



# St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

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*"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"*

[www.sainthermanchurch.org](http://www.sainthermanchurch.org)



## Important This Week

Sunday, 04Oct, 10AM Divine Liturgy

Thursday, 08Oct, 7PM Adult Study / Friday, 09Oct, 7PM Enquirer's Class

Saturday, 10Oct, 6PM Vespers

04Oct26

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

## Saint Thomas

On Tuesday of this week, the Church celebrates the Feast Day of Saint Thomas the Apostle. Only a few of us remain who were present before Saint Herman was assigned to us by Metropolitan Joseph as our beloved patron. Before that, His Eminence had us under the patronage of St. Thomas!

As people who say that we try our best to follow Christ and the paths that He would have us walk in this life, we have to come to love Saint Thomas. Without speaking for others, he gives me hope that through my faults and failings, our Lord may still find my efforts acceptable in His sight.

We certainly focus first upon Saint Thomas' doubting. And while we couch this doubt as a failure, we need to weigh it with the commensurate repentance and acceptance of our Lord afterwards. It is true enough that Saint Thomas uttered the words, *"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."* (John 20:25)

That's some serious doubting. It doesn't go to the point of just saying,

"I need to see Him again to believe." It requires faith that can't be confirmed by vision. In Saint Thomas' words, we can find a denunciation of the concept of "Seeing is believing." Saint Thomas' doubt extends to that which is beyond just sight, but requires faith to be confirmed also *by touch*. And this concept can lead us to yet another finding within our own faith, our own attempting to find the Lord in our lives.

Where in the Church do we encounter *touch*?

Touch is an essential component of the entry of any man into any of the categories of Holy Orders, whether it be the *touch* of the bishop when he tonsures one to the rank of reader, or when a man is ordained to the Holy Deaconate, Priesthood, or Episcopacy thereafter. These graces are given through the "laying on of hands" - *by touch, from* one who has been given the grace *to* one who is to receive the grace.

In ancient times, it was by this same touch of the bishop that people were accepted into the Church after Baptism. But as the church grew, and there were too many people needing to enter for the bishops to accommodate

them all, Holy Chrism was developed. And so, our anointing a catechumen into the Orthodox Faith, and the anointing he or she receives is the "seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" *by touch*.

The Troparion we sing on this day reminds us all of this aspect of Saint Thomas' unbelief, of his return to belief, and of the witness born to the Church and to the world thereafter of the result of this unbelief. *"By touch, you were assured of His (the Lord's) Holy Passion."*

The Gospel of Saint John does not record whether Saint Thomas accepted the Lord's invitation to come and place his fingers into the nail prints, or his hand into His side. But there is a wonderfully beautiful icon that depicts an amazed Saint Thomas approaching our Lord, his hand and finger extended toward the exposed wound in our Lord's side.

For us, we also share from time to time in lack of faith, in a certain level of unbelief. If only we can hear those same words offered to Saint Thomas from our Lord, *"Do not be unbelieving, but believing."* (John 20:27), then perhaps we, too, may find our way through our own faults to the love of our Lord.

## Prayer Requests

**Health:** Met Joseph,  
Pat, Richard, Judy,  
Sue, Nora

**Departed:** Matushka  
Elizabeth, Fr. Jerome

## Weekly Statistics

|          |           |       |    |          |    |       |
|----------|-----------|-------|----|----------|----|-------|
| Saturday | Vespers   | 26Sep | 04 | faithful | 29 | views |
| Sunday   | Liturgy   | 27Sep | 40 | faithful | 53 | views |
| Thursday | AdultStdy | 01Oct | 10 | faithful |    |       |

## In the News

Videos of services can be found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH\\_-FIDe8SoWOWw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH_-FIDe8SoWOWw)

We've continuing the Adult Study and Enquirer's Classes  
each Thursday and Friday!!

Adult study is working from "Christ in the Psalms" by  
Father Patrick Henry Reardon.

Adult Sessions are on Thursdays at 7PM.

Enquirer's meet on Fridays at 7PM.

See y'all then!

## Bad Pun??

I made a pencil with two erasers....

It was pointless.



Pray for those who  
want to work but  
can't because they  
are sick. Pray for  
the healthy who  
need work but  
can't find any.

*(St. Paisios the  
Athonite)*

## Christ Empowers Us [Abbot Tryphon]

Some time ago I was listening to one of the last songs recorded by Johnny Cash, probably the best country western singer of all time. The line in his song, "put me in my box on the 309", is coming from a man who was facing his own imminent death. With the loss of his beloved wife, June Carter Cash still heavy on his heart, Johnny was ready to go to God.

At seventy-six, I'm more aware than ever of my own mortality. I'm not afraid of death but find myself concerned about the monastery and want it to prosper beyond my life. I believe with all my heart that this place was built by God, working one miracle after another to make it happen, but like a mother who's given birth to her child and wanting the best for him, I'm not in a hurry to leave this life. I want this monastery to be on safe footing and with enough young monks to continue into the next generation before they put my box on the 309.

Like Johnny Cash in his last album, I find myself driven by a desire to share in words my life experience and help today's young people realize the importance of making God central in their lives. We live in an age where many are living in a constant state of listlessness, not caring or being concerned about their spiritual condition, or that of the world. Having given themselves over to leisure pursuits and entertainment, they've become unable to be attentive to that which is of eternal importance. As our world moves closer to famine and governmental meltdown, we need to build on the foundation of Christ, for only in Christ will we be empowered to face what is coming.

History is filled with times like ours and the spiritually fit were the ones who came through those difficult times, and prospered. The spiritually fit can triumph over anything, so I continue trying to encourage this new generation of young people. You young people have many challenges before you, but you also have the prayerful support of monks everywhere, and the love and respect of people of my generation. With God's help we will triumph, so we must not neglect the needs of our soul.

