



Sunday, February 26, 2017

# 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 – 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)

## Liturgical Services/Activities:

**Sun. Feb. 26/Feb. 6**

**The Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare). Venerable Martinian, monk of Caesarea in Palestine (422 AD)**

**9:15 a.m.** Choir Practice

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

**10:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy followed by Rite of Forgiveness

**12:00 p.m.** Fellowship Hour

**12:30 p.m.** Mtg of the Sisterhood of the Myrrh-bearing Women

**Mon. Feb 27/Feb. 7**

**Clean Monday. Beginning of Lenten Fast from meat & dairy foods**

**Wed. Mar. 1/Feb. 16**

**Martyrs Pamphilos presbyter, Valens deacon, Paul, Seleukos, Porphyrios, Julian, Theodulos, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Caesarea in Palestine (307-309 AD)**

**7:00 p.m.** Great Compline / Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

**8:15 p.m.** Adult Religious Education Class (shortened session)

**Sat. Mar. 4/Feb. 19**

**St. Yaroslav the Wise (1054 AD)**

**6:00 p.m.** Great Vespers followed by Holy Confessions.

**Sun. Mar. 5/Feb. 20**

**First Sunday of the Great Lent: Triumph of Orthodoxy. Venerable Leo, bishop of Catania in Sicily (ca. 780)**

**9:15 a.m.** Choir Practice

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

**10:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy followed by Children's Icon Procession

**12:00 p.m.** Fellowship Hour



*Sunday of Forgiveness*

## 2017 Finances

**The Parish needs \$1588.81 /week to meet budget**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
Year-to-date	\$ 11,881.84	- \$ 828.64
February 12	\$1,795.00	+ \$206.19
February 19	\$966.00	- \$622.81

*Honor the Lord from your righteous labors and offer Him the first fruits from the fruits of righteousness, that your storehouses may be full.*

## Intercessory 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, Judith (Maria) Cook, Ana Rosado-Nazario, Ann Yuschak, Sarah Heitke, Dsa. Monica Pappas, Emmelia Stone, Paisley Joanna Milligan, Charles Jordan, Matushka Kathleen Webster, Emma Nicole Parkinson, Matushka Joanna Laymon, Lana Campbell, Maria Connerley, 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 Joanna Mitchell, Protodeacon Brian Patrick Mitchell, Presvytera Flora Chioros, Father Stanley Voyiazakis, Presvytera Katherine Baker, Peter-Panagiotis Peterson, Monk Anthony (West Virginia), Archpriest George Larin, Matushka Masha Potopav, Matushka Sophia Doubleday, Evdokiya Bykon, Kevin McCarthy, James Dunham, Eleanor Magee, 2LT Benjamin Stracquatano, USA (Korea), David Jones (Peace Corps, Ghana), James Puckett, Nora Milligan, Archpriest Victor Potapov, Archpriest John Nehrebecki, Archpriest Theodore Shomsky, Alex Woglom, James Woglom, Archimandrite Iov (Holy Trinity Monastery), Jo Ann Swift, Archpriest George Rados, Abbess Makaria, James and Bryce Wilt, Ryan Wilt, Logan Peters, Sandra Brown, Brian Green, Glen A. Cooper, Kiernan Green, Protodeacon Nicholas Lukianov, Matushka Nadejda Revitsky, John Hershey, Archpriest George Johnson, Lisa King Buka. Richard Buka Sr., Gene King, Howard J. Stickley, Larry Terrell, Matushka Larisa Hutnyan, Jackie Leopold, Ellaine Baron, Protodeacon Pavel Wolkow, Mother Theodora, Jerry Laxson, Archpriest Alexander Veronis, James Kushiner, Michael Gann, James Scott Jr., Anders Bjorklund, Maria Papademetriou, Peter and Laura Roshak and baby Mark, Protopresbyter Valery Lukianov, Archpriest George Kallaur, Archpriest Paul Ivanov, the captive Orthodox bishops from Aleppo, Syria: His Eminence Archbishop Boulos (Yazigi) and Mar Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim

**Memory Eternal:** Matushka Juliana Schmemann, Joseph Kumbera, Nolan Scully, Caryll Whipple (CAPT, USN, Ret.), Monk Joseph (Isaac Lambertson), Alice Remillard

## Attendance

Great Vespers, 2/18 – 13

Divine Liturgy, 2/19 – 61

### New Adult Religious Education Course on Wednesdays at 7 pm

A new series began in January: "Contemporary Moral Issues." Each week we tackle a moral or ethical issue (chosen by consensus of the class) in light of the Orthodox Tradition, using as a resource an excellent collection of short newspaper columns by Archpriest Stanley S. Harakas titled, *Contemporary Moral Issues*. (Copies are now available in the parish bookstore for \$13 apiece.) Fr. Stanley, former dean of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology near Boston, MA, is our rector's long-time mentor in moral theology.

