

# St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church July 17<sup>th</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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**Hierodeacon Mark  
(Sanford)**  
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## Fellowship Meal

July 17 – Fellowship Team 3  
July 24 – Fellowship Team 4  
July 31- Fellowship POTLUCK  
Aug. 7 – Fellowship Team 1  
Aug. 14 – Fellowship 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 Jo Lu Terrell.

✠ ✠ ✠

## Reader Schedule

July 17 – John R.  
July 24 – Br. Andrew  
July 31 – Rdr. John Aponte  
Aug 7 - George

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

## Liturgical Services/Activities:

Sat. July 16/July 3

### Martyr Hyacinth of Caesarea in Cappadocia

3:00 p.m. NO CLASS

4:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Sun. July 17/July 4

### Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia

9:30 a.m. Hours

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wed. July 20/July 7

### Venerable Thomas of Mt. Maleon (10th c.)

5:00 p.m. Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Adult Education Class

Sat. July 23/July 10

### The Placing of the Precious Robe of the Lord at Moscow (1625)

3:00 p.m. Catechumen's Class

4:00 p.m. Confessions

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Sun. July 24/July 11

### Blessed Equal-to-the-Apostles Olga, princess of Russia

9:30 a.m. Hours

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Readings for the Week of  
June 22<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday 7/15**

Romans 16:1-16  
Matthew 13:4-9  
Hebrews 9:1-7 Theotokos  
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28  
Theotokos

**Saturday 7/16**

Luke 6:17-23 Matins Gospel  
Romans 8:14-21  
Matthew 9:9-13  
Hebrews 13:17-21 Hieromartyr  
Philip  
John 10:9-16 Hieromartyr Philip

**Sunday 7/17**

Luke 24:12-35 (5th Matins  
Gospel)  
Romans 10:1-10 (Epistle)  
Matthew 8:28-9:1 (Gospel)  
Romans 8:28-39 Royal Martyrs  
John 15:17-16:2 Royal Martyrs  
Hebrews 13:7-16 St. Andrew  
Rublev  
Luke 6:17-23 St. Andrew Rublev  
Hebrews 8:3-6 St. Andrew,  
archbishop of Crete  
Matthew 7:12-21 St. Andrew,  
archbishop of Crete

**Monday 7/18**

Matthew 11:27-30 Matins Gospel  
Romans 16:17-24  
Matthew 13:10-23  
Galatians 5:22-6:2 St. Athanasius  
Luke 6:17-23 St. Athanasius  
2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Sts.  
Elizabeth and Barbara  
Matthew 15:21-28 Sts. Elizabeth  
and Barbara

**Tuesday 7/19**

1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
Matthew 13:24-30

**Wednesday 7/20**

1 Corinthians 2:9-3:8  
Matthew 13:31-36 Thursday  
Reading  
1 Corinthians 3:18-23  
Matthew 13:36-43

**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**

Please help us "Stock the Shelves" of the St. Herman Food Pantry this Sunday 7/17. Drop off your non-perishable food items in the Church hall. We need cans, glass, or plastic containers of food (e.g. vegetables, fruit, soup, pasta sauce, peanut butter, etc.) that have a 6 month or more expiration date.

You can also donate by cash, check or Walmart gift cards and drop them off in the donation box inside the church. Please purchase here

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Charitable-25-Walmart-Gift-Card-Alcohol-Tobacco-Lottery-Firearms-Prohibited/123045072>

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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."

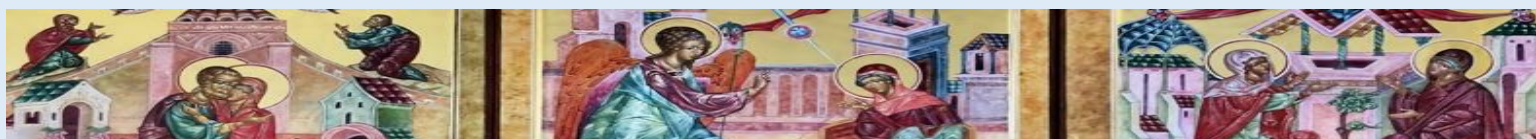
<https://queenofallskete.org/about-us/>

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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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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after PENETECOST EPISTLE: Romans 10:1- 10

- <sup>1</sup> Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.
- <sup>2</sup> For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.
- <sup>3</sup> For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.
- <sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- <sup>5</sup> For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."
- <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above)
- <sup>7</sup> or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
- <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):
- <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### **SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THEY HAVE NOT SUBMITTED TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

