



Sunday, January 4, 2015

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

A PARISH OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA—EASTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE

Great Vespers & Confessions each Saturday at 6 pm – Daily Vespers & Bible Study each Wednesday at 7 pm – Divine Liturgy each Sunday at 10 am
60 Clifton Chapel Lane, Stafford, Virginia 22555 – Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1295, Stafford, VA 22555 – Website: www.sthermanorthodox.org

Divine Services / Activities

This Week:

Sun. Jan. 4/Dec. 22

Sunday of the Holy Fathers (Genealogy of Christ)

9:15 a.m.

Congregational Singing Practice

9:45 a.m.

Reading of the Third Hour

10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour

Tues. Jan. 6/Dec. 24

Eve of the Nativity of the Lord/Holy Martyr Eugenia

7:00 p.m.

Compline/Matins for the Nativity

Wed. Jan. 7/Dec. 25

Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:00 a.m.

Festal Divine Liturgy

Sat. Jan. 10/Dec. 28

14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem

6:00 p.m.

Great Vespers followed by Holy Confessions

Sun. Jan. 11/Dec. 29

Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, Holy Righteous David the King and James the Brother of the Lord

9:15 a.m.

Congregational Singing Practice

9:45 a.m.

Reading of the Third Hour

10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour



2014 Finances

The Parish needs \$1,416.38/week to meet budget

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
Year-to-date	\$ 76,990.46	
December 21	\$ 2336.00	+ \$919.62
December 28	\$ 857.00	- \$559.38

Honor the Lord from your righteous labors and offer Him the first fruits from the fruits of righteousness, that your storehouses may be filled with an abundance of grain and your wine presses may gush with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Attendance

Great Vespers, 12/27 - 4

Divine Liturgy, 12/28 - 31

Prayer List

Archpriest Alexander requests that you send him to full name and general reason for intercessory prayer (such as health or illness, unemployment, family issues, military deployment to Afghanistan, etc.) for his pastoral care. Only the names of the living (and recently deceased) will be included in the prayer list in the weekly bulletin. He also requests that the faithful who have requested intercessory prayers for various persons let him know when there is no longer a specific need for payer, so that we may keep the list current.

LIVING: Rebecca Laymon, Areti Stylianopoulos, Judith (Maria) Cook, Robert Thompson, Tristan Thompson, Mark Laymon, Kristin Blaylock, Janis Sergeant, Leonidas Stylianopoulos, Sophia Stylianopoulos, Archpriest Michael Sekela, Chad Gallagher, Emma Nicole Parkinson, Millicent Novie, Matushka Masha Potapov, Matushka Cindy Mitchell, Matushka Hannah Romeo, Matushka Sonia Resnikoff, Matushka Elizabeth (Bonnie) Opyoke, Barbara Phillips, Presvytera Flora Chioros, Tom Zakielarz, Archpriest Seraphim Stephens, Maria Alexandrou, Alexandros Alexandrou, Silas Jordan, David Pelfrey, Pearle Galatas, Mark Heiser, Susan Fitzpatrick, JoAnn Bast, Paul Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Elios, Jon Connerley, Patricia Connerley, Hieromonk Kyrill, David Laymon, Joan Jaymon, Jimmy Hicks, Martha Connerley, Kathy Sekela, Ana Rosado-Nazario, Amanda Cotton, Deacon Alexander Laymon, Peggy Anderson, Andrew Anderson, Matushka Joanna Laymon, Zecchaeus Jensen, Matushka Catherine Branch, Lana Campbell, Matushka Kathleen Webster, Ray Liddick, Sarah Carellas, Karina Andreea Coman, John Alexandru Coman, Profira Aranghel, Tudor Aranghel, Valentin Paul Aranghel, Eva Teodora Aranghel, Ramona Ionela Aranghel, Mihaela Giorgiana Coman, Benjamin Stacquatano, David & Aishah Gustafson, Peter Peterson, Joshua Epstein, the captive Orthodox bishops from Aleppo, Syria: His Eminence Archbishop Boulos (Yazigi) and Mar Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim

MEMORY ETERNAL: Theodosia Dadzitis, Mike Coffey, Karl Moldrem

Many Years!

