

# St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church July 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekly Bulletin

60 Clifton Chapel Lane, Stafford, Virginia 22555 –  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1295, Stafford, VA 22555 –  
Website: [www.sthermanorthodox.org](http://www.sthermanorthodox.org)



✠ Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. ✠

✠ Saturday Catechumen Class 3 p.m. Vespers and Confessions 5 p.m. ✠

✠ Wednesday Confession, Vespers and Adult Ed. Classes 5 p.m. 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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(Sanford)**  
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## Fellowship Meal

July 3 – Fellowship Team 1  
July 10 – Fellowship Team 2  
July 17 – Fellowship Team 3  
July 24 – Fellowship Team 4  
July 31- Fellowship POTLUCK

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 Jo Lu Terrell.

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## Reader Schedule

July 3 – Sbn. Aaron Lessin  
July 10 – Rdr. Stephen Miroy  
July 12 – Michael R.  
July 17 – John R.  
July 24 – Br. Andrew

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

## Liturgical Services/Activities:

Sat. July 2/June 19

### St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco the Wonderworker

3:00 p.m. Catechumen's Class

4:00 p.m. Confessions

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Sun. July 3/June 20

### Holy Apostle Jude, the Brother of the Lord

9:30 a.m. Hours

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wed. July 6/June 21

### The Meeting of the Vladimir Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

5:00 p.m. Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Adult Education Class

Sat. July 9/June 26

### Appearance of the Tikhvin Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

3:00 p.m. Catechumen's Class

4:00 p.m. Confessions

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Sun. July 10/June 27

### Venerable Sampson the Hospitable of Constantinople

9:30 a.m. Hours

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

## Readings for the Week of

June 22<sup>th</sup>

### Thursday 6/30

Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 7:21-23

### Friday 7/1

John 10:1-9 Matins Gospel  
Romans 5:10-16  
Matthew 8:23-27  
Hebrews 13:17-21 St. Basil  
John 10:9-16 St. Basil

### Saturday 7/2

John 21:15-25 Matins Gospel  
Romans 5:17-6:2  
Matthew 9:14-17  
Acts 11:19-26, 29-30 Apostle  
Luke 10:16-21 Apostle

### Sunday 7/3

Romans 3:19-26  
Matthew 7:1-8  
Galatians 5:22-6:2 Venerables  
Matthew 11:27-30 Venerables

### Monday 7/4

Mark 16:1-8 (2nd Matins Gospel)  
Romans 2:10-16 (Epistle)  
Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)  
Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Epistle, Saints  
Matthew 4:25-5:12 Gospel, Saints

### Tuesday 7/5

Romans 7:1-13  
Matthew 9:36-10:8

### Wednesday 7/6

John 10:1-9 Matins Gospel  
Romans 7:14-8:2  
Matthew 10:9-15  
Hebrews 13:17-21 St. Jonah  
John 10:9-16 St. Jonah

## Festal Icons

St Herman is blessed to have our very own iconographer in our midst. Matushka Joanna has embarked on a journey to provide the festal icons for our church. Take a moment to look around our church and see the beautiful hand written icons she has provided. St Herman recognizes the value of her labors. The Festal Icons Fund was created to provide recompense to Matushka Joanna for these valuable additions to our church. Please consider supporting her work by making a donation to that fund. We are trying to collect \$2000 for each icon.

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### Closing Costs for Clifton Chapel

To complete our purchase of Clifton Chapel the parish will need to pay for legal fees, title search and surveys of the property and the road. If you would like to assist in covering these expenses, please indicate "Clifton Chapel purchase" on your gift. Funds collected in excess of these needs will be added to the Clifton Chapel improvement fund.

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### Church Food Pantry

We need volunteers to help stock up the church pantry! Please contact Sue @ [srcasablanca@gmail.com](mailto:srcasablanca@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved. This endeavor would help the whole church so please consider helping out.

