Synaxis Archangels
Commemoration
Raphael of Brooklyn
Olga of Kwethluk

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Hebrews 2:2-10
Luke 8:41-56

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Homily by
Dn. Kevin
Dougherty
Epistle Reader:
Hans Culton
Coffee Hour Hosts:
Unser / Komar

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, November 8, 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.

Parish Events and News



Akathist for Saint Olga this Sunday Evening – November 8

There will be a gathering in the Church this Sunday evening at 6:15pm to sing the new Akathist for Saint Olga. Sam Lowry is organizing this to commemorate her Feast Day, November 9.

Sam will also be making pancakes at Coffee Hour in honor of St. Olga

Click on the link to an inspiring video about St. Olga of Alaska
featuring Fr. Nicholas Molodyko-Harris and Fr. Michael Oleksa.

Thursday, November 12, 6pm-7:30pm in the Church Basement
How We Live (Part One) – The Sacraments
This Week – "The Sanctification of Time (The Church Calendar)
~ Everyone is welcome to attend, and it is also livestreamed on our website ~

Sisters of Mary & Martha Fellowship Meeting – Nov. 10 at 5:30pm

Please join the Sisters of Mary and Martha for a Fellowship Meeting on Tuesday, November 10th at 5:30 pm in the church basement. Dinner and babysitting will be provided. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00, before the start of the meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone!
—Thank you- Katy Arvidson and Hannah Hanna



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sundays from 12:30 – 2:00pm



Thanksgiving Offering - 200 Individual Boxes of Stuffing

Love Inc. of Eagle River and its member churches are once again coordinating this year's Thanksgiving Blessing Project. A complete (uncooked) turkey dinner with all the fixings will be provided to an anticipated 400 local families in need.

We are signed up to collect 200 (***individual***) boxes of stuffing before the scheduled delivery to Joy Lutheran on Sunday, November 22.

Here is a sign-up link if you wish to volunteer / See flyers in Narthex and announcement below to hand out to families in need.



Coffee Hour This Sunday – November 8, 2026
Group Luke (2) – Second Sunday of the Month

As a special treat for coffee hour, in celebration of the feast day for St. Olga of Alaska, Sam Lowry will be making sourdough pancakes with all the traditional toppings. This will be in addition to our regular coffee hour. If it is your turn to bring snacks, please still do so. If you wish to bring something to compliment the pancakes you are welcome to

Hosts Families: Unser / Komar

Snacks: Arnold, Bower, Davisson, Drennan, Dunham, Fisher, Hanna, Hoyt, J. Jenkins, M & M Jones, Kendall, Komar, Lindblom, K Medders, L & M Mellor, Moses, Peters, Saur, Snider, Sturdevant, N. Temple, Tysver, Villafanna, Wells

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Next Sunday – Group Mark (3) – November 15, 2026 - Hosts: Ihde Families

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



The Advent Fast – November 15 Through December 24

The Advent Fast begins November 15. *(Due to the American holiday of Thanksgiving, some begin this fast in earnest on December 1 or else they take a four-day break from the fast from Thanksgiving through the following Sunday.)*

It is usual to limit both the number of meals and the amount of food eaten. The Church's complete Rule calls for abstinence from all meat and animal products. However, fish, wine and oil may be eaten on all days except Wednesdays and Fridays, up to December 20, which is the beginning of the Forefeast, the "Holy Week" before Christmas. After December 20 the fast should become more rigorous. The strict fast of Christmas Eve is broken by a fasting meal after the evening Liturgy. *(Note: When Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday or Sunday it is not a strict fast day but is kept as any regular fasting day in Advent).* There is no fasting on Christmas Day up to the Eve of Epiphany.
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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

News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese

A Pastoral Letter from the Holy Synod of Antioch
From the Patriarchate of Antioch

To our beloved sons and daughters in Christ,

To the clergy, monks, and nuns, and to all the faithful men and women in the homeland and overseas, May the peace and hope of Christ be with you all.

