

26th Sunday after
Pentecost

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Ephesians 5:8-19  
Luke 13:10-17

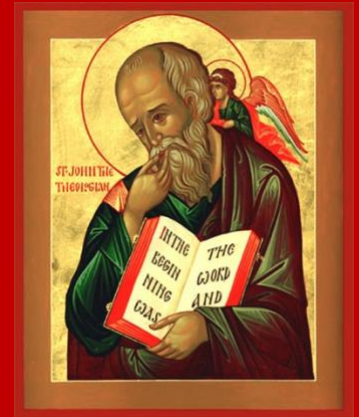
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Homily by
Dn. Kevin
Dougherty

Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders
Coffee Hour Hosts:
Goetz / Lindblom

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

~~~~~ Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, December 7, 2025
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

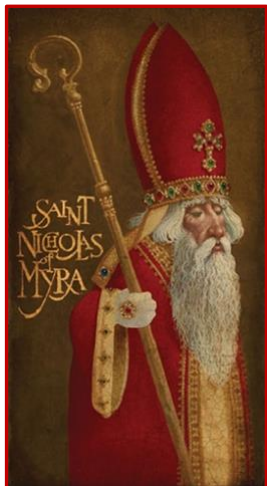
**Tonight (Friday) ...**

**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.*

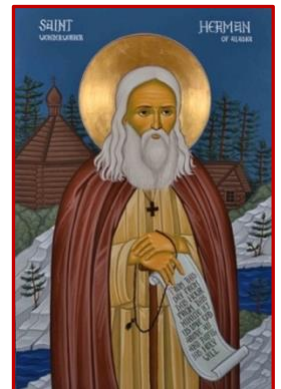


**Next Friday...**

**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.

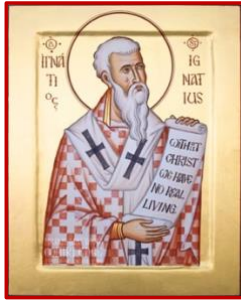




We will also have a **“Cookie Exchange and Giveaway”** on Saint Herman’s Night. Families are invited to bring 4-dozen holiday cookies divided into small baggies with 3 cookies each. Before the Akathist Hymn begins, these are arranged on tables set up in the Narthex, labelled with the family name and 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 direct the “Cookie Exchange and Giveaway”.

*New This Year...*



## *Saint Ignatius Day & Decorating for “Christmas Holy Week” Friday Evening, December 19*

- ❖ 5:15pm - Decorate the Cathedral for Christmas
- ❖ 6:30pm - Meal of Tasty Soup and Bread for Decorators
- ❖ 7:15pm - Vespers for Saint Ignatius with Litia Bread
- ❖ Choir after Vespers “In the Dark Night” and “Din Cer Senin”

*Come be part of this special evening to prepare for the  
celebration of Christ’s birth!*

For questions contact Lori Mellor.

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## *Parish Events and News*



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



### **Children’s Choir Practice This Sunday at 12pm**

We will continue to practice on Sundays for Christmas music at 12:00. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Kies.

### **Opening the Door to Orthodox Christianity**

**“The Divine Liturgy-Part 2”** this Thursday, December 11 – 6pm to 7:30pm



### **Youth Group-Tuesday Nights-6:30-8pm at the St. James House**

We’ll have dinner together at 6:30pm with a discussion and activities in the living room wrapping up at 8pm. —John Marc and Bethany Dunaway (907) 317-9549.

## 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**



### Coffee Hour This Sunday - December 7, 2025 Group A - First Sunday of the Month

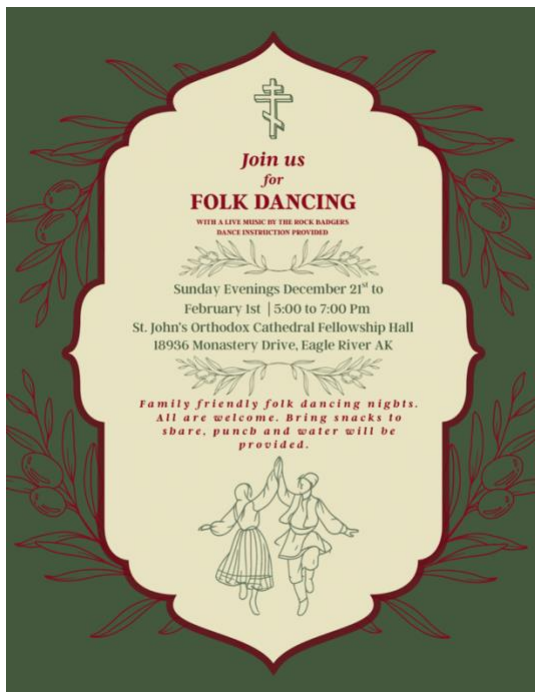
**Hosts: Goetz / Lindblom**

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

**~ Please bring Fasting Foods During Advent Season ~**

**Next Sunday – Group B – December 14, 2025 - Hosts: B & D Dunaway / J & B Dunaway**

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



### Folk Dancing Nights

**Join us Sunday evenings from December 21 through February 1 for a joyful season of Folk Dancing! We'll gather from 5:00–7:00 PM in the Church Basement.**

Enjoy live music performed by our local folk band, The Rock Badgers, along with guided dance instruction—perfect for beginners and seasoned dancers alike! These evenings are family-friendly and open to everyone.

Feel free to bring a snack to share; punch and water will be provided.

We hope this series will be a wonderful opportunity to build fellowship among members of all the local Orthodox Churches. Inquirers and visitors are warmly encouraged to attend—it's a great chance to learn something new or refresh your folk dancing skills ahead of upcoming celebrations.

We look forward to dancing with you! For questions, please contact Emilia Lam at 360-202-5049



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## News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [Male and Female He Created Them, in Complementarity](#)

NAC Teen SOYO is excited to announce that 2026 TRUST applications are now available! TRUST stands for [Teens Responsibly Undertaking Service Together](#). This program gives Teen SOYO chapters the opportunity to plan and execute philanthropic outreach in their communities. There are eight \$1,000 grants and four \$500 grants. Please encourage your teens and their advisors to [apply](#). For questions, write to [youth@antiochian.org](mailto:youth@antiochian.org).



