

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

November 20th Weekly Bulletin

60 Clifton Chapel Lane, Stafford, Virginia 22555 –
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1295, Stafford, VA 22555 –
Website: 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 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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Fellowship Meal

Nov. 20 – Fellowship Team 3
Nov. 27 – Fellowship Team 4
Dec. 4 – Fellowship Team 1
Dec. 11 – Fellowship Team 2
Dec. 18 – Fellowship Team 3

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

Nov. 20 – Andrei Petrov
Nov. 27 – George
Dec. 4 – Constantine
Dec. 11 – Sbd. Stephen Terrell
Dec. 18 – TBD
Dec. 25 – Rdr. Stephen Miroy

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

Liturgical Services/Activities:

Wed. Nov. 16/Nov. 3

Martyrs Acepimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter, and Aeithalas the Deacon, of Persia

4:30 p.m. Confessions
6:30 p.m. Great Vesper
7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting and Potluck

Sat. Nov. 19/Nov. 6

St. Paul the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople

1:30 p.m. Parish Clean Up
3:00 p.m. Catechumen's Class
5:00 p.m. Great Vespers and Confessions
6:00 p.m. Brotherhood Get Together

Sun. Nov. 20/Nov. 7

Holy 33 Martyrs of Melitene

9:30 a.m. Hours
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Fri. Nov 25/Nov. 12

St. John the Merciful, patriarch of Alexandria (620)

6:30 p.m. Moleben and Akathist followed by Potluck

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.

Church Food Pantry

The Church Food Pantry is now open in the hall basement, and you can take food from the pantry anytime the hall is open. If you also need monetary assistance for items not in the pantry, such as gas or baby items, please talk to, email, or call Fr. Alexander Laymon at anevsky54@gmail.com or 540.212.1855.

The Pantry will continually be accepting food donations by placing the food in the hall, and accepting monetary donations in the church donation box marked "Food Pantry".

Limited Seating

The pews around the nave are placed there primarily for pregnant women, parents with small children, the aged and infirm. If you are young and healthy please be considerate of other parishioners and allow those who need to sit down a place to do so.

Flower Fund

The Sisterhood has established a donation box to collect money to furnish flowers for our church. The box is in the narthex. Please make checks payable to the Sisterhood of the Myrrh-bearing Women.

Parish Clean Up

We are looking for around 10-15 people to help on Saturday November 19th starting at 1:30 PM with taking care of the church grounds to prepare for Metropolitan Nicholas' arrival, and before winter is upon us. We will be blowing and raking leaves, cleaning the gutters, trimming trees and fixing the road, etc. Please consider helping. If the weather is bad, we will cancel and do it on Sunday November 20th after lunch. If you have tools (leaf blower, shovel, rake, pick, etc.) please bring them. Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084da8a72ea7ff2-stherman2>. NOTE that the Brotherhood will be meeting that night after the service for brotherhood and brats, so come early and work up an appetite.

Sewing Guild

The sewing guild meets every second Saturday of the month from noon until 2:30 pm to work on pattern making and other various projects for the church. **WE WILL NOT MEET ON DEC. 11.** Bring your sewing machine and white thread to help with these projects. No sewing experience is required; these are learn as you go projects. For additional information please contact Judith Cook at sarithsews@gmail.com or Kris Milligan at thosemilligans@gmail.com.

Metropolitan Nicholas is Coming!

On Friday after Thanksgiving, November 24 at 6:30pm, Metropolitan Nicholas will come and visit our Parish, and bring the ancient miraculous Kursk Icon of the Mother of God. This will be his first official visit as First Hierarch to our parish. He hopes to meet everyone, and all of us should come and ask his blessing. We will serve a Moleben and Akathist to the Mother of God before the holy Icon.

Melanie Raccanello GoFundMe

There was a collection this past Sunday for Isadora (Melanie) Raccanello as she battles an aggressive form of breast cancer. The collection will help pay for her medical bills and living expenses as she fights this battle. If you prefer, you may also make donations through a GoFundMe page which has been established by her children and their spouses <https://www.gofundme.com/f/melanieraccanello>.

Monastery Bookstore is Back!

By popular request, the St. Demetrios Monastery Bookstore will be returning on the 4th December after Divine Liturgy, in the fellowship hall. It will have many books and Christmas gifts!



23rd Sunday after Pentecost Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

- 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

23rd Sunday after Pentecost Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

- 41 And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house,
42 for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him.
43 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any,
44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.
45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' "
46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."
47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.
48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."
49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."
50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."
51 When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl.
52 Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping."
53 And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.
54 But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise."
55 Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat.
56 And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

The Kursk Root Icon

The Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God “Of the Sign” is one of the most ancient icons of the Russian Church. In the thirteenth century during the Tatar invasion, when all the Russian realm was put to the extremest tribulation, the city of Kursk, ravaged by the Horde of Batu, fell into desolation.

One day in the environs of the city a hunter noticed the ancient icon, lying on a root face downwards to the ground. The hunter lifted it and saw that the image of the icon was similar to the Novgorod “Znamenie” Icon. With the appearance of this icon immediately there appeared its first miracle. Just as the hunter lifted up the holy icon from the earth, right then, at that place where the icon lay, gushed up strongly a spring of pure water. This occurred on September 8, 1259. The hunter decided not to leave the icon in the forest and settled on as a resting place an ancient small chapel, in which he put the newly-appeared image of the Theotokos. Soon inhabitants of the city of Ryla heard about this, and being in location not far away, they began to visit the place of the appearance for venerating the new holy image.

They transferred the icon to Ryla and put it in a new church in honor of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos. But the icon did not long remain there. It disappeared and returned to its former place of appearance. The inhabitants of Ryla repeatedly took it and carried it to the city, but the icon incomprehensibly returned to its former place. Everyone then realized, that the Theotokos preferred the place of appearance of Her Icon. The special help granted by the Mother of God through this icon is bound up with important events in Russian history: with the war of liberation of the Russian nation during the Polish-Lithuanian incursion in 1612, and the 1812 Fatherland war. From the icon several copies were made, which also were glorified.



THE HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND ALL THE BODILESS POWERS OF HEAVEN

The angels of God were celebrated by men from earliest times but this celebration was often turned into the divinization of angels (II Kings 23:5). The heretics wove all sorts of fables concerning the angels. Some of them looked upon angels as gods; others, although they did not consider them gods, called them the creators of the whole visible world. The local Council of Laodicea (four or five years before the First Ecumenical Council) rejected the worship of angels as gods and established the proper veneration of angels in its Thirty-fifth Canon. In the fourth century, during the time of Sylvester, Pope of Rome, and Alexander, Patriarch of Alexandria, the present Feast of Archangel Michael and all the other heavenly powers was instituted for celebration in the month of November. Why precisely in November? Because November is the ninth month after March, and March is considered to be the month in which the world was created. Also, as the ninth month after March, November was chosen for the nine orders of angels who were created first. St. Dionysius the Areopagite, a disciple of the Apostle Paul (who was taken up into the third heaven), described these nine orders of angels in his book, *On the Celestial Hierarchies*, as follows: six-winged Seraphim, many-eyed Cherubim, God-bearing Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Virtues, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. The leader of all the angelic hosts is the Archangel Michael. When Satan, Lucifer, fell away from God and drew a part of the angels with him to destruction, then Michael stood up and cried out before the faithful angels: "Let us attend! Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear!" and all of the faithful angelic heavenly hosts cried out: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!" Concerning the Archangel Michael, see Joshua 5:13-15 and Jude 1:9. Among the angels there reign perfect oneness of mind, oneness of soul, and love. The lower orders also show complete obedience to the higher orders, and all of them together to the holy will of God. Every nation has its guardian angel, as does every Christian. We must always remember that whatever we do, in open or in secret, we do in the presence of our guardian angel. On the day of the Dread Judgment, the multitude of the hosts of the holy angels of heaven will gather around the throne of Christ, and the deeds, words, and thoughts of every man will be revealed before all. May God have mercy on us and save us by the prayers of the Archangel Michael and all the bodiless heavenly powers. Amen.



