

*Nektarios of Aegina
Commemoration of
Olga of Kwethluk*

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*Ephesians 5:8-19  
Luke 8:41-56*

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*Homily by:
Dn. Kevin
Dougherty*

*Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders*

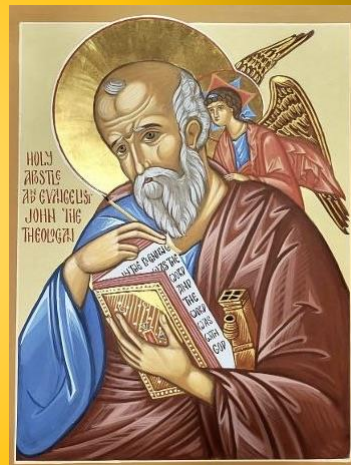
*Coffee Hour Hosts:
Ihde / Unser*

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, November 9, 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.



Blessing of the Icon of St. Olga of Alaska –Saturday

We will bless the Icon of St. Olga of Kwethluk at Vespers, November 8th

Parish Events and News

Akathist for Saint Olga this Sunday Evening – November 9

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

Opening the Door to Orthodox Christianity Class This Week

Thursday, November 13, 6-7:30pm at the St. James House

“The Sanctification of Time (The Church Calendar)”

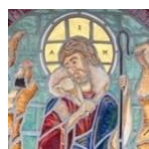
Sisters of Mary & Martha Fellowship Meeting

This Tuesday, November 11 from 6-8pm – Church Basement

We'd like to invite all women who attend our Parish to the upcoming Sisters of Mary & Martha Fellowship Meeting on Tuesday, Nov 11 from 6-8 pm in the church basement. Childcare will be available, and some light snacks will be provided. If you'd like, bring a small snack to share.

For those women who are new to our parish, or have never attended a Mary and Martha event, we would love to have you! Mary and Martha focus on fellowship opportunities, serving our parish and our community. Women of all ages are welcome to attend

There are two Sisters of Mary and Martha board positions opening up. If interested please contact Katy Arvidson at 907-242-4869



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sundays from 12:30 – 2:00pm

**Notes on [Advent Fast and Suggested Readings](#)
Available in Narthex and on Website**



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 23rd. Thanksgiving food boxes will be assembled for distribution the following day. Anyone wishing to volunteer with the assembly or distribution should contact Dn. Kevin.

Baked Goods for Sale at Coffee Hour This Sunday

The Women's Retreat Committee will be hosting a homemade/baked goods sale this **Sunday November 9th during coffee hour**. All proceeds will go towards funding the Women's Retreat on February 7, 2026 (*details to follow*).

If you want to donate or purchase something, **please bring cash this Sunday** (we can also accept donations online on our church website if specified as "SMMS Women's Retreat" in the other section) 😊 If you have any questions, please contact Sydney Ihde at (907)854-5517. Thank you!



Coffee Hour This Sunday - November 9, 2025 Group B - Second Sunday of the Month

Hosts Families: Ihde / Unser

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

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**Next Sunday - Group C - November 16, 2025 - Hosts: Kendall / A & J Temple**

*Snacks: Arnold, Curry, Dunham, Fisher, Greene, Hanna, Hawi, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Kelly, Kendall, Labrecque, Medders Families, Okuley, Polson, Saur, Scherer, Sparks, Stiehr, Temple, Wasile*



### **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.

### **Jennifer Gillquist is Collecting Donations to help BEANS CAFÉ for Flood Evacuees and the Homeless Population they Serve**

**Rice**, Meat (*fresh, frozen, canned, or pouched*), **Shelf-stable foods** (*canned proteins, beans, soups, vegetables, pasta, boxed meals, etc.*), **Family staples** (*peanut butter, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars*) A gray tote is in the Narthex where you can place donations. Jennifer Gillquist was able to deliver a large sack of beans and 5 grocery bags to Bean's Café on Monday and will continue to deliver any food collected in the bin located in the Narthex.

**Sisters of Mary and Martha Women's Retreat**  
**Scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2026**

*Save the date*

*Sisters of Mary and Martha  
Women's Retreat*

*Saturday, February 7th, 2026*

*Whimsy Station, Chugiak, AK*

*Additional details to follow*



**Naming of Hilda Beatrix Justus**

Congratulations to Roy, Allison and big brother Edmund.  
(Fr. Marc and Dn. Kevin say the Prayers of Naming)



