



St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

5107 Darrow Road
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"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"

www.sainthermanchurch.org



Important This Week—Nativity Fast All Week

Tuesday, 23Dec, 6PM Vespers of Nativity

Wednesday, 24Dec, 10AM Royal Hours, 1130PM All Night Vigil/Nativity Divine Liturgy

Saturday, 27Dec, 6PM Vespers; Sunday, 28Dec, 10AM Divine Liturgy

21 Dec 25

Sunday Before Nativity

Christ is Born!

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

It is with these joyous words that we greet one another in this season. What more joyous news is there than the birth of a child?
What more joyous news is there than God coming in the flesh to redeem His creation as that newly born child?

In the world around us, we find troubles, sorrow, pain, suffering. As human beings we desire with all our hearts to see all suffering come to an end. But we find ourselves powerless to do much to change the world and put an end to such things.

But in the coming of Christ, we can look upon all these things in a new light. He is the Light of the World, and in His Light we shall see light! Because Christ is born, mankind need no longer fear the suffering in the world, for God shows to us His intention to unite again fallen mankind with Himself, and where God is, there is neither sorrow nor sighing, but only life everlasting!

Saint Paul taught us about our Lord's own joy in His work by saying, *"Looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (Heb 12:2) Even our Lord endured human sufferings and sorrow. But within these, God the Son encountered joy in accomplishing His ministry, to redeem us from our sins, from our own suffering, so that we might become filled with the same joy that filled Him.

We end our Liturgical services with a benediction, a word that translates from the Latin to literally mean "to speak well of", but meaning to give a blessing. In that benediction, we say, *"May Christ our God, through the prayers of Have mercy on us and save us, for He is good, and He loves us!"* Each time I offer that prayer, I'm struck with those final words. He is good. This I know. But, He loves us. As the words pass my lips, I very often think, "Why?"

Perhaps this is the greatest mystery of all. God loves us—you, and me, and the neighbor who taunts us, and the person in traffic who cut us off this morning, and the boss who chewed us out last week. He loves all of us. How can we not be filled with joy when we know we are so loved? How can we be at odds with people whom we know our Lord loves as much as He loves us?

We are benefactors of a love that exceeds all love we can know in this world, for God's love supersedes the love of this world. His love is focused on overcoming what binds us to this world, to take us to be with Him, where He is. This is the reason that He comes to take on our flesh today, so that He might provide the way for us to be with Him for all time. Because He loves us!

In this season of renewal, when nature begins to turn from darkness to light, let us take firm hold of this love that can and must bring us joy that overflows our ability to contain it! Let the joy of this day so fill us that we shout to those around us, "Christ is Born!", expecting the greeting to fill them with the love and joy that fills us.

May the joy of this day fill your hearts with His joy, and may His love fill each of us so that we might share both with all whom we greet, on this day, and on every day with the festal shout, "Christ is Born!"

Father Basil

This Week's Prayer Requests

For Health—St. Herman's: Met. Joseph, Pat, Sandra, Richard, Sam, Judy, Mitchell, Joe, Christian, Al, Sam, Fr.Dn.Basil, Nikandra, Fr.Jerome, Nora & Bob, Lori, Bill
For the Departed: Patriarchs Maxim and Neofit, Metropolitans Theodosius

and Maximos, Archpriest Stephan, Popadia Marika, Matushka Illaria, Nun Theophania, Matushka Theodora, Stephen, Reader Charles, Betty Lou, Lainey Kay, Katherine, Jeanne, Margaret, Lenni, Deaconessa Nana

Weekly Statistics

Saturday	Divine Liturgy	13Dec	22 faithful	27 views
	Vigil	13Dec		SNOW
Sunday	Divine Liturgy	14Dec		SNOW

In the News

Videos of services can be found at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOKICLMmH_-FIDe8SoWOW

Services this week are set to celebrate our Lord's Nativity!

Tuesday, 23Dec, **6PM** Vespers of Nativity

Wednesday, 24Dec, **10AM** Royal Hours

Wednesday, 24Dec, **1130PM** All Night Vigil/
 Nativity Divine Liturgy

Saturday, 27Dec, **6PM** Vespers

Sunday, 28Dec, **10AM** Divine Liturgy

I Think We Need More of These....

*Many of us feel
 remorse for our
 sins, yet we
 gladly accept
 their causes.*

**(St. Mark the
 Ascetic)**

The Importance of Christian Friendships [Abbot Tryphon]

In this age where secularism is on the rise, and materialism has become a major distraction from spiritual pursuits, Christian friendship has never been more important. The pursuit of personal fulfillment, entertainment, worldly pleasure, and the acquisition of material goods, has become the dominant theme of our age. Families that once placed the life of the Church as the center of their week, have drifted away from God. Having made idols of worldly pleasures and pursuits, their family life has become focused on transitory goals, leaving them in a state of spiritual bankruptcy. Parents who once brought their children to the temple, having lost their own way, watch those children stray far from faith.

