St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

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"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"
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THE ADVENT FAST CONTINUES!

Important This Week

Sunday, 22Nov, **10AM** Divine Liturgy
Thursday, 26Nov, **NO** Adult Study / Friday, 27Nov, **NO** Enquirer's Class
Saturday, 28Nov, **6PM** Vigil

22Nov26 **25th Sunday After Pentecost/9th Luke**

The Entry of the Theotokos

As we look back at yesterday's Feast, we come to recognize something quite wonderful, something that may not register with us unless and until we give consideration first to that time when we were very small children, and then to that time in our lives when we ourselves we parents of such children.

This wonderful thing is present in the life of the Mother of God. We do not have an understanding of this event from Holy Scripture, but rather from the Tradition (capital "T") of the Holy Orthodox Church, coming mostly from the Protevangelion of James. Within the account, we cannot help but be moved with first the suffering endured by Joachim and Anna— suffering in not having conceived and born a child. And we find especially within the prayer of Saint Anna the commitment to dedicate whatever child the Lord may give to her and Joachim to His service.

And so it is that the Theotokos is conceived—not 'immaculately' as erroneously taught in the west, but with purity of spirit, with both Joachim and Anna offering their separate pleas to God to grant them such a gift, and being instructed by an angel that their prayers would be answered, even though they were already in their 'advanced years.'

When the child was only two years old, it was Joachim who spoke to Anna saying that the time had come for them to fulfill their promise to God, and take Mary to the temple. It was Anna who, in great Orthodox fashion, encouraged him to wait for three years to pass.

And so it was, that when that third year came, they gathered other virgins, bearing lamps. And the child climbed the steps to the temple, and upon her ascent, she did not turn back to her parents, but stayed there, where the text instructs us of the Tradition that *"she was fed by angels."*

Inside of our Tradition, we come to recognize a number of wonderful and important things. First, she who is to become the Temple of the Living God, she who is to receive within her own virginal womb the Divine Plant, this Living Temple lives now in the "temple of stone," which God instructed Israel to build as His House, but in the case of the Mother of God, God creates His house from His own creation of flesh and blood. Here she dwells. Here she learns Holy Scripture. Here she serves the needs of the temple. Another tradition (small "t") is that, while living as one of the temple virgins, it was Mary who wove, sowed the curtain of the temple that was torn in two when our Lord gave up His Spirit on the Cross. We celebrated the Feast on Friday with Vespers and yesterday with Divine Liturgy.

Within Vespers we heard this instruction: *"Heaven and earth rejoice, beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish, as she enters the house of God, there to be reared in reverence. Zachariah cried to her in amazement: 'Gate of the Lord, to you I open the gates of the Temple; rejoice and go around it dancing. For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel will now come to dwell openly in our midst, and that from you shall be born God the Word, Who grants the world His great mercy!"*

As we travel toward His birth, we dare not ignore His providence for us by carrying us gently from Feast to Feast.

Prayer Requests

Health: Met Joseph, Pat, Richard, Judy, Sue, Nora, Loftyn, Alexandra. Jase

Departed: Matushka Elizabeth, Fr. Jerome

Weekly Statistics

Saturday	Vespers	14Nov	11 faithful	25views
Sunday	Liturgy	15Nov	47 faithful	28views
Thursday	AdultStdy	19Nov	05 faithful	

In the News

Videos of services can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH_-FlDe8SoWOw

Adult Study and Enquirer's Classes are CANCELLED for this coming Thursday and Friday due to Thanksgiving!
Adult Sessions are on Thursdays at 7PM.
Enquirer's meet on Fridays at 7PM.
PRAYERFULLY enjoy the holiday!

More Bad Puns, Anyone?

I got hit in the head with a soda.

Fortunately it was a soft drink.



Jesus is the Christ, One of the Holy Trinity, and you will become no less than His heir.

(St. Thalassios the Libyan)

Absolute Truth *[Abbot Tryphon]*

In an age when many people think truth is relative, the knowledge that there is such a thing as absolute truth, is comforting. The freedom that comes with the knowledge that we are able to embrace teachings that are a continuation of an unbroken line dating back to Apostolic times, is liberating. As Orthodox Christians, we are not faced with the troubling task of interpreting the scriptures anew, or deciding moral and dogmatic teachings for ourselves, or trying to make our faith relevant for this age. Rather, we can immerse ourselves in the knowledge that we have embraced the Mind of the Ancient Universal Church.

We haven't had to reinvent the Faith, because we have aligned ourselves with the Church that is both ancient, and relevant for the modern seeker. We know the Church's teachings are not based on the finite mind, or the imagination of our own fallen nature, but the eternal truths that have endured from ancient times.

It is comforting to know the Church has remained true to her inheritance for some two thousand years. It is liberating to know ancient Christian dogmas, ways of worship, and moral teachings, are guiding our lives, just as they have for two thousand years.

Truth is not relative, but is absolute. There is no greater freedom than to be able to receive, as our own, the transcending truth that has made saints, from ancient times. There is no greater freedom than being able to embrace the absolute truth that has transcended time, space, culture, and race. No greater joy than to be counted as belonging to Christ, and having joined ourselves to the very Church He founded.

