

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

December 4th 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

Dec. 4 – Fellowship Team 1
Dec. 11 – Fellowship Team 2
Dec. 18 – Fellowship Team 3
Dec. 25 – Fellowship Team 4

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

Dec. 4 – Constantine
Dec. 11 – Sbd. Stephen Terrell
Dec. 18 – TBD
Dec. 25 – Rdr. Stephen Mirov

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

Liturgical Services/Activities:

Sat. Dec. 3/Nov. 20

Forefeast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

3:00 p.m. Catechumen's Class

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers NO CONFESSION

Sun. Dec. 4/Nov. 21

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

9:30 a.m. Hours

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wed. Dec. 7/Nov. 24

Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305)

4:30 p.m. Confessions

6:30 p.m. Great Vesper

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting and 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.

Help Decorate!

Please help decorate the Chapel for the upcoming Feast of the Nativity. There is a plan in place for the Nativity decorations of the Chapel and you are invited to help out! Any donations of red poinsettias would be greatly appreciated--any size, but please only red color. Thank you for any help!

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.

Sisterhood Silent Auction

Sisterhood Silent Auction! Baskets and goodies are being collected for the sisterhood Silent Auction. During the St. Demetrios book sale Dec 4th, view and bid on items in the bookstore/library room next to the kitchen. On December 18th the items will be out on display and there will be a last chance to make a bid on your favorite(s)! Wine, games, incense, gardening--it is a great way to pick up a beautiful Nativity gift for someone! Please talk with Kristin Milligan if you have any questions.

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!



The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos

When the Most-holy Virgin Mary reached the age of three, her holy parents Joachim and Anna took her from Nazareth to Jerusalem to dedicate her to the service of God according to their earlier promise. It was a three-day journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem but, traveling to do a God-pleasing work, this journey was not difficult for them. Many kinsmen of Joachim and Anna gathered in Jerusalem to take part in this event, at which the invisible angels of God were also present.

Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the Most-holy Virgin, led on one side by her father and on the other side by her mother. The virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the "King's daughter, the Bride of God" (Psalm 45:13-15). Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted tapers.

Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zacharias, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the "Holy of Holies," the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. St. Theophylact of Ohrid says that Zacharias "was outside himself and possessed by God" when he led the Virgin into the holiest place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain--otherwise, his action could not be explained.

Mary's parents then offered sacrifice to God according to the Law, received the priest's blessing and returned home. The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often, especially Righteous Anna. When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. As that would have been against the Law and custom of Israel, she was given to St. Joseph, her kinsman in Nazareth, after reaching the age of twelve. Under the acceptable role of one betrothed, she could live in virginity and thus fulfill her desire and formally satisfy the Law, for it was then unknown in Israel for maidens to vow virginity to the end of their lives. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.



2022 Finances

The Parish needs \$3,041.90/week to meet budget WITHOUT 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	\$ 278.10
Oct 9	\$ 3,688.28	-\$ 646.38
Oct. 16	\$ 3,364.00	\$ 1,617.1
Oct. 23	\$ 4,659.00	\$ 159.00
Oct. 30	\$ 2,810.07	\$ 646.38
Nov. 7	\$ 3,718.64	\$ 676.74
Nov. 13	\$ 2,951.00	-\$ 90.90
Nov. 20	\$ 4,091.00	\$ 1,049.10
Nov.27	\$ 3,009.28	-\$ 32.62

Attendance: 127

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

MEMORY ETERNAL: Mitch (Michael) Mine, Leonidas Stylianopoulos