



Sunday, December 20, 2020

# 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: *(please remember to sign up for services and communion)*

- Sun. Dec. 20/Dec. 7**      **28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan (AD 397).**  
**9:00 a.m.**      Baptisms  
**9:30 a.m.**      Reading of the Hours and tonsuring of Readers  
**10:00 a.m.**      Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and blessings followed by Fellowship
- Wed. Dec. 23/Dec. 10**      **Martyrs Menas the Melodius, Hermogenes, and Eucraphus of Alexandria (AD 310).**  
 No Vespers or Adult Religious Education Class tonight
- Sat. Dec. 26/Dec. 13**      **Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, and Callinicus of Apollonia (AD 250).**  
 No Catechumen Class today  
**6:00 p.m.**      Great Vespers
- Sun. Dec. 27/Dec. 14**      **29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Week of the Holy Forefathers.**  
**9:30 a.m.**      Reading of the Hours  
**10:00 a.m.**      Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship

*The risk of the COVID virus has compelled some of our parishioners to absent themselves from public contact including attendance at the Divine Liturgy. If you have been unable to come to church and would like to have communion brought to your home, please contact Fr. Alexander at 540-212-1855 or [anevsky54@gmail.com](mailto:anevsky54@gmail.com).*

### Attendance

Great Vespers, 12/12–

Divine Liturgy, 12/13–

Vespers, 12/16– *No service*

### 2020 Finances

**The Parish needs \$2,110/week to meet budget**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
Year-to-date	\$ 144,735.68	+ \$ 38,432.90
December 6	\$ 3,981.85	+ \$ 1,871.85
December 13	\$ 5,138.70	+ \$ 3,028.70

*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. ⌄*

### Intercessory Prayer List

*Metropolitan Jonah requests that you send him the 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: Sarah, Emmanuel, Mark, Claudia, Katherine, Erika, Victoria, Michael, Tate, Renate, Dieter, Rebekah, Sofia, Ioannis, Anastasia, Elizabeth, Georgia, John, Elena, Alice, Matthew, Boris, Elizabeth, Davis (Columba), Moses, Emma, Kristin, Monk Sergius, Priest John, Priest David, Priest Costa, Priest Michael, Presbyteria Cindy, Priest George, Presbyteria Areti, Nun Aimiliane, Priest Charalambos, Monk Serapheim, Elizabeth, Katje, Rachel, Mandi, Clive, Clair, Rebecca, Janis, Paisley, George, Archpriest Alexander, Matushka Kathleen, Emma Nicole, Alexa Kate, Steven, Millicent, Archpriest Victor, Matushka Masha, Pdn. Patrick, Matushka Joanna, Matushka Sophia, Mother Theodora, Archpriest Alexander, James, Leonidas, Sophia, Maria, Larry, Bill, Modestos, Katya & Michael, Ephraim, Reader Moses, Jo Ann, Sarah, Paul, Laura and baby Mary, Brianna, Robert, Baby Nina, Charley & Alexandra, Irina & baby, Rebecca, Melissa & babies, Kathy Miroy, Priest Alexander Laymon

### MEMORY ETERNAL:

Do not undertake to explain the Gospels or the other books of Holy Scripture yourself. The Scriptures were not expressed arbitrarily by the prophets and apostles, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. How mindless then is it to explain them arbitrarily? The Holy Spirit, having expressed the Word of God through the prophets and apostles, explained it through the Holy Fathers. Both the Word of God and its explanation are a gift of the Holy Spirit. The holy Orthodox Church and its true children accept only this patristic interpretation!

(St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, On Reading the Gospel)



### Fellowship Hour

- Dec. 27 Fasting Fellowship provided by Team 4
- Jan. 3 Fasting Fellowship provided by Team 1

If anyone would like to join a team or be put on the list of substitutes, or is interested in hosting a particular Sunday please contact Brianna Lessin or Mat. Veronica Sirko.



