

23rd Sunday after
Pentcost
Tone 6
~~~~~

Ephesians 2:4-10  
Luke 18:35-43  
~~~~~

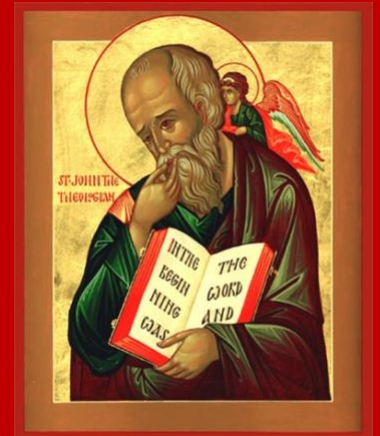
Homily by
Fr. Robert Polson

Epistle Reader:
Jerry Finkler

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Mellor / Goetz

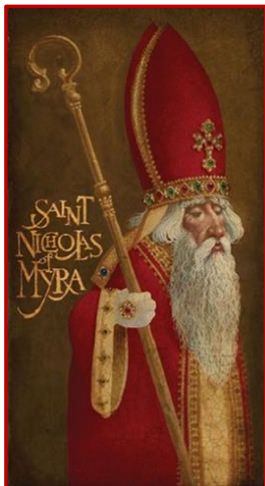
St. John Orthodox Cathedral Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, December 1, 2024
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



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

(This year we will celebrate St. Nicholas on the feast day rather than the day before, as we have done in the past. Also note that the time is 6:15pm rather than 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 John's Celebration of Saint Herman of Alaska –
December 13

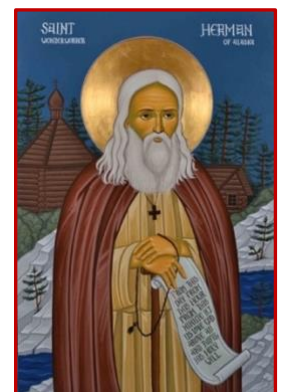
Akathist Hymn to St. Herman is Friday Evening
December 13, at 6:15pm



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 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.

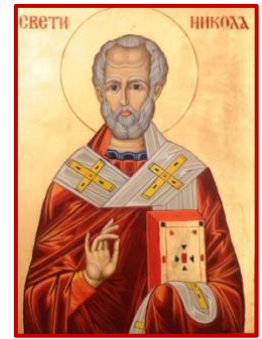
Parish Events and News

Saint John’s Advent Celebrations for 2024

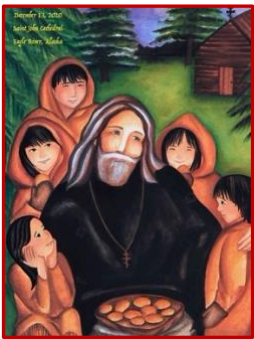
Saint Nicholas Dec. 6 - Saint Herman Dec. 13 - Saint Ignatius Dec. 20

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 6 at 6:15pm 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 13 at 6:15pm with the “Akathist” Hymn**. This Hymn recounts many

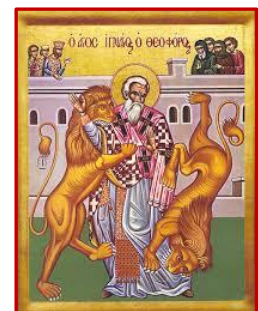


aspects of Saint Herman’s life on Kodiak and Spruce Island and his work among the native people of Alaska. There is a good amount of congregational singing, and the service lasts just over half an hour, so it is manageable for families with children. Following the singing of the Akathist Hymn we will 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 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 20 at 6:15pm 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!



Children's Choir Practice This Sunday at 12:00

Please join us on Sundays at 12:00 in the Nave for our children's choir practice for St. Nicholas and for Christmas. All children ages 4 through high school are welcome. We look forward to singing with you!



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Rides Needed for Oksana Atraz to Get to Church

Oksana would appreciate rides to church on Sundays. Please contact Dn. Kevin for any details. This Sunday of Baptisms, Nov. 24, is open (Evan if you can only do one direction, that is helpful!)

The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride: December 1 // December 8 // December 22



Good Works Basket/Advent Outreach 2024

Christmas Bags for Women Staying at Downtown Soup Kitchen

Many of you have volunteered at the Downtown Hope Soup Kitchen. I go weekly and take people with me from church each time. 30+ adults and many children from our parish have volunteered since March.

For this year's Advent Outreach Project, we will be providing Christmas bags to the 80 women staying at the shelter. Many of the ladies we have come to know and love, and I hope we can benefit them with these bags.

