



St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

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"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"
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Important This Week

Saturday, 13Jun, 6PM Vespers
Sunday, 14Jun, 930AM Divine Liturgy

07Jun26

Feast of All Saints

What of the Obscure Saints?

On the Feast of All Saints, our minds typically gravitate to those saints most famous or most beloved by the multitudes. We think of St. John the Forerunner, of Chrysostom, of Basil and Gregory, of Mary Magdalene, of Sophia and her daughters.

But there are so many saints, and too often we fail to give attention when doing so might benefit us spiritually. Let us look at one of these today.

Within the Antimens upon our Holy Altar can be found a relic of St. James the Persian, sometimes known by the addition, "Intercisus". His Feast Day is 27Nov.

James was born to Christian parents in the Persian city of Elapa. He was raised as a Christian, and married a Christian woman. James served the Persian court of King Shapur II (early to mid-fourth century). When the king began persecuting Christians, James was unwilling to lose his status, his wealth, and his closeness to power, and so he chose to publicly deny his faith in Christ. For this, the king rewarded him and left him in

his position. Soon after, letters arrived from James' mother and his wife. *You have exchanged the living God for a dead king. We will have nothing more to do with you until you repent.* The words pierced James' heart, and he publicly confessed his apostasy, returning to his faith, doing this before the earthly king he once pleased by abandoning Christ. The sentence of the king was "Intercisus", a Latin word meaning "to cut apart". James was martyred finger by finger, joint by joint, limb by limb over the course of an entire day. As each cut was made, witnesses heard him praying and confessing Christ. He did not stop. Being cut into twenty-eight pieces, James gave up his spirit while praying. It is said that a sweet smelling fragrance, as of cypress, emanated from the wounds inflicted on him. He is remembered by this name of his sentence. There is no remembrance of his former nobility. There is no remembrance of his compromise. His courage and his repentance are his legacy. And for any of us who have ever denied a truth for the sake of remaining "comfortable", James' life and

martyrdom shows us that human weakness and failure need not be permanent as long as we can find repentance.

In "The Prologue from Ochrid" can be found this hymn of praise to James:

The Creator does not lose repentant souls: He loves a true penitent the most. James denied Christ the Living God for the sake of the godless emperor; his flatterer. His mother and wife reproached him: "All the riches of the earth are as transient as foam." James repented, bitterly, then openly spoke what he kept secret: 'A Christian I was, and I am again. Foolish and weak are your idols!' James said this standing before the emperor, saying it openly and remaining true to his words. The emperor stripped him of all material gifts, and clothed him with torture. James was reddened with wounds and blood. Like eagles on a carcass, men attacked him! They dismembered the body of Christ's hero as they cut him to bits. Now James prays before God in Paradise for the salvation of all!

Prayer Requests	
Health: Met Joseph, Pat, Richard, Judy, Sue, Fr. Jerome, Nora	Departed: Matushka Elizabeth


Weekly Statistics	
Saturday	Vespers 30May 08 faithful 24 views
Sunday	Liturgy 31May 40 faithful 03 views

In the News

Videos of services can be found at:
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH -FIDe8SoWOW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH-FIDe8SoWOW)

Many thanks to Fr. Daniel Machar for coming to St. Herman's this day to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with and for us.

We love you, Father, and look forward to being with you many more times in the future!

Do not wrack your brain.
 Pray to God!

(St. Ambrose of Optina)

Withered Friendships *[Abbot Tryphon]*

Sometimes the only way to move forward is for us to commit to walking away from friendships that have kept us from growing, so we face the reality that perhaps it is time to leave those friendships behind. Back in the 1960's I hung around with a group of friends in Berkeley, California, where we'd gather in a coffee house, talking about the poetry books we were going to publish, and the novels we were going to write, but all we did was talk. We were all trapped in behavioral patterns that had become habitual, and we felt helpless in our attempt to make something of our lives.

Maturing spiritually and psychologically as humans is often fraught with failure, and we find ourselves stuck in relationships that are, ultimately, detrimental to spiritual and emotional growth. Progress feels more like a treadmill, seemingly moving forward, yet noticing the scenery is remaining static.

Many people have reported their sense of isolation since the beginning of the pandemic shutdown. People have reported, according to a national survey, a sense of loneliness, having lost personal friendships that were often decades old. Since the beginning of the Covid lockdown, I personally have had three dear friends walk away, two of them verbally telling me they no longer wanted me as a friend, and one simply refusing every invitation to get together for lunch, or even the chance to personally speak over the phone.

