Reading Group – Thursdays at 10am

We meet at 10am at the Senior Center Meeting Room, in the HUD building on the second floor. Hope to see you there! —Ann Patras

Birthdays This Week

Nov. 30 – Dn. Kevin Dougherty

Nov. 30 – Vic Temple

Dec. 3 – Finnigan Klatt

Dec. 6 – Deborah Stallman

Dec. 6 – Isaac Temple

M A N Y Y E A R S !





Remembering in Prayer...

Mary Greene

Jay Keener

Jay Northey

Zoie (Oksana's Mom)

Krya & Skylynn Lineer

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to
war and for peace*

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



* Archimandrite Lazarus Moore - November 27, 1992

* Archpriest Fr. Michael Oleksa - November 29, 2023

* Thomas Hyde Webster - December 1, 2021

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 **DECEMBER** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, Dec. 27th. 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



Andrew the First-Called – November 30

On November 30, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle Andrew the First-Called.

Verses

*Andrew endured an inverted crucifixion,
appearing feet upward in truth and not in darkness and shadow.
On the thirtieth Andrew braved death on a cross head downward.*

He was the son of Jonah and brother of Peter, born in Bethsaida and a fisherman by trade. At first, he was a disciple of John the Baptist, but when the Forerunner pointed to the Lord Jesus, saying, “Behold the Lamb of God!” Andrew left his first teacher and became the first apostle to follow Christ. Then, Andrew brought his brother Peter to the Lord. Following the descent of the Holy Spirit, it fell by lot to Andrew to preach the Gospel in Byzantium and Thrace, then in the lands along the Danube and in Russia around the Black Sea, and finally in Epirus, Greece and the southern islands of Greece. In Patras, he performed many miracles in the name of Christ and won many over to the Lord. Among the new faithful were the brother and wife of the local leader Aegeates. Angered at this, Aegeates subjected Andrew to torture and then crucified him upside down. Then the apostle prayed to God and an extraordinary light encompassed him, which lasted for half an hour. When it disappeared, the apostle gave up his holy soul to God in 62 A.D.

On this day, we also commemorate Frumentios, archbishop and enlightener of Ethiopia; and Alexander, bishop of Methymna. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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Parish Council Email parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org • Website: stjohnalaska.org

• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson