

St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

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"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"
www.sainthermanchurch.org



Important This Week:

Wednesday, 28Sep, 7PM—Adult Study
Saturday, 01Oct, 6PM—Vespers
Sunday, 02Oct, 10AM—Divine Liturgy

25Sep22

15th Sunday After Pentecost/Tone 6

"They Forsook All and Followed Him"

In today's Gospel we are presented with an account that is described in all three of the synoptic Gospels, that of our Lord teaching, and then the "great catch of fish".

Blessed Theophylact writes that our Lord entered Peter's boat so that He could face the crowd and have all present in front of Him. And so the Master politely "borrowed" what belonged to Peter and his partner fishermen.

But after receiving this gift willingly from them, our Lord chose to repay their kindness, and He blessed them in two ways. First, He gave to them such an enormous catch of fish that they and their partners in a second boat could not deal with the bounty. Second, Jesus made them disciples! The lesser blessing came before the greater, but they could not comprehend the true magnitude of either fully.

Isn't it astounding how our Lord sends blessings to His servants in manners consistent with their ability to grasp His actions? On this day, with Peter, Andrew, James and John, all of whom were fishermen, He gains their attention

with what else—fish! He opens the discussions with the Samaritan woman at the well with what else—a request for water! He gains the attention of the Magi with what tool that they would recognize—the Star! He finds Saul of Tarsus persecuting those who are struggling to establish His fledgling Church, a man who in his Pharisaical 'sight' judges Christians to be worthy of death, and He gains his attention how—through sending blindness upon him!

Do we begin to see the wondrous ways of God working among His people?

And how has He attempted to work on me? And I ask that you now ask this same question of yourself. What skills, talents or abilities has He bestowed upon me, and when and where did He reach out through those gifts to get my attention, to have me notice that He was calling to me, to give me direction, perhaps healing, perhaps sustenance, spiritual or physical? And if I can be blessed to think upon such things with remembrance that perhaps they did occur, what was my response? Did I, like Saint Peter, feel a repentance that

would have me calling to Him, 'Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man'? Or did I (as most people would), notice, but then say, "That was weird"?

The telling answer to these questions is in the response. When Peter, Andrew, James and John were confronted with the immense catch of fish, they did not ignore the Lord's authority over nature. And when He told them, 'From now on, you will catch men,' they did as St. Luke records, 'The forsook all and followed Him.' St. Photini, the woman at the well, dropped her water vessels and went to evangelize the men of Sychar. The Magi left their homelands and travelled to a place following the star, not knowing where it would lead. Saul waited in Damascus for three days for the Lord to appoint Ananias to heal him, only to become the great Apostle!

Our Lord deals with His people in mysterious ways, calling us to live our lives for Him, if we are willing to accept His invitation and calling. Let us serve this loving God with our whole heart.

This Week's Prayer Requests

For Health—St. Herman's: Met. Joseph, Pat Blazosky
Others: Fr.Dn.Basil, Nikandra, Judy, Barry, Anne, Keith
For the Departed: Patriarch Maxim, Metropolitans Theodosius and Maximos, Archpriest Stephan, Popadia

Marika, Matushka Illaria, Nun Theophania, Matushka Theodora, Stephen, Reader Charles, Betty Lou, Matthew

Weekly Statistics

Saturday	Vespers	17Sep	7 faithful	11 views
Sunday	Divine Liturgy	18Sep	46 faithful	12 views
Tuesday	Cleaning Group	20Sep	4 faithful	
Wednesday	Adult Study	21Sep	6 faithful	

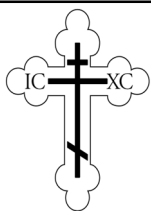
In the News

Videos of services can be found at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOKICLMmH_FIDe8SoWOW

Our first Adult study session was filled with lively discussion. If you weren't there, ask someone who was! The book, "Preaching Another Christ," is filled with fertile material to stimulate such discussion. Come and join us!

Michael Molchan would like to make a quick presentation to all after Liturgy today on the proposed plans for handicap entry to the building. Stay and offer your thoughts!!

Well, It IS a Business Model....



*Take care to
 bridle the
 flesh, that it
 might not
 plunge its
 rider — the
 mind — into
 danger.*

**(St. Ephraim
 the Syrian)**

Miracles (by Abbot Tryphon)

While just a little boy in the Lutheran Church, I remember asking the pastor why we didn't see miracles in the church like had happened in the Bible. He told me they were used in New Testament times to jump start the church, and were not needed now. As a boy of about ten, I remember feeling cheated, for I wanted to see miracles, and felt we still needed them in this age.