### Sisterhood of the Myrrh-bearing Women: 2017 Dues

It is a new year and time for the Sisterhood of Myrrh-bearing Women to collect the 2017 dues. All adult female members of the church may join the Sisterhood. The dues are only \$25 per year and can be paid by check (payable to Sisterhood of the Myrrh-bearing Women) or cash. These dues are used to support the Sunday School, to maintain the fellowship hall and church, and to provide for other needs identified by the Sisterhood. Contact Judith Cook to pay your dues.

### HOLY CONFESSIONS

Faithful communion in the Holy Mysteries requires faithful participation in the Holy Mystery of Confession. To apply Fr. Thomas Hopko's felicitous phrase "regular and disciplined communion" also to Confession entails Holy Confession ideally each month by those faithful who expect 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. However, Holy Confession less frequent than bi-monthly is, according to the guidance of our recent hierarch, His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah, inadequate preparation for receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord. Regular opportunities for Holy Confession at St Herman of Alaska Orthodox Mission include the following: each Saturday after Great Vespers, each Wednesday evening before the Adult Religious Education class (that is, from 6 p.m. until 6:45 p.m.), Sundays after Divine Liturgy upon request, and by appointment at other times. Of course, parishioners may have established previous relations with other Orthodox priest-confessors that they may wish to continue. If that is the case, I ask only that such parishioners let me know the names of their priest-confessors, so that I can be confident that the spiritual relation is strong. Please honor the minimum standard for this necessary spiritual discipline and vital sacramental opportunity.



~ Archpriest Alexander

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#### Fellowship Hour

Feb. 26 ~ Fellowship provided by Team 4

Mar. 5 ~ Fellowship provided by Team 1

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

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#### Reader Schedule

Feb. 26 ~ Reader Steve Mirov

Mar. 5 ~ Joseph Sirko

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

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#### Prosfora

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

*As we are turning our hearts, minds, and bodies toward the Lenten season, let's endeavor to work harder on our anagoge, our spiraling spiritual ascent, to become more and more in the image and likeness of our Lord.*

The Iconography Guild of St. Theodosia will be meeting Saturday, March 4th, 12:30 - 4:00. We have projects always in progress, such as face studies, and practice icons of the archangels, and we are making plans for the coming year.

In our short "business meeting", we will discuss having a mini-workshop for members and guests, and invite Fr. Mefodii to lead it. The focus will be the meaning and practice of landscape elements in icons. We will also plan a new project, adding the fine gold lines, called "assist" on angel wings and garments.

We have a growing library of books, articles, and dvd's available to members.

Older children are welcome, accompanied by a parent.

Please come, dropping by for a visit, or instruction on your project, fellowship, coffee, tea, and snacks!--Mat. Joanna



1982  
"So, Andre! ... The king wants to know how you're coming with St. George and the Dragon."

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.

#### Prayer of St. Ephraim

*O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.*

*Give rather to Thy servant the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love.*

*Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.*

#### Children's Icon Procession

Next Sunday, March 5, marks the Sunday of Orthodoxy--the triumph of icon veneration in Byzantium in AD 842. Parents are encouraged to give their children small icons (or whatever sizes they can carry) for the annual children's procession in the chapel immediately following the Divine Liturgy. (Note also that Sunday School classes will not begin until the end of the icon procession.) Icons will be available for those children without icons on Sunday.

## UNIVERSAL DESK: Terry Mattingly's religion column for 2/22/17.

Facing a wall of flames and shellfire, Army medic Desmond Doss had to make an agonizing decision -- retreat with his 77th Infantry Division or stay behind to save the wounded.

On the big screen, this true story is the stuff of Academy Award nominations. The "Hacksaw Ridge" script gave actor Best Actor nominee Andrew Garfield few words to say, but his face had to display shock, confusion, doubt and determination. The film has been nominated for six Oscars, including Best Picture.

"What is it you want from me?", Doss prays, in his slow Virginia mountains drawl. "I don't understand. I can't hear you."

Then a distant voice in the flames screams: "Medic! Help me!"