Today's sermon for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost is actually for the 2nd Sunday from the Gospel of Luke. This Sunday usually falls on the last Sunday of September or the first Sunday of October. The simplest and yet most important principle of moral conduct is today's lesson about the Golden Rule as taught by Jesus Christ. It is a case of simple justice – to return like for like in positive terms.

As a universal ethical principle the Golden Rule seeks to guide people to fulfill their needs, desires and dreams without tremendous conflicts causing hurt among them. All human beings have the same needs and shortcomings, "Do unto others just what you want them to do for you". This is the basic principle of morality presupposing a commonness and brotherhood among all human beings.

Just as important as the Golden Rule is, Christian morality goes far beyond it. Christian morality involves something more than the idea of fairness. It is precisely that we are to treat others with love, goodness and compassion no matter how they behave. It is essentially taking one's neighbor upon oneself just as the Good Samaritan had compassion on the wounded Jew, a supposed enemy, and interrupted his own journey in order to help him when others walked by.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Himself is the supreme model of the good Samaritan seeking to bind and heal humanity's wounds, and suffering persecution in the process. Jesus came to help all of us, voluntarily submitting to abuse, insults, beatings, betrayal and crucifixion.

Thus Christian morality is anchored not merely on the principle of fairness, but much more on the principle of all encompassing sacrificial love. This is the essence of today's gospel and of our Orthodox Christian understanding of the Golden Rule.

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 1) *When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure Body, You arose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: ‘Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!’*

**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.*

**Glory to the Father....**

**Kontakion of the Day:** (Tone 1) *As God, You arose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You: ‘You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!’*

**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:** 2Cor 9:6-11

**Gospel:** Luke 6:31-36

### Monthly Financial Tracker

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Aug Total Income      | \$ 7,391   |
| Aug Total Expenses    | \$17,749   |
| Aug Net Income (Loss) | (\$10,358) |

### Web Tracker

|                 |         |                   |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------|
| Web Searches    | 460     | interacts/28 days |
| Blog Site Views | 222,178 | Total Views       |
| Web Site Views  | 21,306  | Total Views       |
| Facebook Views  | 2,262   | views/28 days     |

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| October 2026                                                                       |                                      |                            |                                 |                                                     |                                                    |                                                           |                                                                               |                   |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Sunday                                                                             | Monday                               | Tuesday                    | Wednesday                       | Thursday                                            | Friday                                             | Saturday                                                  |                                                                               |                   |  |  |  |
|                                                                                    |                                      |                            |                                 | Protection of Theotokos<br>Adult Study<br>Heb 9:1-7 | 1<br>NO Enquirer's Class<br>Eph 6:18-24            | 2<br>NO Vespers<br>1Cor 15:39-45                          | 3                                                                             |                   |  |  |  |
| 18th Sunday<br>2nd Luke<br>Divine Liturgy 10AM<br>2Cor 9:6-11<br>Luke 6:31-36      | T1<br>Phil 1:1-7<br>Luke 6:24-30     |                            | Phil 1:8-14<br>Luke 6:37-45     | Phil 1:12-20<br>Luke 6:46-7:1                       | 7PM<br>Adult Study<br>Phil 1:20-27<br>Luke 7:17-30 | 7PM<br>Enquirer's Class<br>Phil 1:27-2:4<br>Luke 7:31-35  | 9<br>Vespers/Conf<br>1Cor 15:58-16:3<br>Luke 5:27-32                          | 10<br>6PM         |  |  |  |
| 19th Sunday<br>3rd Luke<br>Divine Liturgy 10AM<br>2Cor 11:31-12:9<br>Luke 7:11-16  | T2<br>Phil 2:12-16<br>Luke 7:36-50   |                            | Phil 2:17-23<br>Luke 8:1-3      | Phil 2:24-30<br>Luke 8:22-25                        | 7PM<br>Adult Study<br>Phil 3:1-8<br>Luke 9:7-11    | 7PM<br>Enquirer's Class<br>Phil 3:8-19<br>Luke 9:12-18    | 7PM<br>Vespers/Conf<br>2Cor 1:8-11<br>Luke 6:1-10                             | 6PM               |  |  |  |
| 20th Sunday<br>4th Luke<br>Divine Liturgy 10AM<br>Col 4:5-9,14,18<br>Luke 10:16-21 | T3<br>Phil 4:10-23<br>Luke 9:18-22   |                            | Col 1:1-2, 7-11<br>Luke 9:23-27 | Col 1:18-23<br>Luke 9:44-50                         | 7PM<br>Adult Study<br>Col 1:24-29<br>Luke 9:49-56  | 7PM<br>Enquirer's Class<br>Col 2:1-7<br>Luke 10:1-15      | 23<br>Soul Saturday<br>Liturgy<br>Vespers/Conf<br>2Cor 3:12-18<br>Luke 7:2-10 | 24<br>10AM<br>6PM |  |  |  |
| 21st Sunday<br>5th Luke<br>Divine Liturgy 10AM<br>Gal 2:16-20<br>Luke 16:19-31     | T4<br>2Tim 2:1-10<br>John 15:17-16:2 | 25<br>Grt Martyr Demetrius | 26                              | 27                                                  | 28<br>NO Adult Study<br>Col 4:2-9<br>Luke 11:14-23 | 29<br>NO Enquirer's Class<br>Col 4:10-18<br>Luke 11:23-26 | 30<br>Vespers/Conf<br>2Cor 5:1-10<br>Luke 8:16-21                             | 31<br>6PM         |  |  |  |