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### Baptismal Gifts

We have been so blessed to have so many baptisms! I wanted to remind you that if you need a baptismal cross, Mother Andrea has many lovely ones in her gift shop. She is acquiring Russian ones while they are still available in places. Her gift shop is stocked full of books, icons, liturgical items, and of course, gifts! Visit her website and visit her in Rochelle, VA at the Queen of All Skete." <https://queenofallskete.org/about-us/>

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### COVID-19 Book

Fr. Alexander's book on COVID-19 is finally available on Amazon, "[Let No One Fear Death](#)". Among the other chapter contributors is Metropolitan Jonah. Also note that this book, after only week on amazon.com, is already the no. 1 "Best Seller" among the 50 best-selling books in the category of "Ecclesiology Christian Theology." Vladyka and Fr. Alexander are willing to sign copies for any parishioners who purchase the book!

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after PENETECOST EPISTLE: Romans 5:1-10**

- 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;
- 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.
- 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.
- 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
- 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

### **THROUGH WHOM ALSO WE HAVE ACCESS BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE**

And let me beg you to consider how he everywhere sets down these two points, His part, and our part. His part, however, is varied and numerous and diverse. For He died for us and reconciled us; He brought us to Himself, and gave us grace unspeakable. But we brought only faith as our contribution. And so he says, 'by faith, into this grace.' What grace is this? Tell me. It is being counted worthy of the knowledge of God; being forced from error; coming to a knowledge of the truth; obtaining all the blessings that come through baptism. For the purpose of His bringing us close was that we might receive these gifts. It was not only that we might have simple remission of sins and that we should be reconciled, but that we might also receive countless benefits. He unveils the whole of things to come. For this is the nature of God's grace. It has no end; it knows no bounds, but is on the advance at all times to greater things ...Take an instance of what I mean. A person has acquired rulership and glory and authority, yet he does not stay in that status continuously, but is speedily cast out of it. If man does not take it from him, death comes, and is sure to seize it. But God's gifts are not of this kind: for neither man, nor occasion, nor crisis of affairs, nor even the Devil, nor death, can come and cast us out of them. But when we are dead, we then more strictly speaking have possession of them, and continue enjoying them more and more.

-St. John Chrysostom

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after PENTECOST GOSPEL: Matthew 6:22 – 33

- <sup>22</sup> The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.
- <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!
- <sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- <sup>25</sup> Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?
- <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
- <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?
- <sup>28</sup> So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;
- <sup>29</sup> and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
- <sup>30</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
- <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
- <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
- <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

#### THE LAMP OF THE BODY IS THE EYE

If you do not know, He says, what a thing it is to be injured in mind, learn it from the things of the body. For just what the eye is to the body, the same is the mind to the soul. Just as when the eyes are blinded, most of the energy of the other members is gone - their light being quenched – so also when the mind is depraved, your life will be filled with countless evils. For God, He says, gave us understanding, so we might chase away all ignorance, and have the right judgment of things; and that using this as a kind of weapon and light against all that is grievous or hurtful, we might remain in safety. But we betray the gift for the sake of things superfluous and useless. Do you see how by degrees He withdraws us from the things that now are, and at greater length introduces what He has to say regarding voluntary poverty, and casts down the dominion of covetousness? Do not tell me of those who are rich, but of those who serve riches, since Job also was rich, but he did not serve mammon. He so possessed all those things, as if he had been a steward of another man's goods.

-St. John Chrysostom



## St. John Maximovitch

Hieromonk John was consecrated bishop on May 28, 1934, with Metropolitan Anthony serving as principal consecrator, after which he was assigned to the Diocese of Shanghai. Twelve years later he was named Archbishop of China. Upon his arrival in Shanghai, Bishop John began working to restore unity among the various Orthodox nationalities. In time, he worked to build a large cathedral church that was dedicated to Surety of Sinners Icon to the Mother of God, with a bell tower and large parish house. Additionally, he inspired many activities: building of churches, hospitals, and orphanages among the Orthodox and Russians of Shanghai. He was intensely active, constantly praying and serving the daily cycle of services, while also visiting the sick with the Holy Gifts. He often would walk barefooted even in the coldest days. Yet to avoid the appearance of secular glory, he would pretend to act the fool.