### Reader Schedule

- Dec. 20 ~ Sdn. Stephen Terrell
- Dec. 27 ~ Sdn. Aaron Lessin

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



### Prosfora

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

## Readings for the Week of December 20<sup>th</sup>

### Sunday 12/20

Luke 24:36-53 (*6th Matins Gospel*)  
Colossians 1:12-18  
Luke 17:12-19

### Monday 12/21

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17:19  
Luke 20:27-44

### Tuesday 12/22

Hebrews 4:1-13  
Luke 21:12-19  
Galatians 4:22-31 *St. Anna*  
Luke 8:16-21 *St. Anna*

### Wednesday 12/23

John 10:9-16 *Matins Gospel*  
Hebrews 5:11-6:8  
Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24  
Ephesians 6:10-17 *Martyrs*  
Luke 21:12-19 *Martyrs*  
Hebrews 7:26-8:2 *St. Ioasaph*  
John 10:9-16 *St. Ioasaph*

### Thursday 12/24

Hebrews 7:1-6  
Luke 21:28-33

### Friday 12/25

Hebrews 7:18-25  
Luke 21:37-22:8  
Hebrews 13:17-21 *St. Spyridon*  
Luke 6:17-23 *St. Spyridon*

### Saturday 12/26

Matthew 10:16-22 *Matins Gospel*  
Ephesians 2:11-13  
Luke 13:18-29  
Ephesians 6:10-17 *Martyrs*  
Luke 21:12-19 *Martyrs*

## Keep up with the Latest Schedule Changes this Winter!

Timely notification of last minute changes to the schedule is difficult. If you would like to receive text notifications for closures due to inclement weather or other last-minute schedule changes, please follow the directions below. The system is opt-in and you will NOT be automatically added to the list.

We have established an account on [remind.com](http://remind.com) to provide these text alerts. This system will NOT be used to send routine church information.

As [remind.com](http://remind.com) was developed for education, it may ask if you are a teacher, parent or student. You can choose any option, it will not make a difference for our purposes. Additionally, remind will also alert you that there may be a charge by your phone company to receive texts. There is no charge to use this service except what your phone company charges for text messages. **To sign up:** text the message @stherman to the number 81010 on your mobile phone.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

In Christ,  
Fr. Mark

### When you Donate toward a Feast Day Icon You are Also Supporting the Building Fund for St. Herman's Future Church!



Our parish is requesting donations to sponsor our handwritten feast day icons, either totally or in part. Our goal is to raise \$3000 per icon. Two-thirds of the donations will be given to the church's building fund.

Your donation can be in any amount. We still need donations toward both the icon of The Embrace of Sts. Joachim and Anna and The Nativity of the Holy Theotokos. Please indicate with your check the feast day icon you prefer.

Please support this project for the beauty of our present and future church, according to the gift of God's Grace and to His Glory.

### Christmas Food Drive

Today is the last day for the Christmas food drive set up by the teenage girls. Please bring your nonperishable food items to the marked table in the church hall and they will be donated to SERVE of Stafford County. Thank you!!!

### Last Saturday's Icon Guild Meeting

We had a great turn-out at the icon guild meeting last Saturday, with old and new members. Some were finishing up their Archangel Michael icons, and some were beginning. Others continued work on their flesh tone study and another practiced lines. One new member who comes from Maryland gilded his icon, and is ready to begin the painting process. Come and join us Saturday, Jan. 9th and spend the day or as long as you wish.

Contact Mat. Joanna: [lightwriters77@gmail.com](mailto:lightwriters77@gmail.com)

Holy Father Nicholas,  
The four corners of the world glorify you  
As a knight of the powerful Faith,  
The Faith of God, the true Faith.  
From the cradle he was devoted to God,  
From the cradle until the end;  
And God glorified him—  
His faithful Nicholas.

Famous was he throughout his life,  
And even more renowned after death;  
Mighty on earth was he,  
And even more mighty is he in heaven.

Glowing spirit, pure heart,  
He was a temple of the Living God;  
For this the people glorify him  
As a wondrous [saint](#).

Nicholas, rich in glory,  
Loves those who honor him as their Krsna [Slava](#);  
Before the throne of the eternal God,  
He prays for their good.

O Nicholas, bless us,  
Bless your people  
Who, before God and before you,  
Humbly stand in prayer.