Centered on worldly pursuits, we've allowed our spiritual life to be displaced by things that are transitory in nature, no longer thinking of the things of God. Our spiritual illness has infected

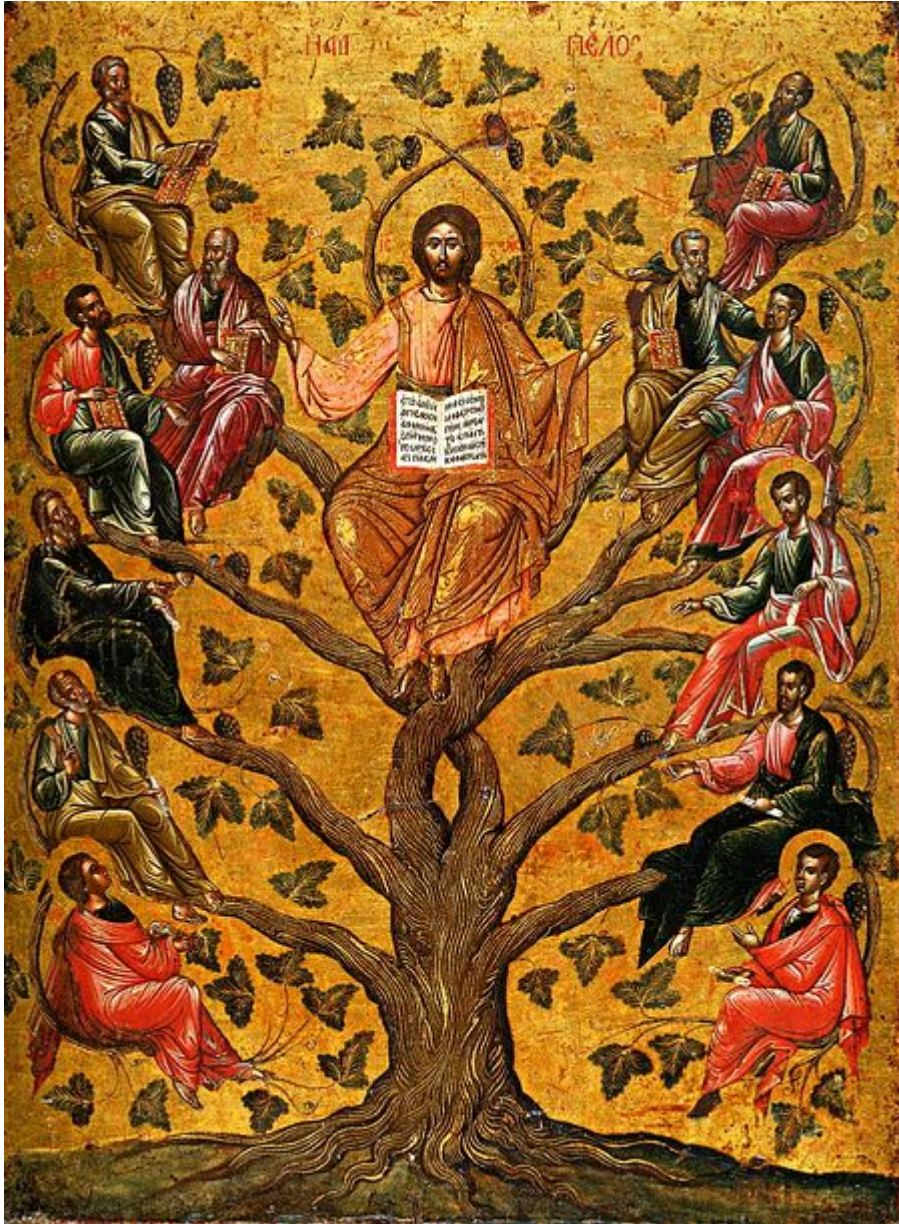
our youth like a virus, leaving them with little to sustain them, when times get tough. The economic, political, and social instability of our age demands that we be spiritually fit, yet we give our youth virtually nothing that will help them through the hardships ahead. The terrible storms that have destroyed whole towns in the Midwest, appear to be just the beginning of what many scientists see as our future, yet we continue on a path that remains focused on material gain, and personal fulfillment. Hardly the elements that can sustain the human heart during disasters, or terrible personal loss.

The life of a Christian has never been easy, but in an age that is proving to be hostile towards the things of God, Christian friendship is all the more important. We need each other. We need the encouragement that Christian friendship can give, as we face a world that has rejected Christ. The unity we have when

we receive the Body and Blood of the Saviour, during each and every celebration of the Divine Liturgy, gives us strength to withstand whatever may be coming. When all else has failed, and our culture, economy, and material world has fallen into ruin, only faith will have the power to sustain us.

It is only our faith, supported and strengthened by our fellowship in Christ, that will have the lasting power to keep us from falling into despair, as our world enters into a darkness that will seem unconquerable. Hiding from the reality of a world that has lost its way, will in no wise make the future brighter. Lifting each other up, as we share our faith in the Christ Who came to make all things new, is the only hope we have. Let us not waste this life God has given us, but let us move forward in faith, together, knowing that ultimately, the gates of hell will not prevail against those who love God.

