26th Sunday after Pentecost

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Ephesians 5:8-19
Luke 18:18-27

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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:
Hans Culton

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Gillquist / Okuley

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

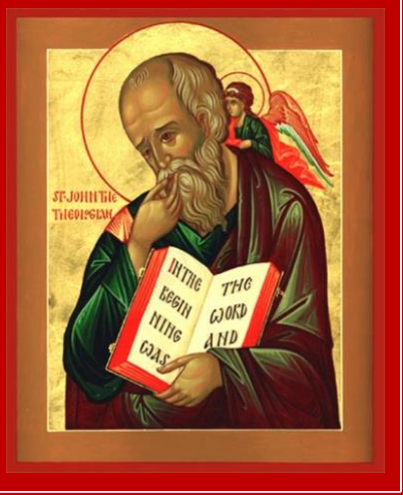
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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, November 29, 2026

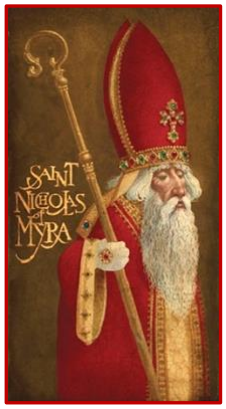
And the Days Following

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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

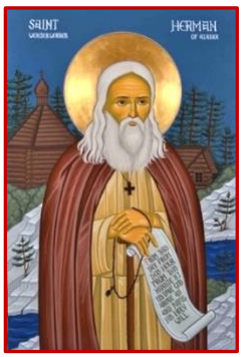


Saint Nicholas of Myra Feast Day is December 6
Great Vespers for St. Nicholas will be
Saturday Evening, December 5, at 6:15pm

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.





Saint Herman of Alaska Feast Day is December 13
Great Vespers for St. Herman
Saturday Evening - December 12, at 6:15pm

Following Great Vespers 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.



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 Great Vespers begins, these are arranged on tables set up in the Narthex, labelled with the family name and kind of cookie. After Great Vespers, 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. Contact Debbie Stallman or Maris Kelly for questions.

Parish Events and News

Saint John's Advent Celebrations for 2026

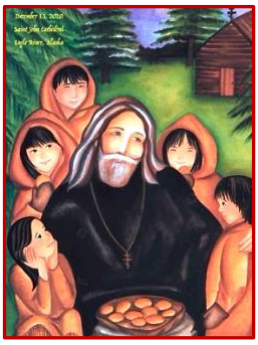
Saint Nicholas Dec. 6 - Saint Herman Dec. 13 - Saint Ignatius Dec. 20

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 with **Great Vespers for St. Nicholas Saturday, December 5, at 6:15pm**. It is a fun custom on this day 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 with **Great Vespers for St. Herman Saturday, December 12, at 6:15pm.** Following Vespers 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 Vespers begins, these are arranged on tables set up in the Narthex, labelled with the family name and kind of cookie. Afterward 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 firepits 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 with **Great Vespers for St. Ignatius Saturday, December 19, at 6:15pm.** 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 12pm

Children ages 4 through high school are welcome to join the Children's Choir. We will practice on Sundays in the Nave for St. Nicholas Day and Christmas at 12:00. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Kies. We hope to see you!

No Atrium this Sunday – Thanksgiving Weekend

Dear Faithful and Friends of Saint John's,



Our brother in Christ, George Dozier, fell asleep in the Lord this morning after being at Providence Hospital for 3 weeks. His wife Stina and his daughter Danielle were with him. George was 79 years old. Funeral services will be sometime next week. Please keep his family in your prayers. May his soul dwell with the blessed!

An email will be sent out later with funeral and mercy meal information.



Sisters of Mary and Martha Fellowship Meeting
New Date – December 8

Please join the Sisters of Mary and Martha for a Fellowship Meeting on Tuesday, December 8 at 5:30 pm in the church basement. Dinner and babysitting will be provided. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00, (kiddos as well) before the start of the meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone!
—Thank you- Katy Arvidson and Hannah Hanna

"Church Etiquette" Tip of the Week

When we gather to worship God, Orthodox Christians are "at home" in the environment of the Church and yet also reverent at the same time. These tips on "Church etiquette" explain some of the common customs that contribute to this reverent but familiar atmosphere of Orthodox worship. They are intended as guidelines to observe, not to watch or judge other people, something a much higher law says we must not do.

