



**St. Michael the
Archangel
Serbian
Orthodox
Parish
Newsletter
December 2013**

Christ is Risen!

Saturday Vespers 6:00 PM
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Website: www.easternorthodoxchurch.org

*“The true Christian
is a warrior fighting
his way through the
regiments of the
unseen enemy to his
heavenly homeland.”
St. Herman of Alaska
(written June 20th,
1820)*

December: Important Church Dates:

Sunday 1st – Martyr Platon of Ancyra (266)

Tuesday 3rd – Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

† Vespers at 6:00 pm

Wednesday 4th – Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

† Proskomedie at 9:00am

† Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

Sunday 8th – Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (101).

Sunday 15th – Prophet Habakkuk (7th c. BC)

Thursday 19th – St. Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Sunday 22nd – Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Wednesday 25th – St. Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska.

† Proskomedie at 9:00am

† Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

Sunday 29th – Week of Holy Forefathers. Prophet Haggai (500 BC)

Reminder – This year for those of us following the Julian calendar, the Nativity Fast starts 28 November and runs until our Christmas on the 7th of January.

Confessions: may be heard Saturdays after Vespers; also Sunday mornings before Divine Liturgy 9:40 am-10 am or contact Fr. Gregory to arrange a time. Please come early on Sunday mornings so we may start Divine Liturgy on time

Russian School: will meet every Saturday afternoon in our church hall from 11:30PM to 2 PM. Point of Contact is Elena Lee (lanaLee10@aol.com) or Alexandra Pickle (Alexandra.pickle@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome to participate.

Offerings: Remember to use envelopes so that the treasurer may credit you with your donations.

Coffee Hour:

Dec. 1st – Jokich

Dec. 8th – Kaiser

Dec. 15th – Kendall

Dec. 22nd – Kioutas

Dec. 29th – Lee

Jan 5th – Pastrick

Jan 12th – Pickle

Jan 19th – Platt/Kochoff

Jan 26th – Wolf/Standifer

Church Needs: Coffee hour plates, bowls, forks, napkins and bouquets of flowers to decorate the Church on Sundays. If you can donate any of these items, it would be very much appreciated.

Church Cleaning: Will be held on Dec. 14th at 9:00AM. Ted Gulas will open the church for cleaning. Attendance had been low, and we could really use the additional help. Please come help beautify our church.

Sisterhood Meeting: There will be no Sisterhood meeting this month.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

God Grant Them Many Years!

Birthday's

1st – Lana Vukosavljevic

11th – Ron Waskerwitz

12th - Pat Darzi

12th – Adam Zarzaur

16th – James Taylor

28th – Peyton Michael Zarzaur

29th – Olga Hansen

31st – Aleks Vukosavljevic

Anniversary

6th – Alexandra & Bob Pickle

26th – Elena & Greg Lee

Mark Your Calendar:

- We will have Divine Liturgy on December 25th at 10am celebrating St. Herman, the wonderworker of Alaska.
- The much anticipated Schultz Family Christmas party will be on Friday, January 10th from 6pm to 10pm.
- There will be a special Guest Lecture by Fr. Serafim Baltic on Saturday, January 11th at 4pm.

Prayer List:

Please keep in your prayers

Living: Milka Taylor, Danny, Jean, Donna, Doug, John, Rachel, Demi, Anne, Joanne Karas, Glen, Janet Burn's daughters Rebecca and Kara, and granddaughter Victoria and for Mary Kochoff. Also let's pray for Shelley Kioutas who had a foot injury, Charles Malmede who's had an arm injury and Jim Smith (Catechumen Lisa Crafts' father).

Deceased: Mary, Sam, Frances, Joe, Anne, Stan, Daniel, Anna, Fryni, Nelia, Natalie and Olga Hansen's father, Dragan and Harold Kendall (Ray's dad).

Church Council – 2013 to 2014

Father Gregory Schultz – parish administrator

Hal Pastrick – president

Bob Zarzaur – vice president

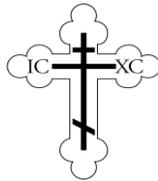
Joe Bergantz – treasurer

Michele Platt – secretary

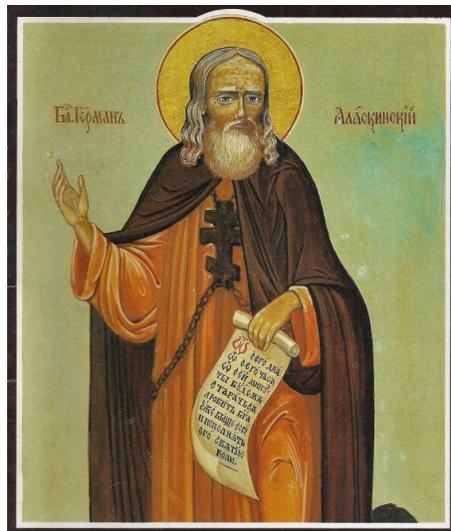
Members at large – Sandy Ellis, Mike Jokich, Rick Kaiser, Charles Malmede, Marshall Standifer

News Items - Please send church news items to the Newsletter editor, Rick Kaiser at rkmk2012@gmail.com

Website - Ashley Zarzaur; Choir Director – Sandy Ellis; Librarian – Leslie Hargrave