Names Days

- 9 Reader Steve Miroy
- Reader Steve Terrell
- 21 Nancy St. Clair
- 27 Alfred Siewers

Anniversaries

- 25 Nick & Beth Galvan

Birthdays

- 9 Olesya Siewers
- 21 Jim Kosch
- 25 Beth Baggett



Fellowship Hour

- Jan. 4 ~ Potluck Lenten meal
- Jan. 11 ~ Hosted Fellowship meal

If anyone has any questions or is interested in hosting a particular Sunday please contact Maria Connerley.



Reader Schedule

- Jan. 4 ~ Reader Jason Connerley
- Jan. 11 ~ Reader Steve Terrell

If you are interested in assisting with the reading or becoming a tonsured reader please contact Deacon Alexander.



Prosfora

Nancy St. Clair is currently providing the Prosfora. If you are interested in helping to make Prosfora for the church, please contact Nancy St. Clair.



**Save the Date, Aquia's Table
January 14, 2015**

Our next date to host Aquia's Table is January 14, 2015.

Hopefully this advanced notice will give parishioners enough time to arrange their schedules to allow them to help support this important ministry. A sign-up board is located in the fellowship hall for all volunteer positions. Any questions or inquiries about this activity can be directed to Reader Moses (Palmer) Swift.



Chickens, Pigs and Bees, Oh My!

The elementary Sunday School is working this Advent to raise money to buy animals for needy families through Heifer International. They will be doing chores and work at home to earn money towards their goal, as well as doing work around church. If you find your plate being cleared at Fellowship, or see children taking out the trash or clearing dishes so you don't have to, please think about placing some change in the "chicken" basket on the Fellowship table to show the kids appreciation for their work. All money will go towards funding their project.

Scrip for the Holidays

Where has the time gone?! Although we just celebrated Thanksgiving, it is not too early to start thinking about Christmas. If you have someone on your list who seems to have everything and what they do not have does not fit in your budget, gift cards are a great solution. The scrip program at the church can provide an easy way to purchase the gift cards you need. In the next few days, Stella will send out the latest Vendor List from Scrip and will be sending out lists of the vendors offering bonuses for the Holidays. Please consider using scrip as a means to meet your gift giving obligations. They can be ordered from the comfort of your own home by sending your order to stavroulaj@verizon.net. Simply tell Stella Jordan which ones you wish to order and the quantity and you are done! Remember, a percentage of each gift card you purchase comes back to our church.

One more picture of the visiting

"St. Nicholas" (Steve Geracoulis).

See you next year, God Willing!



**CONFESSION IS GOOD (EVEN VITAL)
FOR THE BODY AND THE SOUL!**

The renowned Swiss psychiatrist Paul Tournier once wrote: "I could give very many examples, especially of patients who have come to visit me only once, . . . with the sole purpose of finding someone to whom they could confess a sin that has been weighing upon them for years. . . . The tremendous joy brought by forgiveness plays an important part in causing the medical effects [of healing]. . . In many cases I have seen a physical illness disappear overnight after the confession of a lie or an illicit love-affair." Thus even a Reformed Protestant like Tournier recognized that confession is good for the body, as well as the soul.

And we Orthodox have a special opportunity, rare in the modern world, to avail ourselves of the healing Mystery of Holy Confession at regular intervals in our own churches. A good spiritual rhythm would allow for each of us to come to Holy Confession each month, especially if one hopes to receive the Body and Blood of Our Lord at each Sunday Divine Liturgy. The timing may be extended through the practice of oikonomia (exception for the greater good of both the person and the community) to once every two months, but not a day longer, as our former hierarch Metropolitan Jonah permitted. It has been disappointing to me that Holy Confession is rather (shall we say?) "under-utilized"; here at St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church.

Regular opportunities for Holy Confession here in Stafford include the following: each Saturday after Great Vespers, each Wednesday evening (or other evenings when scheduled) before Daily Vespers (that is, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.), Sundays during the fellowship hour after Divine Liturgy upon request, and by appointment with me at other times. Of course, a parishioner may have established a previous relation with another Orthodox priest-confessor that you wish to continue. If that is your situation, I ask only that you let me know the name of your priest-confessor, so that I can be confident that the spiritual relation is authentic and strong.

~ Archpriest Alexander

We are registered with two broadcast media weather alert systems: (1) television: WJLA-TV (channel 7) and News Channel 8, and (2) radio: WTOP radio (103.5, 103.9, 107.7 -- all FM) and WTOP.com Any closings will also be posted on the home page of our website and via email to those who have asked to be on our electronic mailing list.