Observe how adroitly he favors them in the word, and yet shows their unseasonable obstinacy. These things he says to show that it was from a petulancy and love of power that they erred, rather than from ignorance. For if Christ be "the end of the Law", he who does not have Christ, even if he seems to have righteousness, does not have it. But he who has Christ, even though he may not have properly fulfilled the Law, has received the whole. For the end of the physician's art is health ... He who does not know how to heal, though he may seem to be a follower of the art, comes short of everything: so is it in the case of the Law and of faith. For what was the object of the Law? To make man righteous. But it did not have the power, for no one fulfilled it ..But to this end Christ gave a fuller accomplishment through faith. Be not then afraid, he says, as if you are transgressing the Law by having come over to the faith. For only then do you transgress it, When for the sake of the Law you do not believe in Christ.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after PENTECOST GOSPEL: Matthew 8:28 – 9:1

- 28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.
- 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"
- 30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.
- 31 So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."
- 32 And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.
- 33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.
- 34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.
- <sup>1</sup> So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.



### THREE MET HIM TWO DEMONS-POSSESSED MEN, COMING OUT OF THE TOMBS

But what can be the reason that they love to dwell in the tombs? This would easily suggest to the multitude a pernicious opinion, as though the souls of the dead become demons, which God forbid we should ever admit into our conception... It does not stand to reason that the injured soul should cooperate with the wrongdoer, or that a man should be able to change to an incorporeal power away from the body to wander here some more. For the 'souls of the righteous are in the hand of God' (Wisdom 3:1), and the souls of sinners too are immediately led away from here. This is evident from Lazarus and the rich man, and elsewhere too Christ says, 'This day they require your soul of you'. How should the soul, being rent away from the body, and having gone out from all her accustomed region, know where to walk without one to show her the way? Why did Christ fulfill the devil's request? One, to teach those who are delivered from the wicked tyrants how great is the malice, another, that all might learn how not even against swine are they bold, unless He should so allow them.

-St. John Chrysostom



## HOLY ROYAL MARTYRS OF RUSSIA: TSAR NICHOLAS II, TSARITSA ALEXANDRA, CROWN PRINCE ALEXIS, AND GRAND-DUCHESSES OLGA, TATIANA, MARIA, AND ANASTASIA, AND THOSE MARTYRED WITH THEM (1918)

"Tsar Nicholas II was the son of Alexander III, who had reposed in the arms of St John of Kronstadt. Having been raised in piety, Tsar Nicholas ever sought to rule in a spirit consonant with the precepts of Orthodoxy and the best traditions of his nation.

Tsaritsa Alexandra, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria of England, and a convert from Lutheranism, was noted for her piety and compassion for the poor and suffering. Their five children were beloved of all for their kindness, modesty, and guilelessness.

"Amidst the political turmoil of 1917, Tsar Nicholas selflessly abdicated the throne for what he believed was the good of his country. Although he had abdicated willingly, the revolutionaries put him and his family under house arrest, then sent them under guard to Tobolsk and finally Ekaterinburg. A letter written from Tobolsk by Grand Duchess Olga, the eldest of the children, shows their nobility of soul. She writes, 'My father asks that I convey to all those who have remained devoted to him... that they should not take vengeance on his account, because he has forgiven everyone and prays for them all. Nor should they avenge themselves. Rather, they should bear in mind that this evil which is now present in the world will become yet stronger, but that evil will not conquer evil, but only love shall do so.'

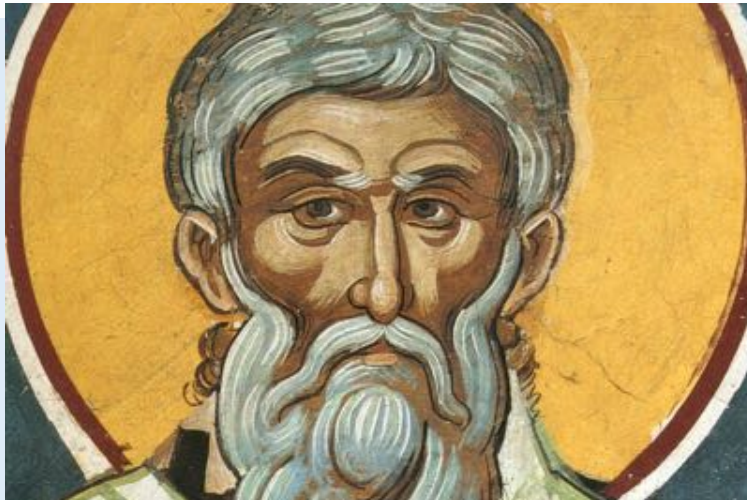
"After enduring sixteen months of imprisonment, deprivation, and humiliation with a Christian patience which moved even their captors, they and those who were with them gained their crowns of martyrdom when they were shot and stabbed to death in the cellar of the Ipatiev house in Ekaterinburg in 1918.