St. Herman of Alaska, Apostle to America



On December 12/25, we will celebrate the feast day of St. Herman of Alaska who was one of the bearers of true Orthodox Christianity having planted the holy seeds of our faith upon our North American land. Over time, these seeds have grown and borne much spiritual fruit as we see the continuing interest and growth of our Orthodox faith here in America today. The following is a short excerpt from the Synaxarion of the life of St. Herman:

The Monk Herman of Alaska, Apostle to America, was born in the city of Serpukhov, near Moscow, in the year 1757 into a merchant's family. At sixteen years of age he entered upon the path of monasticism. At first the monk did his obedience at the Sergius-Trinity monastery, near St. Petersburg on the shore of the Bay of Finland (the monastery belonged to the Sergius-Trinity Lavra). The future missionary pursued asceticism at the monastery for about five years. Wanting complete solitude and silence, the Monk Herman settled at Valaam. The Valaam monastery, situated on the islands of Lake Ladoga, was cut off from the outer world for 8 months of the year.

After a 15 year stay at Valaam, the Lord summoned the humble monk to apostolic service and sent him to preach the Gospel and baptize the pagans of the sparsely populated and austere territory of Alaska and the islands of North America bordering on it. For this purpose there was organized in the year 1793 a spiritual Mission -- with its center on the island of Kodiak. Archimandrite Joasaph (Bolotov), a monk of Valaam monastery, was appointed leader of the Mission. Amidst the number of other co-workers of the Mission were also five other monks of Valaam monastery -- including among them the Monk Herman, whom the Lord gave blessing to labor at evangelization longer and more fruitfully, than some other members of the Mission.

Upon arrival on Kodiak Island the missionaries quickly set about the construction of a church and the conversion of the pagans. "The year 1794, September -- I live with 24 on the island of Kodiak. All glory to God, more than 700 Americans are baptized, more than 2,000 marriages joined together, a church built, and as time allows -- we shall make another, then two, and then it will be necessary to make five" -- remarks the Archimandrite Joasaph in

one of his letters. Father Herman at this new place bore the obedience of baker and concerned himself with the domestic cares of the Mission.

Under the guidance of Archimandrite Joasaph (afterwards a bishop), the Mission was short-lived: during the time of a storm (in 1799) His Grace Joasaph with his companions perished in the waves of the ocean. To assist the missionaries remaining alive there was dispatched only one priest-monk from the Alexander Nevsky Lavra, -- Gideon. He headed the Mission for some time. He was concerned with the building up of a school for the children of the baptized Aleuts. In the year 1807 Priest-monk Gideon left forever from the settlement of the missionaries, having placed all the responsibilities on the Monk Herman, who until the end of his life remained a spiritual father, pastor, and guardian of human souls entrusted to him by the Mission. They wanted to ordain the monk to the dignity of priest-monk and make him archimandrite, but the humble monk refused thus to be elevated and until the end of his days he dwelt as a simple monk.

For the local inhabitants, the Monk Herman was a true good pastor and he defended them, insofar as he was able, from evil and plundering persons, who saw the island people only as an object for merciless exploitation. It would be no wonder, if the newly-converted repudiated their faith of the new-comer, who came most frequently in the role of exploiter and oppressor (having come for the purpose of mercantile profit), returning to their own superstitions. That this did not happen is due to the great merit of the Monk Herman. Firmly and insistently, having no power save for his intense faith, the elder continued on with his defense of the outraged and the oppressed, seeing in this his duty and calling, the essence of which he wonderfully expressed with the

simple words: -- "I am the most humble servant and nurse of the local peoples".

The secret labors and cell prayers of the elder remained unknown to the world, but are seen as a light surrounding his grace-bearing life, having gone through conditions of complete self-renunciation, non-avariciousness and austere disregard for all comforts. His clothes were quite poor and very decrepit. By his whole appearance and all his habits, St. Herman in life reminded his contemporaries of the ancient hermits, glorified by the deeds of abstention and saintliness. In conversation the elder produced an irresistible impression on listeners. Those who conversed were particularly struck by the clarity of his mind, and his distinctness and rapidity of his discernment.

Father Herman at first lived nearby the Mission temple on Kodiak, but later he settled on Spruce Island, which he called "New Valaam." Spruce Island was the final refuge in the multi-labored apostolic wanderings of the holy elder. St. Herman foretold to his spiritual children the time of his death and gave instructions how to bury him. On 13 December 1837 he requested candles be lit before the icons and to read the Acts of the Holy Apostles. During the time of the reading about the labors of the holy evangelists, the holy St. Herman passed over from earthly labors to heavenly rest, in his 81st year of life. At this time, a brilliant column of light going up from Spruce Island to the heavens was witnessed by many. Over the grave of the elder was at first constructed a simple wooden memorial, and afterwards was erected a modest wooden church, dedicated in the name of the Monks Sergius and Herman, Wonderworkers of Valaam.

St. Herman responded with love to the needs and sorrows of people during the days of his earthly life. And he does not leave in their misfortune those calling on him even

after his death. Many healings, connected with the prayerful intercession of Saint Herman, have been recorded during the course of a long period (from the time of his life through 1970). In March 1969 the Sobor of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church in America made the glorification of the Alaskan monk. The Church through this canonization formally stamped with its seal that which many native Alaskans always knew: the Monk Herman worthily achieved his Christian calling and now continues to intercede before God for the living.