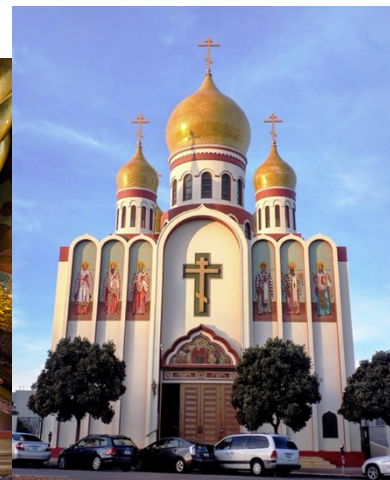
With the end of World War II and the coming to power of the communists in China, Bishop John led the exodus of his community from Shanghai in 1949. Initially, he helped some 5,000 refugees to a camp on the island of Tubabao in the Philippines, while he travelled successfully to Washington, D.C., to lobby to amend the law to allow these refugees to enter the United States. It was while on this trip that Bishop John took time to establish a parish in Washington dedicated to Saint John the Forerunner.

In 1951, Archbishop John was assigned to the Archdiocese of Western Europe with his cathedra in Paris. During his time there, he also served as archpastor of the Orthodox Church of France, whose restored Gallican liturgy he studied and then celebrated. He was the principal consecrator of the Orthodox Church of France's first modern bishop, Jean-Nectaire (Kovalevsky) of Saint-Denis, and ordained to the priesthood the man who would become its second bishop, Germain (Bertrand-Hardy) of Saint-Denis.

In 1962, Archbishop John was assigned to the Diocese of San Francisco, succeeding his long time friend Archbishop Tikhon. Archbishop John's days in San Francisco were to prove sorrowful as he attempted to heal the great disunity in his community. He was able to bring peace such that the new cathedral, dedicated to the Joy of all Who Sorrow Icon of the Mother of God, was completed.

Deeply revering Saint John of Kronstadt, Archbishop John played an active role in preparation of his canonization.

He reposed during a visit to Seattle on July 2, 1966, while accompanying a tour of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God. He was laid to rest in a crypt chapel under the main altar of the new cathedral.



## Holy Apostle Jude

Saint Jude was one of the Twelve Apostles. He was the son of Joseph and Salome and the brother of James, the brother of the Lord. Joseph the carpenter had four sons with Salome [the daughter of Angeja, the son of Varahina, the brother of Zacharias]: James, Hosea, Simon and Jude. This Jude is sometimes called: "Jude, the brother of James" due to his brother being better-known (St. Luke 6:16 Acts 1:14). St. Jude begins his epistle in this manner: Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ and the brother of James (St. Jude 1:1). Even though he could be called the brother of the Lord as much as James, he did not do this, out of humility and shame, for he did not at first believe in Christ the Lord. When the elderly Joseph, before his death, wanted to leave a portion of his estate to Jesus, as well as to his other children, all of them protested, even Jude. Only James voluntarily set aside a share of his portion and intended it for Jesus. Jude is also called Levi and Thaddeaus. There is another Thaddeaus of the Seventy Apostles (August 21), but this Thaddeaus or Jude was one of the Great Apostles. Jude preached the Gospel throughout Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Idumedia, Syria, Arabia, Mesopotamia and Armenia. In Edessa, the town of Abgar, he augmented the preaching of the other Thaddeaus. When Jude was preaching in the regions around Ararat, he was captured by pagans, crucified on a cross and killed by being shot with arrows, that he might reign eternally in the Kingdom of Christ.

## Reflection

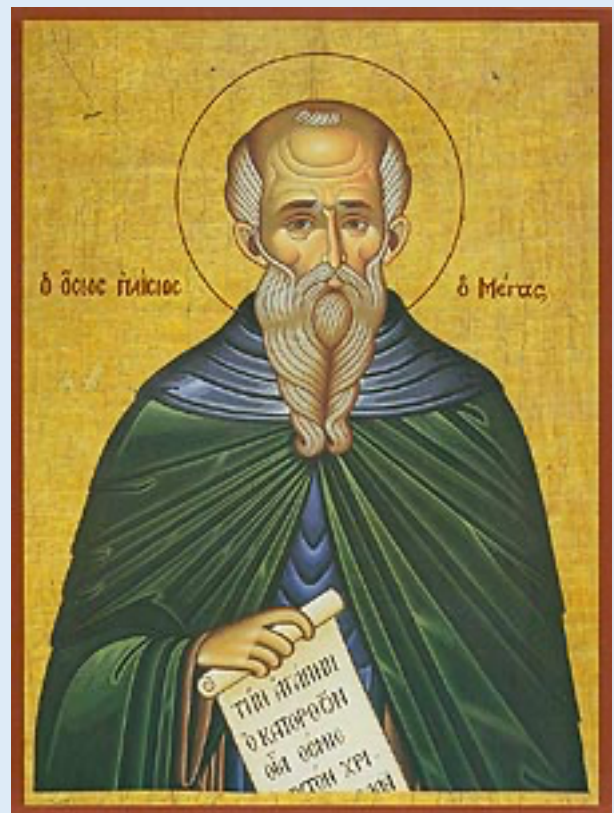
Saint Cyprian writes on immortality: "If a famous man promised you something, you would believe his promise and would not even dare to think that he who is always faithful to his word would deceive you. But behold, O treacherous one, God Himself speaks to you, and you are wavering with doubt. God has promised you immortality after your departure from this world, and do you impudently doubt this promise? This means you do not recognize God at all; it means that by your unbelief you insult Christ the Lord and Teacher." O how powerful is the faith of the saints of God! How clear and understandable and well-explained it is with simple and powerful examples! The unholy doubt, not because they are supposedly more rational, but because they are unholy. The holier man is always more rational, for in the clear mirror of his heart he sees the truth.