"Together with them are also commemorated those who faithfully served them, and were either slain with them, or on their account..." (Great Horologion)



## SAINT ANDREW, ARCHBISHOP OF CRETE

Andrew was born in Damascus of Christian parents, and he was mute from birth until the age of seven. When his parents brought him to church and he received Holy Communion, he began to speak. Such is the power of Divine and Holy Communion. At age fourteen, Andrew went to Jerusalem and was tonsured in the Lavra of St. Sabas the Sanctified. By virtue of his understanding and asceticism, he surpassed many of the older monks and was an example to them. After a while the patriarch took him as his personal secretary. When the Monothelite heresy--which held that the Lord Jesus did not possess a human will, but only a divine will--began to rage, the Sixth Ecumenical Council was convened in Constantinople, in the year 681 A.D. during the reign of Constantine IV [Bearded One]. Theodore, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, was unable to attend the council but sent Andrew (at the time an archdeacon) as his representative. There, Andrew displayed his splendid gifts, his oratory, his zeal for the Faith, and his rare prudence. Having assisted in strengthening the Orthodox Faith, Andrew returned to his duties in Jerusalem. Later, he was elected and installed as the Archbishop of the Island of Crete. As archbishop, he was greatly loved by the people. Andrew was very zealous for Orthodoxy and vehemently resisted all heresies. Through his prayers he worked miracles, including driving the Saracens from the Island of Crete. Andrew wrote many books of instruction, hymns and canons, of which the most renowned is the Great Canon of repentance, read on the Thursday of the fifth week of the Great Lenten Season. His outward appearance was such that, "seeing his face and hearing his words flowing like honey, everyone found delight and mended their ways." Finally, while returning from a sea journey to Constantinople, Andrew foretold that his death would occur before he arrived in Crete. And so it happened. As the ship sailed near the island of Mitylene, this beacon of the Church finished his earthly life and his soul took up habitation in the Kingdom of Christ, in the year 721 A.D.



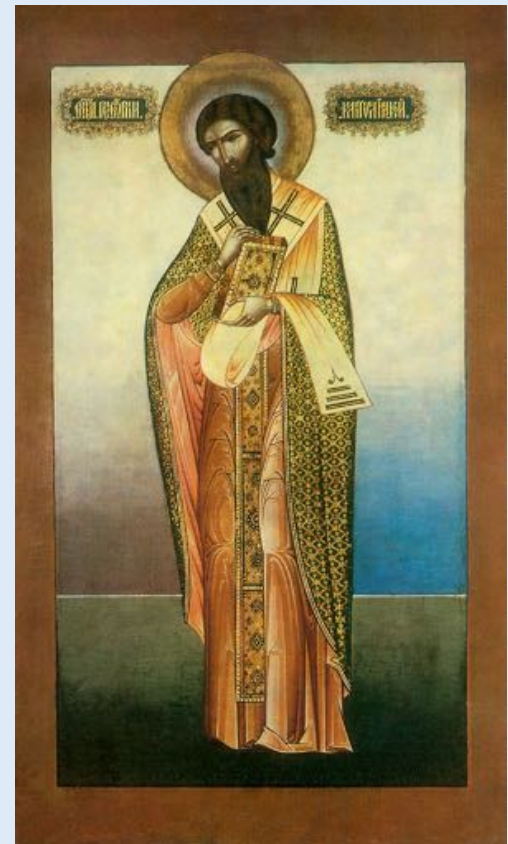
## St. George the Confessor

George was chosen and installed as Metropolitan of Mitylene for his great virtues, which he attained through long ascetic labors. This saint governed his spiritual flock prudently and zealously to a great old age. When a persecution began under Leo the Armenian, who destroyed the holy icons, this saintly elder was summoned to Constantinople, to an assembly of bishops, whose intention, at the desire of the emperor, was to put a stop to the veneration of icon. George not only refused to carry out the wish of the wicked emperor, but with other courageous bishops stood up in defense of holy icons. Not only was he mocked for this, but he was also exiled by the emperor to the region of Cherson. There he endured all sorts of physical afflictions and deprivations for the remaining years of his life. He reposed and entered into eternal life in about the year 816 A.D. Because of his great sanctity and love for the Lord Jesus, George was a great miracle-worker, both during his life and after his death.

### Reflection

If your entire life has passed smoothly and without cares, then weep for yourself. For the Gospel and human experience assert with one accord that, without great pain and suffering, no one has left behind any great or beneficial work on earth or been glorified in the heavens. If, however, your earthly sojourn has been completely bathed with sweat and tears--to attain justice and truth--rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward will be great in the heavens. Never succumb to the insane thought that God has abandoned you. God knows exactly how much each one can endure and measures the sufferings and pains of each accordingly.

St. Nilus of Sora says: "When even men know how much weight a horse can carry, how much a donkey, and how much a camel can carry, thus load them according to their strength; and when a potter knows how long to leave the clay in the kiln, so that it will neither be shattered nor over-baked--how could God not know how much temptation a soul can bear to make it ready and fit for the Kingdom of Heaven?"