At the conclusion of the sixteenth session of the Holy Antiochian Synod, we address you with words of comfort and hope, and with feelings of appreciation and gratitude for your faith, courage, and daily combat in facing the burdens of life, as you strive to remain faithful to Christ, to your families, and to those whom God has entrusted to you.... *Click here to continue with rest of this letter.*

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

"Checking In" with Each Other
Is there something you'd like to share? Please email: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org



Video
Orthodox - Evangelical Conference at Beach Lake

Please click here to watch this video produced by Nicole Unser from the conference last month.

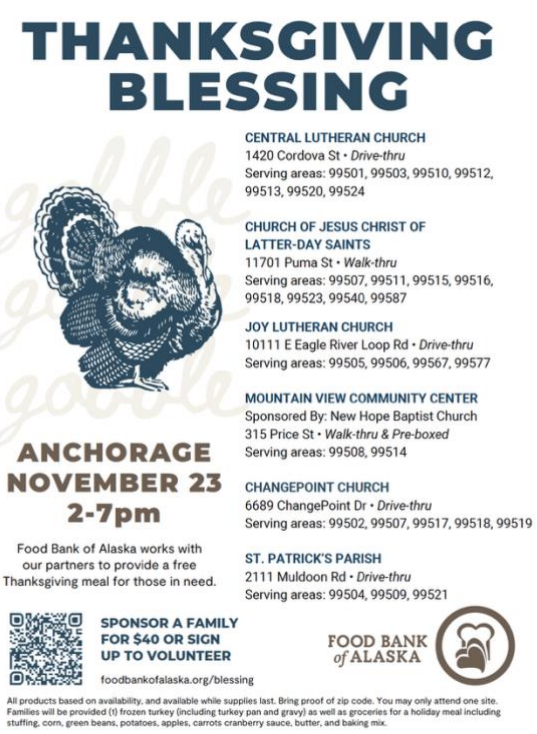
Happy Birthday to Gwyn Jones – who recently turned 80.





Are You or Do You Know of a Family in Need?

Here are locations to pick up a Thanksgiving Meal and a Map.
There are some flyers in the Narthex for you to take.





Dates to Remember

'Moms with Little Ones' Reading Group Wednesdays 10am 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. Currently reading *The Abolition of Man* by C.S. Lewis



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

November 11 – Iris Klatt
November 12 – Dakari Swain
November 13 – Dan Kendall
November 13 – Anais Minea
November 15 – Anna Haley
November 15 – Macrina Ray

M A N Y Y E A R S !





Anniversaries this Week

John Marc & Bethany Dunaway – November 8, 2015

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Remembering in Prayer…

Oksana Artz
Ben Polson
David Lindblom
George Dozier
Linda Peters
Travis Cook
Lily & baby Moses
Levi Curry and Family
For those suffering from the devastation of war

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



* Mary Margaret Summons – November 1, 2007
* Jean Margaret Proctor – November 7, 1997
* Laura Anne Granducci Temple – November 11, 2024
* Thea Ann Ray – November 21, 2020
* Archimandrite Lazarus Moore – November 27, 1992
* Archpriest Fr. Michael Oleksa – November 29, 2023

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 **November** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is: **Saturday, November 28**. 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

Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn - 1st Saturday in November



On the first Saturday in November in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the Saints, Raphael Hawaweeny, Bishop of Brooklyn, "good shepherd of the lost sheep in America."

Verse

O holy hierarch Father Raphael,
the first to be consecrated to apostolic ministry in the New World,
lift up your hands and bless your people, consecrating us, your inheritance,
who consecrate this day to you.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, and educated in Damascus, Syria, Halki, Turkey, and Kiev, Russia, Raphael found himself virtually exiled in Kazan, Russia. The young archimandrite was called to the New World by the Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Committee in New York City. He immigrated in 1895 and served under the guidance of the Russian Orthodox Mission, which at the time was the only established Orthodox hierarchy. He was technically pastor of St. Nicholas Church (later Cathedral) in Brooklyn, New York, but was, in fact, the roving pastor of several dozen tiny, isolated communities spread thinly across the continent. As a priest he crossed the continent repeatedly in the course of nine years and did so several more times after being consecrated Bishop of Brooklyn in 1905. This was the first such Orthodox consecration in North America. He established a journal entitled *al-Kalimat,* which means The Word. He used this to spread "The Word" to places he could not himself be and worked diligently at translating Greek liturgical books into Arabic. He distributed these at his own expense to communities throughout the Middle East and to refugees in the Americas, Africa, and Australasia. Thus, this "shepherd of the lost sheep" helped preserve Orthodox Christianity in those regions.