Back in my Berkeley days, one young man shocked the rest of us when he announced he was no longer going to meet with us in our favorite coffee house, having decided it was just a waste of time. If he was ever going to make something of himself, he explained, he needed to make the break. He shared his goal to attend medical school, and needed to put all his energy into completing his college degree with the best grades he could possibly get. We all tried to convince him that he could accomplish all of that without abandoning the coffee house scene, but he wasn't convinced. That was the last afternoon he'd ever join the rest of us.

Sometimes the only way to make the changes in our lives that are needed for spiritual growth is to walk away from relationships that are keeping us stuck. As Christians, it does make a difference who we hang out with. If you have friendships with individuals who are simply not interested in things of a spiritual nature, you will find yourself wasting precious moments in your journey to God. If you have friends who decide to dump you, perhaps a closer look will reveal it is the best thing that could happen to you.

Having friendships with fellow Christians is the only way we can keep ourselves centered in Christ. If we want to deepen our faith, spending time with people who desire the very same thing is the very best thing that could happen to us. Building a stronger relationship with Christ by spending time with people whose values are the same, is truly the right move. Clinging to friendships that are not providing a strong spiritual bond can be counter productive to a truly fulfilled life. The time God has allotted us must not be squandered. If we keep company with people whose goals are of a spiritual nature, and whose lives are centered in Christ, our goals will be the same, and we will grow as Christians. Sometimes the withering of a friendship can be the very best thing that could happen to us.

Feast of All Saints [Fr. Peter Olsen, pravmir.com]

Last Sunday, the great Feast of Pentecost, is often referred to as the birthday of the Church. Why? Because on that day the Holy Spirit which mankind had lost because of the fall of Adam and Eve was restored to us. The final event which was lacking in all the acts which inaugurated the new and final Covenant and the establishment of the Church was when the Father sent to the Christian community the Holy Spirit.

There is no Church without the Holy Spirit. There are no Mysteries (or Sacraments) without the Holy Spirit. In a word, there is no salvation without the gift of the Holy Spirit. All of the saving and sacrificial acts of our Lord Jesus Christ (the incarnation, the sufferings, His passion and His glorification on the the Cross, the Resurrection, the Ascension) prepared the way for us to receive the Holy Spirit.

All of the saving acts of the Lord prepared the path for us to take up our cross and to follow Him on our journey in this life in order to imitate Him and to follow His commandments that we might ultimately be deemed worthy to be received into the Kingdom of heaven.

Our Lord labored on our behalf. Now it is our turn to do our part. Now we must work and we must struggle. Unless we willingly take up and carry our own cross we cannot truly follow Him and we cannot receive all the great gifts which our merciful Lord has prepared for us. In the words of Holy Scripture, it says that when we struggle we become actual participants in the Lord's crucifixion.

St. Seraphim of Sarov revealed in his wonderful conversation with Nicholas Motovilov that the purpose of life is to acquire the Holy Spirit. You might ask, "Don't we receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized? Don't we receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Holy Communion? Don't we receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Holy Unction?" The answer to all those questions is yes. However, the gift of the Holy Spirit that we receive is like a spark within us. In order for that spark to grow and to eventually become a great conflagration, it must be fanned, nurtured and fed with fuel. It must be cultivated in order to grow. Otherwise it will diminish and decrease in strength and in size.

That is where our work, our struggles come in. We must struggle in order to make the Holy Spirit grow and thrive within us. It takes struggle and work, hard work, if done properly, to pray, fast, repent, keep the commandments of God, study the Word of God, have love, forgiveness and purity in our hearts, and to make our bodies, as the Apostle Paul says, worthy vessels like little Temples within which the Holy Spirit may dwell.

When we sin, when we disobey the Commandments of God, when we neglect the spiritual life and run after carnal and earthly pleasures, the light of the Holy Spirit within us becomes dimmed and almost unrecognizable, buried and covered in darkness by our dark, neglectful and evil ways. When St. Seraphim says that the purpose of our life is to acquire the Holy Spirit, he means that we must live the life in Christ and not neglect our spiritual life so that the Holy Spirit may grow within us. The more the Holy Spirit grows within us the more sanctified we become, in other words, the "holier" we become.

The word "saint" in English means "holy." Saint in Greek is "agios," it means holy. Saint in Russian is "sviatoy," it means holy. If last Sunday we celebrated the sending to the Church of the Holy Spirit, then today we celebrate the natural and logical outcome of that event, which is that through struggle, with God's help, Christians become sanctified and become holy, or saints.