I am the vine, You are the Branches [Sunday Before Nativity, St. Gregory Palamas]



Impossible to recount is Christ's descent according to His divinity, but His ancestry according to His human nature can be traced, since He who deigned to become Son of Man in order to save mankind was the offspring of men. And it is this genealogy of His that two of the evangelists, Matthew and Luke, recorded. But although Matthew, in the passage from his Gospel read today, begins with those born first, he makes no mention of anyone born before Abraham. He traces the line down from Abraham until he reaches Joseph to whom, by divine dispensation, the Virgin Mother of God was betrothed (Matt. 1:1-16), being of the same tribe and homeland as him, that her own stock may be shown from this to be in no way inferior.

We welcome you to our humble church, and we pray that your experience here will be spiritually rewarding, calling you back to pray with us at our next scheduled service.

St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church is established with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH of New York, and is one of approximately 30 parishes or missions that are all part of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada and Australia, Bulgarian Patriarchate.

Our worship is exclusively in English, and we use “contemporary” English translations of liturgical texts wherever possible. Singing is congregational. The Divine Liturgy is literally “the work of the people”, and as such your presence and participation in the service are essential parts of our worship. The worship of others here present is diminished when you are absent or unable to participate.

Participation in the Eucharist is important to us, and as such we ask you to recognize that it is limited to Orthodox Christians who have prepared for receiving the very Body and Blood of our Lord. Preparation includes fasting from the previous evening and recent confession. If you are not known to our priest, please let him know as you approach that you are Orthodox and prepared to receive! Please do not be offended if the priest so questions your approach—this is important, truly “our Life”!

Troparion for the Day: (Tone 3) *Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.*

Troparion/Fathers: (Tone 2) *Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared, a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!*

Glory to the Father....

Troparion of the Forefeast: (Tone 4) *Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of It, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.*

Now and ever....

Kontakion of the Forefeast: (Tone 3) *Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!*

Epistle: Heb 11:9-10,17-23, 32-40

Gospel: Mat 1:1-25

Monthly Financial Tracker

Nov Total Income	\$7106
Nov Total Expenses	\$2480
Nov Net Income (Loss)	\$4626

Web Tracker

Web Searches	569	interacts/28 days
Blog Site Views	104841	Total Views
Web Site Views	19532	Total Views
Facebook Views	4040	views/28 days

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**CURRENT WEEK
HIGHLIGHTED**

December 2025											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
25th Sunday 10th Luke Divine Liturgy Eph 4:1-6 Luke 13:10-17	1 1Tim 1:1-7 Luke 19:37-44	2 1Tim 1:8-14 Luke 19:45-48	3 Grt Martyr Barbara Gal 3:23-29 Mark 5:24-34	4 Grt Martyr Barbara Gal 3:23-29 Mark 5:24-34	5 1Tim 4:4-8,16 Luke 20:19-26	6 St. Nicholas Divine Liturgy Vigil/Conf Heb 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23					
26th Sunday 11th Luke Divine Liturgy Eph 5:9-19 Luke 17:12-19	7 1Tim 5:1-10 Luke 20:27-44	8 Conception of Theotokos Gal 4:22-31 Luke 8:16-21	9 2Thes 2:1-12 Mark 8:30-34	10 1Tim 6:17-21 Luke 21:28-33	11 St Spyridon Heb 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23	12 St. Herman Divine Liturgy Vigil/Conf Gal 5:22-6:2 Luke 13:18-29					
27th Sunday Holy Forefthrs Divine Liturgy Col 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-24	14 2Tim 2:20-26 Mark 8:11-21	15 2Tim 3:16-4:4 Mark 8:22-26	16 1Tim 1:18-20;2:8-15 Mark 10:11-16	17 Titus 1:5-2:1 Mark 9:10-16	18 Titus 1:15-2:10 Mark 9:33-41	19 Saturday Before Nativity NO VIGIL Gal 3:8-12 Luke 13:18-29					
21 Sun Bef Nativity Divine Liturgy Heb 11:9-10,17-23,32-40; Mat 1:1-25	22 Heb 3:5-11, 17-19 Mark 9:42-10:1	23 Nativity Vespers Heb 4:1-13 Mark 10:2-12	24 Eve of Nativity Royal Hours AllNight Vigil/Lit 1130P Heb 1:1-12 Luke 2:1-20	25 Nativity of our Lord and Savior Gal 4:4-7 Mat 2:1-12	26 Synaxis Holy Theotokos Heb 2:11-18 Mat 2:13-23	27 Sat Aft Nativity 1st Mrtyr Stephen Vespers Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5,47-60; Mat 21:33-42					
28 Sun Aft Nativity Divine Liturgy Gal 1:11-19 Mat 2:13-23	29 1000 Holy Innocents Heb 8:7-13 Mark 10:46-52	30 Heb 9:8-10, 15-23 Mark 11:11-23	31 Leave of Nativity Moleben Col 2:8-12 Luke 2:20-21,40-52	1 Circumcision St Basil Col 2:8-12 Luke 2:20-21,40-52	2 Heb 11:8, 11-16 Mark 12:1-12	3 Vespers 1Tim 3:14-4:5 Mat 3:1-11					