Olga of Alaska – November 9

On November 9, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Blessed Olga of Alaska.

Saint Olga was born on February 3, 1916, in the Yup'ik village of Kwethluk**,** Alaska. Her family herded reindeer, and Olga (Arrsamquq, *"AKH-some-gook* her Yup'ik name which means lowly, hidden or unadorned) loved spending time in the mountains as a child, playing with her six brothers.

She married Nicolai Michael in 1935 and gave birth to her first of 13 children in November of that same year. Three of their children died in infancy, two around the age of three.

Olga served her community as a midwife and a healer. Her daughter Anita described her presence as "low-key" and calm, going about her business without making "a big deal out of it." In Yup'ik culture, such women were known to have strong faith, and Olga was no exception, practicing traditional medicine in her village coupled with her Orthodox faith.

In 1962 Olga's husband was ordained a priest, and she gained the title of "Matushka" or priest's wife. She began serving their parish in this important motherly role. She is known to have memorized many of the major church services, baked the eucharistic Prosphora bread, made vestments, organized events in the life of the parish, and provided hospitality for guests. She cared for the children of the village, providing clothes and food whenever it was needed, passing on the Orthodox Faith to the children of her village, as well as the traditions and stories of their culture.

Olga reposed peacefully on November 8, 1979, on the feast of the Synaxis of the Angels. That time of year in Kwethluk, travel was often dangerous and many who desired to attend her funeral found they might not be able. But on the day of the funeral, the weather became mild, ice melted, and even the ground softened so her grave could be dug. Fair weather birds even appeared and the following day, winter weather returned.

Many children born afterwards in the village were named Olga in her memory. Women who suffered abuse found healing at her gravesite. She has become known as an intercessor for mothers and midwives, and many Orthodox women have an icon of St. Olga present while in labor.

In some of the icons of Saint Olga she is surrounded with the aurora or "northern lights," as she is sometimes known as "The Northern Light of God's Holy Church."

Synaxis of the Archangels – November 8

On November 8, in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Synaxis of the Supreme Commanders Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, and of the other bodiless and heavenly orders, the Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels and Angels.



Verses

With joy a song would I sing to you,
but a heavenly song I have not, O Michael.
Seeing you, the great Angel of joy, O Gabriel,
I greatly rejoice, and fly upon wings of longing.
Raphael, you are sent from on high as a minister of mercies,
And you give comfort to all who invoke you.
On this day we honor the Princes of the celestial orders.

Dionysius, a disciple of the Apostle Paul, was taken up into the third heaven as told in the second epistle to the Corinthians. He described the nine orders of angels that he witnessed in his book, On the Celestial Hierarchies. The Apostle Paul says all angels are ministering spirits to all the heirs of salvation. The Archangel Michael is the leader of the angelic hosts. When Satan fell away from God and drew one third of the angels with him to destruction, Michael stood up and cried out before the faithful angels: "Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear! Let us attend!" and all the remaining faithful angelic heavenly hosts cried out: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!"

The Archangel Gabriel proclaimed the news of the conceptions of John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus Christ to their mothers, Elizabeth and the ever-virgin Mary. The Archangel Raphael healed Tobit of his blindness and freed his daughter-in-law, Sarah, from a demon. Every nation and every Christian has a guardian angel. We must always remember that whatever we do, in open or in secret, we do in the presence of our guardian angel.

By the intercessions of Saint Raphael of Brooklyn; Saint Olga of Kwethluk; the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, and of all the bodiless and heavenly powers, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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