We celebrate today all the saints of the Church, past, present and future, those whose lives we know and whose names we know, as well as the countless saints whose names and lives which are unknown to us. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are many, and the individual struggles of the saints are diverse. We have saints who were married and those who were monastics, we have saints who were teachers and others who were prophets. We have saints who gave up their lives on account of Christ and have become martyrs. The saints have come from all walks of life. Some were famous soldiers and generals, others were humble farmers. Some were princes and kings and some were paupers. They came from all the nations and from all the ends of the earth. Some saints were already sanctified as children, and others, such as Mary of Egypt, lived dissolute and impure lives, and through great struggles achieved the greatest heights of sanctity imaginable.

The gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift of holiness, is open to all. When the priest elevates the chalice and the diskos during the Divine Liturgy, he says "on behalf of all and for all." It is up to us to choose and to decide.

In conclusion, Brothers and Sisters, let us hearken to the words which were once spoken by of St. Herman of Alaska in a conversation which he had with the officers of a Russian ship: "For our good, for our happiness," concluded the Elder, "at least let us give a vow to ourselves, that from this day, from this hour, from this minute, we shall strive above all else to love God and to do His Holy Will!" Amen!

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—Feast of All Saints: (Tone 8) *As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Your Church has been adorned with Your martyrs’ blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to You, O Christ God: ‘Send down Your bounties on Your people, grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!’*

Glory to the Father....

Troparion, 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.*

Now and ever....

Kontakion—Feast of All Saints: (Tone 8) *The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!*

Epistle: Heb 11:33-12:2

Gospel: Mat 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Monthly Financial Tracker

May Total Income	\$ 6,623
May Total Expenses	\$ 1,475
May Net Income (Loss)	\$ 5,148

Web Tracker

Web Searches	537	interacts/28 days
Blog Site Views	137,708	Total Views
Web Site Views	20,609	Total Views
Facebook Views	2,536	views/28 days

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Church**

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June 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Spirit Day 1	2	NO FAST 3	4	NO FAST 5	6
	Eph 5:9-19 Mat 18:10-20	Rom 1:1-7, 13-17 Mat 4:25-5:13	Rom 1:18-27 Mat 5:20-26	Rom 1:28-2:9 Mat 5:27-32	Rom 2:14-29 Mat 5:33-41	NO VESPERS! Rom 1:7-12 Mat 5:42-48
All Saints 7 T8	Apostles' Fast 8	9	10	11	12	13
Divine Liturgy 930AM Heb11:33-12:2, Mat10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30	Rom 2:28-3:18 Mat 6:31-34;7:9-11	Rom 4:4-12 Mat 7:15-21	Rom 4:13-25 Mat 7:21-23	Rom 5:10-16 Mat 8:23-27	Rom 5:17-6:2 Mat 9:14-17	Vespers/Conf 6PM Rom 3:19-26 Mat 7:1-8
Regional 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
All Saints T1						
Divine Liturgy 930AM Rom 2:10-16 Mat 4:18-23	Rom 7:1-13 Mat 9:36-10:8	Rom 7:14-8:2 Mat 10:9-15	Rom 8:2-13 Mat 10:16-22	Rom 8:22-27 Mat 10:23-31	Rom 9:6-19 Mat 10:32-36,11:1	Vespers/Conf 6PM Rom 3:28-4:3 Mat 7:24-8:4
3rd Sunday 21	22	23	Nativity St. John Forerunner 24	25	26	27
Divine Liturgy 930AM Rom 5:1-10 Mat 6:22-33	Rom 9:18-33 Mat 11:2-15	Rom 10:11-11:2 Mat 11:16-20	Rom 13:11-14; Luke 1:1-25,57-68,76,80	Rom 11:13-24 Mat 11:27-30	Rom 11:25-36 Mat 12:1-8	Vespers/Conf 6PM Rom 6:11-17 Mat 8:14-23
4th Sunday 28	Feast Sts. Peter & Paul 29	Synaxis 12 Apostles 30	1	2	3	4
Divine Liturgy 930AM Rom 6:18-23 Mat 8:5-13	2Cor 11:21-12:9 Mat 16:13-19	Rom 14:9-18 Mat 12:14-16, 22-30	Rom 15:7-16 Mat 12:38-45	Rom 15:17-29 Mat 12:46-13:3	Rom 16:1-16 Mat 13:4-9	Vespers/Conf 6PM Rom 8:14-21 Mat 9:9-13