## MARTYRDOM OF ST. ELIZABETH ROMANOV AND NUN BARBARA (1918)

Grand Duchess Elizabeth was a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria of England and the older sister of the Empress Alexandra (July 4). After marrying Grand Duke Sergei she converted to the Orthodox faith, though this was not required by her position. After her husband was assassinated in 1905, she took monastic vows and withdrew from the world, founding the Convent of Saints Mary and Martha. There she served as superior, devoting her time to prayer, fasting, and caring for the sick and the poor.

During the Russian Revolution, she was seized by the God-hating Bolsheviks and taken to the Urals, where she and several with her were martyred by being thrown alive down an abandoned mine-shaft. When the fall did not kill them, soldiers threw grenades down the shaft to complete their work. Saint Elizabeth was singing the Cherubic Hymn when she died.

The Nun Barbara, her cell-attendant, voluntarily followed St Elizabeth into exile and received martyrdom with her. Their relics were recovered and taken at great risk to China, then to Jerusalem, where they were deposited in the Convent of St Mary Magdalene. When their reliquaries were opened in 1981, their bodies were found to be partly incorrupt, and gave off a sweet fragrance.

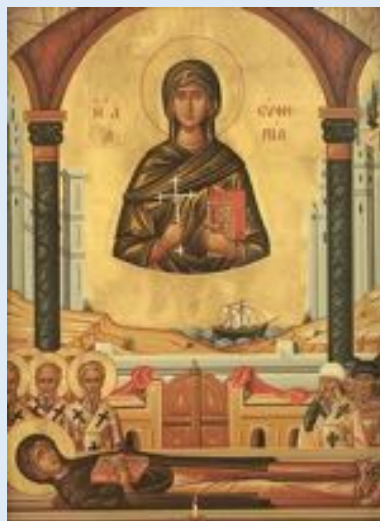
Footnote: After the assassination of her husband in Moscow, Grand Duchess Elizabeth had a cross erected at the site of his death, bearing the inscription "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." After the revolution, the cross remained standing through the devotion of the people of Moscow to St Elizabeth, until it was personally torn down by Lenin.





## REMEMBRANCE OF THE MIRACLE OF SAINT EUPHEMIA THE ALL-PRAISEWORTHY

Saint Euphemia is commemorated on September 16, the day on which she was martyred. On this day is commemorated the miracle-working power of her honorable relics, which was manifested at the time of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon. This Council was convened during the reign of Emperor Marcian and Empress Pulcheria in the year 451 A.D., after the death of Emperor Theodosius the Younger. The reason for summoning this Council was the heresy of Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, and Eutyches, an archimandrite from Constantinople who had spread the false teaching that in Christ the Lord there are not two natures, divine and human, but only a Divine Nature. At this Council, the most prominent roles were played by Anatolius, Patriarch of Constantinople, and Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Because a decision could not be reached through debates and testimonies from both sides, Patriarch Anatolius proposed that the Orthodox and the heretics each write down their confession of faith, and that they then be placed into the coffin where the relics of St. Euphemia lay. They all agreed to this. Therefore, the two confessions of faith were written and placed on the bosom of the great-martyr. The coffin was closed and sealed with the emperor's seal, and soldiers were commanded to watch over it. All the members of the Council then spent three days in prayer and fasting. When they opened the coffin on the fourth day, they found the Orthodox Confession of Faith in the right hand of the saint and the heretical confession of faith under her feet. Thus, by the power of God, the dispute was decided in favor of Orthodoxy. During the reign of Emperor Heraclius, the relics of St. Euphemia were translated from Chalcedon to Constantinople, to the church dedicated to her near the Hippodrome. The iconoclastic Emperor Leo the Isaurian ordered that these relics be thrown into the sea, but the coffin was miraculously translated to the island of Lemnos and was placed in the Church of the Holy Martyr Glyceria. Then, during the reign of the Empress Irene, the coffin with the relics of St. Euphemia was returned to Constantinople, to its former place. From time to time, blood has flowed from these relics, to help those who are ill or in misery.



## 2022 Finances

The Parish needs \$4,129.49/week to meet budget INCLUDING transfer to Building Fund

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Difference from amount needed</u>
May 1	\$ 4,199.00	\$ 69.51
May 8	\$ 3,169.00	-\$ 960.49
May 15	\$ 3,714.06	-\$ 415.43
May 22	\$ 1,455.00	-\$ 2,674.49
May 29	\$ 5,175.27	\$ 1,045.78
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 9	\$ 1,879.00	-\$ 2,250.49

Attendance 141

## 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, Glen & Mich Mine, Sarah Francis, Jeanine Karam, Christina Kendrat

MEMORY ETERNAL: Anita Sanford, Roy Patrick St. Clair