## 10/28/2025 Parish Council Meeting Summary

- Each PC member shared their 30 second elevator pitch on “Why am I an Orthodox Christian?”
- Ann Patras has agreed to be designated co-chair along with Martha Fisher.
- The PC discussed ideas to welcome newcomers and guests. A sign-up sheet for emails will be posted in the Narthex for those who wish to receive the weekly bulletin. Tim will continue to work on compiling a Welcome Packet for newcomers.
- The PC Bylaws committee will continue their work on writing up a PC bylaws document. The PC discussed what they would like the document to contain and how it should be formatted.
- Sydney provided an update on the cemetery committee. It has been formed and all members have been given necessary documents and files to review prior to their upcoming meeting.
- The PC reviewed a request to host a Ukrainian Music fundraiser event at the church after the New Year. The PC unanimously voted to allow it to be hosted and will offer support where needed.
- The Maranatha House will host six volunteers with Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) who are in Alaska to offer support following Typhoon Halong. They will be “offering immediate emergency supplies and temporary shelter to the hardest hit communities, using planes, boats, and off-road equipment suitable for the area’s terrain. Furthermore, GEM is coordinating with local tribal governments, Alaskan state agencies, and federal partners to restore critical infrastructure, such as power, water, and comms.” ([www.globalempowermentmission.org](http://www.globalempowermentmission.org))
- Tim and Marshall updated the PC on Thrivent and the endowment fund. A proposal was made and the PC unanimously agreed to officially start the endowment fund with \$30,000 from a pool of funds/investment accounts recommended by the financial committee.
- The small cupola has been installed on the chapel. The cap that the large cupola sat on has to be completely redone. The cap will be encased in fiberglass and will cost at least \$6,500 in addition to an installation fee.
- Several parishioners have expressed interest in watching the large cupola get installed. An announcement about the installation will be emailed to the parish once the date and time is known.
- The PC spent an additional 30 minutes discussing what they learned from a strategic planning video Fr. Marc shared prior to the PC meeting. The PC will send out a request for parishioners to submit a request to be on the Parish Strategic Planning Committee.
- Next meeting: November 25th , 7:00p-8:30p in the church basement.

Please send any comments/questions/suggestions to the Parish Council at [parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org)

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## *News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese*



**Monthly Newsletter - [October](#)**

## 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

Women's Thursday group we will meet as usual on Thursday, Nov 6 at the Senior Center. On Thursday, Nov 13 we will have our November Birthday Potluck at the Haley's home. Meet at 10 to read then have lunch together. Cards only please for the birthdays. Questions, call Ann Patras 907-399-0981

### Birthdays This Week

November 11 - Iris Klatt

November 12 - Dakari Swain

November 13 - Dan Kendall

November 15 - Anna Haley

November 13 - Macrina Ray

November 16 - Cecelia Jones

*M A N Y Y E A R S !*



### Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



\* Mary Margaret Simmons - November 1, 2007

\* Jean Margaret Proctor - November 7, 1997

\* Laura Anne Granducci Temple - November 11, 2024

\* Laurie Jean Prather - November 13, 2002

\* 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 22.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.





## *Remembering in Prayer...*

*Helen Gillquist  
Zoie (Oksana's Mom)*

*Jay Keener*

*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*

## THE SYNAXARION

### 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 major of the church services, baked the eucharistic Prospora 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.

She 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. The following day, winter weather returned.

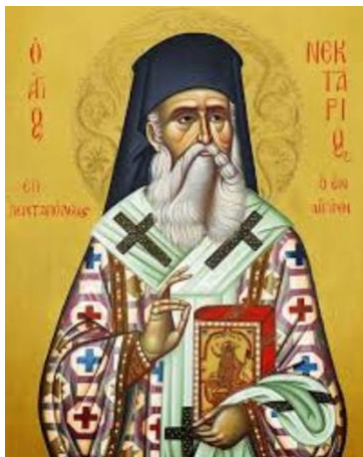
Many children born afterwards in the village were named Olga in her memory. In Orthodox fashion, her veneration started from the grassroots, spreading from local veneration in Alaska to

the rest of North America and the world. 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.

On November 9, 2023, Saint Olga's canonization was authorized by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America. Her glorification service took place on June 20, 2025, and her feast day was established as November 9.

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."

## **Nektarios of Egypt – November 9**



On November 9, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints Nektarios, Metropolitan of Pentapolis in Egypt, the wonderworker.

### ***Verses***

*O Nektarios, since you drink the nectar of life eternal,*

*You gush streams of healings.*

*On the ninth, the soul of Nektarios was taken from his body.*

Nektarios was born in Thrace on October 1, 1846. Because of his brilliance and holiness, Nektarios ascended in the Church of Alexandria from monk to metropolitan of Pentapolis in eastern Libya. His flock loved him, but his swift ascent aroused the envy of lesser clergy and laity. In 1890, Patriarch Sophronios relieved the innocent Metropolitan Nektarios of his duties and commanded him to leave Egypt. He became a provincial preacher and teacher around Athens. Through his eloquent sermons, his untiring labors to educate fitting men for the priesthood, his generous alms and deeds despite his own poverty, and the meekness and fatherly love that were manifest in him, Nektarios became a spiritual guide to many. In 1904, he began the building of Holy Trinity Convent on the island of Aegina. Nektarios spent the rest of his life there, and through his prayers delivered the island from drought, healed the sick, and cast out demons. The saint's relics continue to work miracles since his entry into eternal life on this day in 1920. He was canonized in 1961. In 1998, Patriarch Petros VII and the Holy Synod of Alexandria begged the saint to forgive them and their predecessors.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Onesiphoros and Porphyrios of Ephesus; Venerable Matrona of Constantinople; righteous mother Theoktista of Lesbos; Venerable Simeon the Translator; and Venerable Euthymios and Neophytos, founders of a monastery on Athos.

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