**With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Anthony, we are excited to announce that registration is open for our annual DLAW YAM Winter Retreat!**

This year will be hosted by **St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, CA** from Friday, January 16 to Sunday, January 18, 2026.

Early bird pricing (\$190) is available **now through December 13, 2025**.

After that, registration increases to \$220 until December 27 (final deadline).

Keynote speaker and topic to be announced soon. We hope to see you there!

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## Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

### "Checking In" with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)



### M. Xenia Oleksa Thanks St. John's

On Sunday November 30, Matushka Xenia and her family celebrated the memory of Fr. Michael Oleksa on the second anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord. Memorial prayers were said at the end of Liturgy and their family provided a wonderful meal for all the parish at coffee hour. M. Xenia also presented gifts of thanks to some who especially helped her following her husband's death and small Icons of St. Olga to everyone in the parish. In the picture Anastasia Oleksa and her mother present an Icon to Tim Mellor who offered many hours of assistance to help sort out Matushka's finances.



## Craft Items for Sale

Mary Greene will be selling her cute little handmade Christmas ornaments (\$5) and tote bags (\$15) at Coffee Hour this weekend. Stop by and take a look! Cash or Venmo accepted.

## 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](mailto: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:**

**December 7 \_\_\_\_ // December 14 \_\_\_\_ // December 21 \_\_\_\_ // December 28 \_\_\_\_**

## Needed for Amber Hartley – Booster Seat for 5 yr old

Amber (Clodfelter) Hartley will be visiting Alaska from December 19 through January 2 and needs a booster seat while she is here visiting. Her phone number is (308) 660-6784 if you have one she could borrow.

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## *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

Happy Anniversary



## *Anniversaries This Week*

Russell & Rhonda Clodfelter - December 8, 1984

*M A N Y   Y E A R S !*

## *Birthdays This Week*

Dec. 9 - Kh. Colleen Polson

Dec. 12 - Andrea Stiehr

*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*



\* Thomas Hyde Webster - December 1, 2021

\* Paul Frederick Schanzenbach - December 25, 2016

*M E M O R Y   E T E R N A L !*

## *Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month*

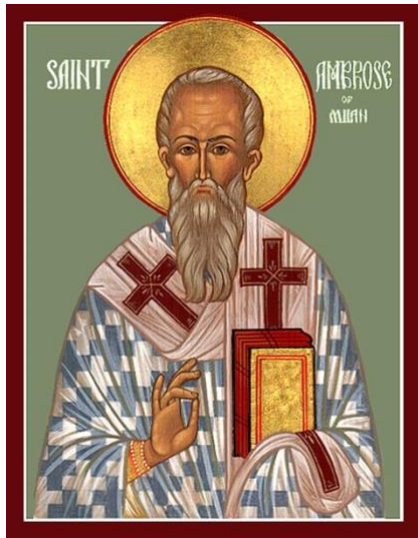
For the Month of **DECEMBER** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, Dec. 27th.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



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## THE SYNAXARION

### Ambrose, Bishop of Milan – December 7



On December 7, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our father among the saints Ambrose, bishop of Milan.

#### *Verses*

*Ambrose, having shed his corruptible body,  
has fitly partaken of divine ambrosia.*

*On the seventh Ambrose entered the eternal Kingdom.*

His father was the imperial governor of Gaul and Spain and was a pagan, while his mother was a Christian. On the death of his father, the Emperor made Ambrose governor of Liguria, of which province Milan was the chief city. When the bishop of Milan died, there was great dissention about the choice of a new bishop. Ambrose went into the church to keep order. Thereupon, a child at its mother's breast cried out: "Ambrose for bishop!" All the people took this to be the voice of God, and unanimously elected Ambrose as their bishop, although it was against his will. Ambrose was baptized and passed through all the necessary ranks in one week. As bishop, he strengthened the faith of the Orthodox, restrained heretics, adorned churches, spread the Faith among the pagans, wrote many instructive books and was an example of a true Christian and a true shepherd. Ambrose died peacefully at daybreak on Pascha in 397.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Athenodoros of Mesopotamia, and Venerable Gregory, founder of a monastery on Athos.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto: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.

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### Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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