Doss quietly says, "Alright," and runs back into the flames.

Working alone, Doss -- who refused a weapon, because of his Seventh-day Adventist convictions -- lowered at least 75 injured men over a 400-foot cliff during the World War II Battle of Okinawa. He collapsed several times during that night, but kept going with these words on his lips: "Please Lord, help me get one more."

A Japanese soldier later testified that he aimed at Doss several times, but his rifle kept jamming when he tried to fire.

President Harry S. Truman presented Doss with the Medal of Honor on Oct. 12, 1945 -- the first conscientious objector to receive that honor. It took Doss years to recover from his war injuries -- he lost a lung to tuberculosis -- and he devoted his life to church work, dying in 2006 at age 87.

Doss should be listed among the "most heroic figures in American history. He was singular," said "Hacksaw Ridge" director Mel Gibson, during 2016 commencement rites at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., in the hills where Doss grew up.

Medal of Honor winners are usually recognized for amazing, singular acts in combat, noted Gibson, a Best Director Oscar nominee. But Doss "kept crawling into enemy fire to rescue his buddies. ... He stuck by his convictions. He was a man of tremendous faith and it was these things that enabled him to display this courage over and over and do superhuman things -- superhuman in that he could go outside himself and depend on something greater than himself to achieve something truly extraordinary and miraculous."

While few Americans may have heard of Doss, Hollywood had long sought his cooperation in telling his story, beginning soon after the war, said Terry Benedict, who produced and directed the 2004 documentary, "The Conscientious Objector." Benedict was on the "Hacksaw Ridge" production team.

The problem was that Doss was afraid of compromises and wanted praise focused on God, not himself. Benedict, however, grew up in an Adventist home and embraced the faith elements of this story. The filmmaker promised Doss that if they worked together it would be "God first, you second and everyone else can get in line." He also knew the elderly Doss had to put his memories on the record -- soon.

There was so much to tell. Doss was abused during Army training because many soldiers considered him a coward. Army officials -- who "never got the memo" that conscientious objectors could train as medics -- repeatedly tried to have him discharged, said Benedict, reached by telephone.

During five days of grueling documentary interviews in 2003, Doss kept telling the same simple, humble story over and over. Finally Benedict shook his friend by the shoulders and urged him to speak from his heart. Doss began weeping, admitting that he thought he was having a mental breakdown on the ridge. He was "exhausted and in unmitigated desperation mode," said Benedict.

More than anything else, Doss believed there were more wounded men on that battlefield that God wanted him to save.

"You see, Desmond is the rock in this story and everything flows and changes around him," said Benedict. "That is not your normal character arc in a movie. Desmond and his convictions stay the same and everyone else changes as they learn more about him and see his beliefs in action. That is not a normal Hollywood story. ...

"There is a hunger for this kind of story, but you have to tell it well. ... You end up with this courageous man and his faith. That's enough."

*Terry Mattingly ([tmatt.net](http://tmatt.net)) leads GetReligion.org and is Senior Fellow for Media and Religion at The King's College in New York City. He lives in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and is a devout Orthodox Christian.*

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NOTE: Jim Kushiner, Orthodox editor of *Touchstone Magazine*, provides what famed radio broadcaster Paul Harvey used to call "the rest of the story" in this section from his weekly email message:

[S]acrifice is on display in *Hacksaw Ridge*. Yet director Mel Gibson decided to leave out the last act of Army medic Desmond Ross on the battlefield because he thought audiences would find it too hard to believe. Desmond had just taken the blunt of a grenade blast to save his fellow soldiers-and Gibson left it there, with him being carried off the battlefield (he survived). But, according to History vs. Hollywood [\[http://www.historyvshollywood.com/reelfaces/hacksaw-ridge/\]](http://www.historyvshollywood.com/reelfaces/hacksaw-ridge/):

"After the grenade left him with 17 pieces of shrapnel stuck in him, Desmond waited for five hours until fellow soldier(s) [were] able to reach him. [They] carried Desmond on a litter (stretcher) through an intense enemy tank attack. As they were carrying him, he saw a guy on the ground badly wounded. Desmond rolled off the stretcher and crawled over to patch the man up. Desmond gave up his stretcher to the man, but while waiting for help to come back, he was wounded again, this time by a sniper's bullet that shattered his left arm. He fashioned a splint out of a rifle stock and crawled the remaining 300 yards under fire, eventually reaching the safety of an aid station. He was transported to the hospital ship Mercy." - *The Conscientious Objector Documentary*