For part of this project, we will be running a three weeklong good works basket drive for warm socks and hand warmers. **We need at least 80 socks and hopefully 160 hand warmers.** Final collection date will be December 15th. The church will be purchasing additional items that have been requested from the shelter and the women staying there. **If you'd like to donate \$ to this, please contact me asap.** In the coming weeks you will see more details on this and the details on the evening of the 16th of December when we will get together and stuff the bags. Thank you! —Sydney Ihde (907) 854-5517



Inquirer's Class

Thursdays at the Saint James House from 7-8:30pm



Coffee Hour This Sunday - December 1, 2024 Group A - First Sunday of the Month

Hosts Families: Mellor / Goetz

Snacks: Abel, Carroll, Cook, Davis, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey O'Fallon, Patras, Sorensen, Stallman, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Wells



Next Sunday – Group B – December 8, 2024 - Hosts: Ihde, A. Stallman, Weaver

Snacks: Agnew, Alvarez, Betson, Davisson, Drennan, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hoyt, Ihde, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Lineer, Lowry, Moffatt, Peters, Ray, Schlicting, Stevens, Sturdevant, Villafana



Coming Up - Time to Decorate Our Cathedral – Saturday, December 14th 11am to 3pm - Your Help is Needed

Saturday, December 14, we will decorate the Cathedral with garlands and a tree. We especially need young people (under 60) to do ladder work for hanging the garlands in the Nave. We also need a crew to decorate the tree and put up the Nativity scene. I will also need help in getting the décor out of the church attic. Call Lily Cowan for questions (907) 299-1432.

PFD Project Focus 2024 for St. John's Parish St. James House Upgrades

This year we put all PFD tithing toward several well overdue upgrades to the St. James House. The priority will be making the SJH accessible for persons with disabilities. At the same time, we will replace the back deck to make it more usable for all, as well as upgrade the back steps.

For many years the tithe and donations from the PFD has allowed our Parish to accomplish some important projects. Providing access for those with disabilities to the Saint James House has long been on our wish list. This will be accomplished by building a long ramp from the parking lot to the back door into the dining room. Please donate to this much needed improvement and mark your PFD tithe or more for this project so we can all continue to enjoy the St James house facilities. Click [HERE](#) for the Donation Link. - *Martha Fisher and Bruce Johnson, Co-chairs of the Parish Council*



Ice Skates Still Needed for Jones Family

Michael and Megan and Family will be back in Alaska around Dec. 6th for 6 weeks. They would like to borrow some ice skates if possible while they are here. (Preferably hockey skates). Elliot is kid size 8. Then the girls are sizes 11, 12 and 2. If you have any, you can talk to Myles Kelly, and he will collect them.

Local Community News

Photos from Thanksgiving Food Drive



Local Churches provided meals and Dn. Kevin helped organize. St. John School 5th and 6th grade students helped handout food for a Thanksgiving meals on Monday.

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

Birthdays This Week

December 3 - Reese Williams

December 3 - Finnigan Klatt

December 6 - Deborah Stallman

December 6 - Isaac Temple

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Remembering in Prayer...

Gwyn Jones

Nina Potts

Joe Dunham

Helen Gillquist

Oksana Artz

*Josphine Hanna & her
family*

Dwight Stallman

*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



* Thomas Hyde Webster - December 1, 2021

* Paul Frederick Schanzenback - December 25, 2016

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, December 28. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



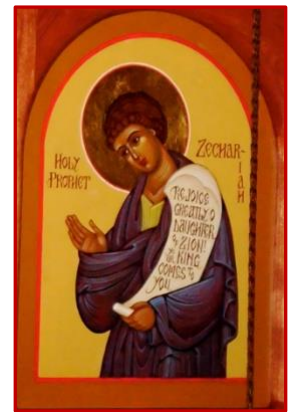
*Who is that Prophet on the Iconostasis?
Answers to this question will be highlighted in the bulletin each Sunday*



Holy Prophet Zechariah – February 8

“Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Your King comes to you.”

Zechariah was of the tribe of Levi and was born in Babylon during the Babylon captivity. He returned from exile to Judea as an old man shortly before the dedication in 515 BC of the rebuilt temple. Zechariah is called the son of Berechiah in his book, (Zechariah 1:1). Therefore, the Prophet Zechariah is sometimes identified with the prophet who was killed between the temple and the altar (Mt. 23:35; Luke 11:51). When the days of his prophesying were ended, Zechariah died in peace and was buried among the graves of other prophets.



THE SYNAXARION

Nahum the Prophet - December 1

On December 1, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy and glorious Prophet Nahum.

Verses

Longing compels me to anoint with the myrrh of discourse

Nahum the Elkoshite, who has yielded up his spirit.

On the first, Nahum passed from this life.

Nahum was born of the tribe of Simeon in a place called Elkosh on the far side of the Jordan. He lived about seven hundred years before Christ and prophesied the destruction of Nineveh about two hundred years after the Prophet Jonah had warned the Ninevites of the same. Because of Jonah’s preaching, the Ninevites had repented, and God had spared them and not destroyed them. In time, however, they forgot God’s mercy and again became corrupt. The Prophet Nahum prophesied their destruction, and this time there was no repentance, and God did not spare them. The entire city was destroyed by earthquake, flood and fire, so that its location is no longer even known. The Prophet Nahum lived for forty-five years and entered into rest in the Lord, leaving us a small book of his true prophecies.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Philaret the Almsgiver of Amnia; Martyr Ananias the Persian; and Theoklitos, archbishop of Lakedaemonia. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

P.O. Box 771108 • 18936 Monastery Drive • Eagle River, Alaska, 99577

(907) 696-2002 • Fax: (907) 696-5555 • Email cathedral@stjohnalaska.org -

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