25th Sunday After Pentecost/9th Luke *[Fr. Ted Bobosh, stvasiliosbrunswick.com]*

Many believers wish that God would at some point in their lives speak to them – if for no other reason than to know for sure that He existed.

In Luke 12:16-21, we are presented the story of a man to whom God spoke directly. Unfortunately, God's words to the man were "You fool!" It certainly would be a rude awakening for any of us believers if when God finally spoke to us, first words were to call us a fool! We might then wish that God had never spoken to us, for such a judgment by God would not be a welcomed word by us.

If we examine our own lives and our own values, do we imagine that God's first words to us would be one of praise for our lives and thinking, or would we be rebuked for our folly – for basing our lives on shallow ideas, on goals that turn out to be phantoms which disappear in a second when we wake up to reality?

The man's folly was not that he had become rich, but he had not become rich towards God. Wealth and prosperity can be a blessing from the Lord, but they are given to us in order for us to accomplish His will, not to selfishly spend it on ourselves which also turns out to be folly.

Being rich is not the same as being rich towards God. Blessing received from God are by God's design meant to enable us to give – not just to be thankful but to be generous as well.

This Gospel lesson from Christ offers us one of the earliest glimpses into the notion of a "bubble economy." For the rich man's bubble was burst in that moment when he was told he was going to die that night. His wealth was shown to be a mere dream but not the reality upon which to base his life's decisions. It was not even the case that his wealth was the result of ill-gotten goods – he didn't lie, cheat and steal to obtain his wealth, but worked for it. Yet in the eternal scale of things, his wealth was not all that valuable to that man. Blessings received might make us rich, but we have to receive those blessing and use them to make us rich towards God.

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 8) You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!*

Troparion to Saint Herman: *O blessed Father Herman of Alaska,/ north-star of Christ's holy Church,/ the light of your holy life and great deeds/ guides those who follow the Orthodox way./ Together we lift high the Holy Cross/ you planted firmly in America./ Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ,// singing His holy Resurrection.*

Troparion to Saint Sophia : *You blossomed in the courts of the Lord as a fruitful olive tree, holy martyr Sophia. In your contest, you offered to Christ the sweet fruit of your womb, your daughters Faith, Hope and Love. Together with them intercede for us all.*

Glory to the Father….

Kontakion of the Day: *(Tone 8) By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!*

Now and ever….

Kontakion to the Theotokos*: Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, but in your goodness speedily come to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.*

Epistle*: Eph 4:1-6* ***Gospel:*** *Luke 12:16-21*

Monthly Financial Tracker

Sept Total Income	$ 4,488
Sept Total Expenses	$ 1,784
Sept Net Income (Loss)	$ 2,704

Web Tracker

Web Searches	531	interacts/28 days
Blog Site Views	289,140	Total Views
Web Site Views	21,591	Total Views
Facebook Views	1,436	views/28 days

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November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22nd Sunday 1 6th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 1Cor 12:27-31,13:1-8 T5 Luke 8:26-39	2 1Thes 1:1-5 Luke 11:29-33	3 1Thes 1:6-10 Luke 11:34-41	4 1Thes 2:1-8 Luke 11:42-46	5 Adult Study 7PM 1Thes 2:9-14 Luke 11:47-12:1	6 Enquirer's Class 7PM 1Thes 2:14-19 Luke 12:2-12	7 Vespers/Conf 6PM 2Cor 8:1-5 Luke 9:1-6
23rd Sunday 8 7th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Heb 2:2-10 T6 Luke 8:41-56	9 1Thes 2:20-3:8 Luke 12:13-15, 22-31	10 1Thes 3:9-13 Luke 12:42-48	11 1Thes 4:1-12 Luke 12:48-59	12 Adult Study 7PM 1Thes 5:1-8 Luke 13:11-9	13 St. John Chrysostom Enquirer's Class 7PM Heb 7:26-8:2 John 10:9-16	14 Vespers/Conf 6PM 2Cor 11:1-6 Luke 9:37-43
24th Sunday 15 8th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 2:14-22 T7	16 Evangelist Matthew 1Cor 4:9-16	17 2Thes 1:10-2:2	18 2Thes 2:1-12	19 Adult Study 7PM 2Thes 2:13-3:5	20 Forefeast Entry of Theotokos Vespers 6PM 2Thes 3:6-18	21 Entry Theotokos Divine Liturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM 2Cor 8:1-5
25th Sunday 22 9th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 4:1-7 T8 Luke 12:16-21	23 1Tim 1:1-7 Luke 17:20-25	24 Grt Martyr Catherine Eph 6:10-17 Luke 21:12-19	25 1Tim 1:18-20, 2:8-15 Luke 18:15-17, 26-30	26 THANKSGIVING! 1Tim 3:1-13 Luke 18:31-34	27 1Tim 4:4-8. 16 Luke 19:12-28	28 Vigil/Conf 6PM Gal 3:8-12 Luke 10:19-21
10th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 5:8-19 T1 Luke 13:10-17	Apostle Andrew 1Cor 4:9-16 John 1:35-51					