



Sunday, February 8, 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](http://www.sthermanorthodox.org)

## Divine Services / Activities

### This Week:

Sun. Feb. 8/Jan. 26

#### Sunday of the Prodigal Son

#### Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

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

Wed. Feb. 11/Jan. 29

#### Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom

7:00 p.m. Daily Vespers and Bible Study

Sat. Feb. 14/Feb. 1

#### New Hieromartyr Basil priest, Martyr Michael

6:00 p.m. Festal Vespers followed by Holy Confessions

Sun. Feb. 15/Feb. 2

#### Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare Sunday)

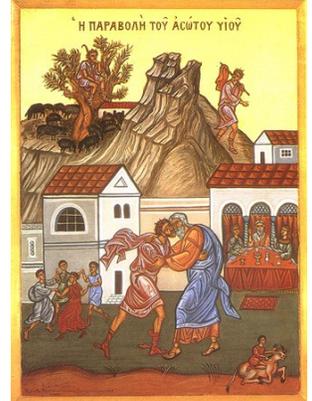
#### The Meeting of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

9:15 a.m. Congregational Singing Practice

9:45 a.m. Reading of the Third Hour

10:00 a.m. Festal Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour

12:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting



### 2015 Finances

The Parish needs \$1,555.77/week to meet budget

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>\$ 6838.21</b>	
January 25	\$ 393 .00	- \$1023.38
February 1	\$ 2547 .00	+ \$991.23

*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

Daily Vespers, 1/28 – 8

Great Vespers, 1/31 – 7

Divine Liturgy, 2/1 – 40

### 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 prayer, so that we may keep the list current.*

LIVING: Rebecca Laymon, Joan Laymon, Judith (Maria) Cook, Ana Rosado-Nazario, Lana Campbell, Artemis Danzig, Maria Connerley, Matushka Kathleen Webster, Emma Nicole Parkinson, Matushka Joanna Laymon, Archpriest Michael Sekela, Tom Zakielarz, Patricia Connerley, Martha Connerley, Kathy Sekela, Mark Laymon, Kristin Blaylock, Janis Sergeant, Millicent Novic, Ray Liddick, Leonidas Stylianopoulos, Sophia Stylianopoulos, Chad Gallagher, Matushka Cindy Mitchell, Presvytera Flora Chioros, Joshua Epstein, Father Stanley Voyiazakis, the captive Orthodox bishops from Aleppo, Syria: His Eminence Archbishop Boulos (Yazigi) and Mar Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim

MEMORY ETERNAL: Lydia Erickson, Larry Brown

### Blessing of Homes for Theophany

Archpriest Alexander will, God-willing, be available (by appointment) for the annual blessing of homes as early as early Monday afternoon (January 19) following the Festal Divine Liturgy. Please email him at [chaplain.webster@gmail.com](mailto:chaplain.webster@gmail.com) or call his cell: 703-297-7744.

## Fellowship Hour

Feb. 8 ~ Fellowship meal hosted by Team 2

Feb. 15 ~ Fellowship meal hosted by Team 3

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



## Reader Schedule

Feb. 8 ~ Adam Heitke

Feb. 15 ~ Reader Steve Mirov

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.



## Book Presentation at the Library of Congress February 10<sup>th</sup>

Father Alex Micich from St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church has asked us to include the below invitation. The event will be on Tuesday, February 10 at 12 pm at the Mary Pickford Theater, Madison Building Room 302 at the Library of Congress. Point of contact on site is Erika Spencer 202-707-4371.

Please join us on February 10, 2015 at the Library of Congress, for a very valuable presentation on the book "The Christian Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija". For those that are unaware, there is an aggressive campaign underway to purge from the minds of the general populace around the world that Kosovo is part of any Serbian history so that the plan to fully recognize Kosovo as an independent state at the level of the U.N. and other institutions is finally completed. The only major roadblock in the plan is the Serbian Orthodox Church and its extensive presence in the region from medieval times to recent history. This is why the ethnic cleansing campaign and the destruction of medieval Orthodox churches, monasteries, cemeteries, etc is underway. This book, previously published in Serbian, is now available in English, and is being presented to the Library of Congress as evidence of this.

Joining Bishop Maxim of the Serbian Orthodox Church's Western American Diocese will be eminent scholar and theologian, Retired Bishop Athanasius (Jevtic) and Archbishop Dimitrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. There will be a presentation of the book along with discussion with the archbishop and bishops.

## Results of Annual Parish Assembly

The new parish council consists of Archpriest Alexander, Deacon Alexander, Church Warden Reader Jason Connerley, Parish Secretary Maria Connerley, Parish Treasurer Stella Jordan, Council Members-At-Large Matushka Joanna Laymon and Steve Terrell. The newly elected members of the audit committee are Sarah Heitke, Steven Geracoulis, and Shirley Macrides.

The building fund and worker's compensation insurance for Archpriest Alexander were both approved. An \$80,879 budget was approved which included both a cost of living increase and pay raise for Archpriest Alexander. In addition the formation of two committees was discussed. The first is a building fund committee to continue the discussion started in during the annual parish assemble including how best to invest the money (CDs, money market, etc) until we need it. The second committee will research the various professional accounting software choices on the market to replace the Excel spreadsheet we currently use to manage the parish finances. These committees will be officially formed during the next parish council meeting on February 15th, 2015 but you do not have to be present at the council meeting to serve on the committees. If you are interested in serving on either committee please contact Reader Jason Connerley or Deacon Alexander.

## Aquia's Table, February 4, 2015



*"Isabel preparing beverages."*



*"Our cooks, Bill and Shirley, take a break."*



*"Shirley, Stella, and Matushka plating the meals."*



*"The shock troops who came in early to wrap Panera Bread and set up tables. Maggie & Paisley Milligan, Alexa & Claire Heitke, and Emma & Quinn Clark."*



*"Plating the food."*

## 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.*