#3: Excusing Yourself from a Service – The normal time to arrive at church is before the service begins. So too the normal time to leave the church is after the final blessing and after venerating the Icon in the center of the church or the Cross held by the priest. Sometimes it is necessary to excuse yourself from a service while it is going on. If this is necessary, it is a reverent custom to face the altar when you reach the door and make the sign of the Cross while bowing. Bowing and crossing yourself is not necessary after the final blessing when everyone is exiting together, as this would cause congestion at the doors. The same is true during the week if you are in the church at a time when there is no service held. There are a few times it is better not to exit, unless it is urgent. These times would be during the Little or Great Entrances at Liturgy, during Scripture readings (especially the Epistle or Gospel), and when the deacon or priest is censing.



Coffee Hour This Sunday – November 29, 2026

~ Advent Fasting Foods ~

5th Sunday of the Month – Hosts: Gillquist / Okuley
Everyone Brings Snacks and Helps Clean Up

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Next Sunday – Group Matthew (1) – December 6, 2026 – E & H Johnson / C. Winters
Snacks: Abel, Amundson, Betson, Clodfelter, Culton, Curry, Dozier, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, G & J Gillquist, Grasse, G & A Ihde, Haley, Hightower, D & A Jenkins, K. Jones, Kelly, Klatt, Lamb, Lineer, K & J Medders, Mee, Okuley, Patras, N & M Ray, Stallman, Stogsdill, J. Temple, Terell, Webster
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St. James House Weekly News

St. James House Café – Tuesday and Thursday Mornings

Come Sit and Enjoy a Cup of Coffee and Catch Up with Friends – 8 to 9am

News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese

Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [The Sacrament of Confession, Part Three]

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

"Checking In" with Each Other

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



Baptism of Kyrien Elias Mee

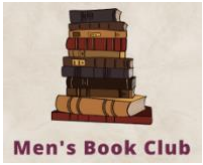
The Saturday morning celebration of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos began with the baptism of the Kyrien, son of Michael and Katya Mee. His godparents were Eric and Hannah Johnson. May God grant him many years!

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 – 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 Dec. 6 – Debbie Stallman
Dec. 3 – Finnigan Klatt

M A N Y Y E A R S !





Remembering in Prayer…

Oksana Artz
Ben Polson
David Lindblom
The Curry Family
Linda Peters
Travis Cook
Lily & baby Moses
Stina Dozier and Family

For those suffering from the devastation of war

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



* Thea Ann Ray – November 21, 2020
* George Dozier – November 26, 2026
* 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, December 26**. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



How to Submit a Bulletin Announcement

Submit a bulletin announcement to the church email address: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org. Please have announcements submitted by Thursday or the very latest Friday by 9am. If you have questions – contact Maris Kelly at the church office: maris@stjohnalaska.org or 907-696-2002

How to Donate to St. John's

Donating: Go to our website: www.stjohnalaska.org and click on "Donate" in the top menu bar. If you have any questions – feel free to contact the church.
Or you can use this QR code to go directly to our 'donate' page.

THE SYNAXARION

Paramonos & Companions of Bithynia – November 29



On November 29, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the the holy Martyr Paramonos of Bithynia and his 370 fellow Martyrs.

Verses

Paramonos is pierced with spears for You, O Christ Jesus;
Knowing You alone as God and for You alone he gives up his life.
Six ranks of fifty and seventy men gave their heads as an offering,
And on the twenty-ninth, they slew Paramonos with a long spear.

Paramonos valiantly fought for piety's sake during the reign of Decius, in the year 250. A ruler named Aquilinus, seeking relief from a physical illness, visited a certain therapeutic hot spring. He brought with him captive 370 Christians from Nicomedia and commanded them to offer sacrifice in the temple of Isis. When they refused, he had them all slaughtered. Paramonos, beholding their mass murder, boldly cried out against such an act of ungodliness. When Aquilinus heard this, he sent men to also run the Saint through with a spear. Thus, they all entered as martyrs into the Eternal Kingdom.

On this day, we also commemorate Martyr Philoumenos of Ankyra; Venerable Akakios of Sinai; Hieromartyr Dionysios, bishop of Corinth; Urban, bishop of Macedonia; and Nicholas, archbishop of Thessalonica. By their holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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