## Venerable Paisius the Great

Paisius was an Egyptian by birth and language. After a vision in a dream, his mother dedicated him to the service of God. As a young man, Paisius came to the Venerable Pambo, who received him as his disciple and as a fellow disciple of the Venerable John Kolovos [The Dwarf], who later wrote the biography of Paisius. To the joy of his spiritual father, Paisius added labor to labor and ascetic feat to ascetic feat. Many times the Prophet Jeremiah, whom he especially loved and often read, appeared to him. Angels of God often appeared to him and even the Lord Christ Himself. "Peace be with you, my beloved chosen one!" the Lord Christ said to him. By the great grace of God, Paisius possessed the special gift of abstaining from food. Often he did not taste bread for fifteen days, more often for a week, and once, according to the testimony of St. John the Dwarf, he went for seventy days without partaking of anything. He waged a great struggle with the spirits of evil, who appeared to him at times exactly as they are and at times in the form of radiant angels. But the blessed servant of God did not permit himself to be deceived and beguiled. Paisius was famous throughout Egypt as a clairvoyant and miracle-worker. He took up his habitation in eternity in the year 400 A.D. The Venerable Isidore of Pelusium translated the relics of Paisius to his monastery and honorably buried them.

The monks once inquired of Paisius the Great: "Father, speak to us a word of salvation. How should we live according to God?" The elder replied to them: "Go and keep the commandments of God and preserve the traditions of the Fathers."

The tradition of the Fathers is the experience of the saints in the spiritual field, the enormous experience of nearly two-thousand years, the experience of many hundreds and thousands of holy men and women. What an extremely rich depository of wisdom! What an immense mass of proofs of every truth of Holy Scripture! All that wealth, all that wisdom, all those proofs, all that experience, the Protestants have rejected! Oh, what inexpressible madness! Oh, the poverty of beggars!





## THE HOLY MARTYR JULIAN OF TARSUS

Julian was of noble and senatorial origin. He lived in Tarsus in Cilicia and suffered during the reign of Diocletian. Even though he was only eighteen years of age when he was subjected to torture for the Faith, St. Julian was sufficiently educated and strengthened in Christian piety. The imperial deputy led him from town to town for an entire year, torturing him and all the while trying to persuade him to deny Christ.

Julian's mother followed her son at a distance. When the deputy seized Julian's mother and sent her to counsel her son to deny Christ, she spoke to him for three days in prison, giving him the opposite advice, teaching him and encouraging him not to lose heart but to go to his death with thanksgiving and courage. The torturers then sewed Julian in a sack with sand, scorpions and serpents and cast the sack into the sea, and Julian's mother also died under torture. His relics were thrown onto the shore by the waves, and the faithful translated them to Alexandria and buried them honorably in the year 290 A.D. St. Julian's relics were later translated to Antioch.

St. John Chrysostom himself delivered a eulogy [an oration of praise] on the holy martyr Julian. "From the mouth of the martyr," Chrysostom said, "proceeded a holy voice, and together with the voice a light emanated brighter than the rays of the sun." Further, he added: "Take anyone, be it a madman or one possessed, and bring him to the grave of this saint, where the relics of the martyr repose, and you will see how he [the demon] without fail will leap out and flee as from a burning fire." It is obvious from these words how numerous must have been the miracles that had taken place at the grave of St. Julian.

