



Sunday, December 26, 2021

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

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

Vigil & Confessions each Saturday at 5 pm – Adult Education each Wednesday at 7:00 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

Liturgical Services/Activities:

- Sun. Dec. 26/Dec. 13** 27th Sunday after Pentecost. Venerable Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska (AD 1836).
9:30 a.m. Reading of the Hours
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy followed by Potluck Fellowship Hour
- Wed. Dec. 29/Dec. 16** Prophet Haggai (Aggaeus) (500 B.C.).
No vespers or class this evening
- Sat. Jan. 1/Dec. 19** Virgin-martyr Lucy of Syracuse (AD 304).
No catechumen class today
5:00 p.m. Great Vespers and confessions
- Sun. Jan. 2/Dec. 20** 28th Sunday after Pentecost. Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, bishop of Antioch (AD 107).
9:30 a.m. Reading of the Hours
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour

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.

2021 Finances

The Parish needs \$2,394.75/week to meet budget

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
December 12	\$ 5,933.16	+ \$ 3,538.41
December 19	\$ 5,643.06	+ \$ 3,248.31

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, Ephraim, Reader Moses, Jo Ann, Sarah, Paul, Brianna, Robert, Baby Nina, Charley & Alexandra, Irina & baby, Rebecca, Priest Alexander Laymon, Archpriest Michael Sekela, Fr. Filipe and his family, Irene and John, Inna and Emma, Ronin O’Neill, Anastasia and the baby, Brody (Anthony) Lessin, Sophia Stylianopoulos, Olga Petrova and the baby, Mary Zupan and the baby

MEMORY ETERNAL: Mary Peterson, Anita Sanford, William Terrell, Adrianos Burke

Nativity Services Schedule

**Thursday, January 6th: 10 am Vesperal Liturgy
6 pm Vigil for Nativity**

Friday, January 7th: 10 am Divine Liturgy

“Who hated sin more than the saints? But they did not hate the sinners at the same time, nor condemn them, nor turn away from them. But they suffered with them, admonished them, comforted them. gave them remedies as sickly members, and did all they could to heal them.”

— St. Dorotheos of Gaza, Discourses and Sayings



Fellowship Hour

- Dec. 26 Fasting Potluck Fellowship
- Jan. 2 Fasting Fellowship provided by Team 1
- Jan. 7 FEASTING Potluck Fellowship
- Jan. 9 Fellowship provided by Team 2

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.



Reader Schedule

- Dec. 26 Sdn. Stephen Terrell
- Jan. 2 Sdn. Aaron Lessin
- Jan. 7 Rdr. Joseph McLeod
- Jan. 9 Rdr. John Raccanello

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



Prosfora

Nancy St. Clair, Brianna Lessin and Maria Tsapos 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 26th

Sunday 12/26

Luke 24:12-35 (5th Matins Gospel)
Colossians 3:4-11 Epistle (29th Sunday)
Luke 14:16-24 Gospel (28th Sunday)
Ephesians 6:10-17 *Martyrs*
Luke 21:12-19 *Martyrs*

Monday 12/27

2 Timothy 2:20-26
Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday 12/28

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4
Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday 12/29

2 Timothy 4:9-22
Mark 8:30-34

Thursday 12/30

Titus 1:5-2:1
Mark 9:10-16
Hebrews 11:33-12:2 *Prophet*
Luke 11:47-12:1 *Prophet*

Friday 12/31

Titus 1:15-2:1-10
Mark 9:33-41

Saturday 1/1

Ephesians 1:16-23
Luke 14:1-11
Galatians 3:8-12 *Saturday Before*
Luke 13:18-29 *Saturday Before*

2022 Pledge Forms are Available

2022 Pledge Forms will be available in the narthex. Your response will help the church plan its 2022 budget. The family information is needed to keep the church records so please complete that portion of the form even if you decide not to pledge to the church operating fund. Please seal the envelope and return the completed form to Judith Cook. You may also send your information to treasurer@sthermanorthodox.org. A copy of the form is attached to the bulletin for anyone who forgot to get one at church.

Festal Icons Update

The festal icon of the Annunciation is finished, and the Visitation of the Theotokos is nearly complete. The next one beginning: The Theophany/Baptism of Christ. If you would like to support this project, please mark your donation for "Festal Icons".



Up for Grabs!

From Rdr. Michael and Ann Yuschak: I have three full-size mattresses less than three years old, always covered, and used very little, to GIVE away. You can contact us at yuschak7x@gmail.com if interested.

December Contributions

If you are planning to make a gift to the church in December, please be aware that your contribution needs to be postmarked by December 31 to count as a 2021 gift. Direct deposits and PayPal donations also need to be made by December 31. If you have any questions, please contact Judith Cook at treasurer@sthermanorthodox.org.

Oh, Brethren, what is the result of pride? Oh, see what humility can do? What was the need for all these sufferings? For, if from the beginning Man had humbled himself, obeyed God, and kept the commandment he would not have fallen.

Again, after his fall, God gave him an occasion to repent and to receive mercy but he kept his stiff-neck held high. He came to him and said "Adam, Where are you?" instead of saying "What glory you have left and what dishonor you have arrived at?" After that, He asked him "Why did you sin? Why did you transgress the commandment?" By asking these questions, He wanted to give him the opportunity to say, "Forgive me." However, he did not ask for forgiveness. There was no humility, there was no repentance, but indeed the opposite.

He answered, "The woman whom You gave to be with me" (Gen 3:9-12), he did not say, "the woman deceived me," but "The woman whom You gave to me," as if he wanted to say: "This catastrophe has come upon me because of You." So it is, brethren, since Man is not accustomed to blame himself. He does not hesitate to consider even God as the cause of evil.

Then God came to the woman and said to her, "Why did you not keep the commandment?" as if He wanted to say, "At least you, say forgive me, so as to humble your soul and to receive mercy." Again, there was no request for forgiveness. She also answered, "The serpent deceived me," (Gen 3:13) as if she wanted to say, "If the serpent sinned, where is my mistake?"

Why did you act in this way, you pitiable ones? Make a bow of repentance, recognize your fault, be sorry for your nakedness. Neither one of them could blame himself, neither of them had the least bit of humility.

— St. Dorotheus

"If we pay attention to the fact that many people's high expectations for happiness during the Christmas season will fall short and leave them lonely and despairing, our own acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and smile of acceptance will make all the difference in the world..."

-Abbot Tryphon, All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island