Reflection on the Archangels

Holy Scripture clearly and irrefutably witnesses that angels ceaselessly communicate with this world. The Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Church teaches us the names of the seven leaders of the angelic powers: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salathiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel (an eighth, Jeremiel, is sometimes included).

"Michael" in the Hebrew language means "Who is like unto God?" or "Who is equal to God?" St. Michael has been depicted from earliest Christian times as a commander, who holds in his right hand a spear with which he attacks Lucifer, Satan, and in his left hand a green palm branch. At the top of the spear there is a linen ribbon with a red cross. The Archangel Michael is especially considered to be the Guardian of the Orthodox Faith and a fighter against heresies.

"Gabriel" means "Man of God" or "Might of God." He is the herald of the mysteries of God, especially the Incarnation of God and all other mysteries related to it. He is depicted as follows: In his right hand, he holds a lantern with a lighted taper inside, and in his left hand, a mirror of green jasper. The mirror signifies the wisdom of God as a hidden mystery.

"Raphael" means "God's healing" or "God the Healer." (Tobit 3:17, 12:15). Raphael is depicted leading Tobit (who is carrying a fish caught in the Tigris) with his right hand, and holding a physician's alabaster jar in his left hand.

"Uriel" means "Fire of God," or "Light of God" (II Esdras 4:1, 5:20). He is depicted holding a sword against the Persians in his right hand, and a fiery flame in his left.

"Salathiel" means "Intercessor of God" (III Esdras 5:16). He is depicted with his face and eyes lowered, holding his hands on his bosom in prayer.

"Jegudiel" means "Glorifier of God." He is depicted bearing a golden wreath in his right hand and a triple-thonged whip in his left hand.

"Barachiel" means "Blessing of God." He is depicted holding a white rose in his hand against his breast.

"Jeremiel" means "God's exaltation." He is venerated as an inspirer and awakener of exalted thoughts that raise a man toward God (III Ezra 4:36).

2022 Finances

The Parish needs \$4,129.49/week to meet budget INCLUDING transfer to Building Fund
Transfer to the Building Fund has been suspended until Dec. 31st

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
June 5	\$ 4,732.56	\$ 603.07
June 12	\$ 3,775.00	-\$ 354.49
June 19	\$ 5,173.00	\$ 1,043.51
June 26	\$ 1,887.00	-\$ 2,242.49
July 3	\$ 2,887.00	-\$ 1,242.49
July 10	\$ 1,879.00	-\$ 2,250.49
July 17	\$ 2,740.28	-\$ 1,389.21
July 24	\$ 1,540.00	-\$ 2,589.49
July 31	\$ 7,145.28	\$ 3,015.79
Aug 7	\$ 5,047.28	\$ 917.79
Aug 14	\$ 1,467.00	-\$ 2,662.49
Aug 21	\$ 2,702.00	-\$ 1,427.49
Aug 29	\$ 6,386.40	\$ 2,256.91
Sept 4	\$ 2,552.00	-\$ 1,577.49
Sept 11	\$ 3,539.39	-\$ 590.01
Sept 18	\$ 2,930.00	-\$ 1,199.49
Sept 25	\$ 4,136.21	\$ 6.72
Oct 2	\$ 3,320.00	-\$ 809.49
Oct 9	\$ 3,688.28	-\$ 441.21
Oct. 16	\$ 3,364.00	-\$ 765.49
Oct. 23	\$ 4,659.00	\$ 529.51
Oct. 30	\$ 2,810.07	-\$ 1,319.42
Nov. 7	\$ 3,718.64	-\$ 410.85
Nov. 13	\$ 2,951.00	-\$ 1,178.49

Attendance: 118

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, 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, Sarah Francis, Jeanine Karam, Christina Kendrat, Alexa, Valentina, Victor, Maria, Max, Mark, Elena, Anna, Benedict

MEMORY ETERNAL: Mitch (Michael) Mine, Leonidas Stylianopoulos