## REFLECTION

When a man begins to train himself in keeping silent, silence seems to him to be lesser than speech; but when he is trained in silence, then he knows that speech is lesser than silence. A monk said to St. Sisoies: "I would like to preserve my heart but I cannot." The elder responded: "How can we preserve the heart when the gate to our heart--the tongue--stands open?" Charillos, the nephew of Lycurgus, was once asked why his uncle issued so few laws. He replied: "For those who speak little, many laws are not needed."





## HEBREWS 4:13

St. Paul writes, in Hebrews 4:13, that “all things are naked and open to Him to Whom we must give account.”

This sentiment can be frightening because it means that God sees not only our external sins, but also our internal sins; our errant thoughts, feelings, and impulses that so often lead to the external ones. He knows the filth that goes through our minds no matter how much we may try to hide it from Him, from others, and from ourselves.

But the good news is that, as “all things are naked and open to Him,” He also knows how you got this way. He knows of the traumas and suffering you’ve experienced, both those you’ve shared with others and those you keep to yourself, and He has compassion on how this state of being was formed within you to begin with. He knows that had your circumstances been different, you might have ended up as someone else.

But things were not different and you are who you are, with all the dirt and the baggage that comes with. Just remember that God still loves you and has empathy for your weaknesses, only asking that you recognize and repent for them. He doesn’t demand perfection from us, though of course He ideally desires it; He only asks that you realize how far from it you are and, with a broken and contrite spirit, ask His forgiveness and for Him to remember how you got this way.

**2022 Finances**  
**The Parish needs TBD/week to meet budget**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
May 1	\$ 4,199.00	TBD
May 8	\$ 3,169.00	TBD
May 15	\$ 3,714.06	TBD
May 22	\$ 1,455.00	TBD
May 29	\$ 5,175.27	TBD
June 5	\$ 4,732.56	TBD
June 12	\$ 3,775.00	TBD
June 19	\$ 5,173.00	TBD

Attendance 151

## 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, Claire, 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 Mila, Brody (Anthony) Lessin, Sophia Stylianopoulos, Olga Petrova and the baby, Mary Zupan and Lawrence, Glen & Mich Mine, Sarah Francis, Jeanine Karam, Christina Kendrat

MEMORY ETERNAL: Anita Sanford, Roy Patrick St. Clair

## **Write a letter to St. John!**

St. John Maximovitch is known throughout the world for two reasons. One is he touched the lives of countless people who attended services he offered at the communities he served from London to Shanghai to San Francisco. He also helped countless others who lived on the streets and came upon hardship and he continues to do so.

Many people wrote him letters seeking his aid, intercession and support because they knew he was a man of God, that is he followed the humble as Christ showed us. Never putting himself above others instead like Jesus He placed Himself below all people in order to lift them up. There was once a woman who visited a friend that attended his cathedral in San Francisco and she wanted to leave a letter under his relics as she was told countless others do but she missed her chance and had to get going. On her way out she said to herself, "Oh he probably doesn't read all of those letters anyway." (..sounds like a thought from the Screwtape Letters) Later that evening in a dream St. John told her, "I read every letter."

A striking account told by an eyewitness, Lidia Liu, testifies to Vladika's spiritual height. "Vladika came to Hong Kong twice. It's strange, but I, not knowing Vladika then, wrote him a letter asking him to help a widow with children, and I also asked him about some personal spiritual matter, but I never received an answer. A year passed. Vladika came to Hong Kong and I was in a crowd that went to meet him in church. Vladika turned to me and said, 'It is you who wrote me the letter!' I was astonished, since Vladika had never seen me before."

St. John may not be alive physically but in Christ he is. Christ invites all of us to partake of life in the fullest both here but especially regarding eternal life only offered through Him. Because of Christ's incarnation, death and resurrection those who follow His commandments and live with humility as He did will be blessed with eternal life. St. John is very much alive in Christ and continues to intercede for us before the Lord. So go ahead, ask a saint to bless you and intercede, they cheer us on and always lend a hand. Amen!

**Address Letters to St. John Maximovitch and send to:  
Holy Virgin Cathedral "Joy of All Who Sorrow"  
6210 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94121**