There is a man in Irvine, California, who prayed for help from Saint George the Great Martyr, only to have the saint appear before him, and give him a wooden cross. Within a short time this cross was gushing forth holy myrrh, and healing to those who'd been anointed with it. A priest friend showed me the video of the cross, and the myrrh was literally gushing out of the cross and into a bucket, continuously.

The Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Mother of God of Hawaii is another example of holy myrrh streaming forth, performing miracles of healing of both physical

and spiritual nature. When I myself was scheduled for by-pass surgery, after anointing myself with the myrrh from the Hawaiian icon, the cardiologist canceled the surgery, right in the operating room, and this after two days of testing had shown I needed stints, and at the very least, one by-pass.

The scriptures tell us that we can move mountains if we only have the faith of a mustard seed, yet many don't expect they'll see a miracle, even when they pray for one. The expectation of experiencing miracles, such as healing, are far from the mindset of many Christians, and I suspect it is because they don't think their faith is strong enough.

The truth is, we don't always prepare ourselves to live a life that is open to miracles, for in the little things, during our everyday comings and goings, we live as though anything needed depends totally on our own efforts. We don't live with the expectation that God cares about our needs, both physical, spiritual, and material, in na-

ture. We don't live with the expectation that God cares enough about us that He enters into our lives in a real, concrete way. So we go about our lives as though there probably is a God out there, but a God that is hardly interested in me.

If we begin to live each day with the expectation that God is not only there, but is actually interacting in a real way, we will soon experience the truth of this. We will begin to see with new eyes, and hear with new ears, how much God does enter into each and every moment of our life, if only we are paying attention.

Faith must be built up little by little, much like a painter puts on layers of oil paint, until one day, layer upon layer, a beautiful painting is resting on the easel. Like oil painting, faith is formed through layers of learning to trust, so that one day we realize the depth of God's involvement in our life has been there all along, and we experience the miracles that have been happening around us, all along.

1st Sunday of Luke (*Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes , orthodoxpath.org*)

In today's Gospel reading St. Peter with the rest of the holy Apostles were astonished at the catch of fish which they had caught. Christ our Lord had sat in St. Peter's boat and was teaching the people. The Disciples had worked very hard all night long, but they had caught nothing. St. Peter at the commandment of Christ let down the net and then God's blessings came, for "they caught a great number of fish" (Luke 5:6).

Obedience to God's Will is man's first and foremost duty. Second most important is to carry out His Divine Commandments. The godly man strives to conform himself to whatever God wishes. Man through obedience to God identifies himself with God, and his will with God's Divine Will.

The holy Apostle Peter at the greatest moment of his difficult hours of disappointment and depression, showed obedience to Christ. The result is obvious. God blesses the work of all those who struggle with honesty.

In our daily struggle to survive there are some moments, when we feel let down. Many times despair and dissolution overcome our hearts, when we hope for some things that do not come right.

How many times do we turn to God and not see any results? Did God not hear our prayers? Is He relaxing in His Heavenly Kingdom and does not care for us? No! The answer to these questions lie in that we must not only turn to God, but we must also learn to trust God.

St. Peter not only accepted Christ in his fishing boat, but also showed absolute obedience to His commandment. Without a second discussion he threw the nets into the shallow waters of Gennesaret. Because of his obedience God blessed his work.

Now, how many times does it happen in our life that we accept Christ not in our boat, but in our hearts, but we are not obedient to Him? How many times do we say that we believe in the Lord, but, yet, we have not made the effort to bow and humble ourselves before Him? How many times do we pray to God, but within our hearts we do not learn to trust Him? How many times do we find ourselves in difficult situations and we ask for God's help and assistance, but in reality we do not believe in His Providence? How many times do we believe that God will interfere, like magic, to fulfil our wishes? Finally, how many times, when we see no results of Divine intervention, we turn away from God?

St. Peter was blessed, because he showed obedience to Christ. God's blessings came as the result of Peter's obedience to His Will. The miracle at Gennesaret came about because of St. Peter's faithfulness. St. Peter knew very well, being an experienced fisherman, that there could be no fish in the shallow waters of Gennesaret. All night long he worked with his collaborators and, yet, they caught nothing. But, he showed obedience to Christ's word and he let down the nets. For Christ's sake he did not hesitate. He did not say, that 'We are wasting our time'. He just obeyed and trusted Christ's word. We all work hard. We all run here and there and we struggle to build up our businesses. Some even work after hours even at night. We all strive for our daily bread. But, how many times do we lack success? One works for so many years and puts in his work so much time and money, but at the end he sees everything collapsing. What is the reason? Is it because there is lack of cleverness? Is it because of lack of interest or concern for one's work? Is it because of evil men sabotaging the work of others? All these reasons are possible. But, the main reason is the lack of true faith and trust in God.

In our times, man has learned not to trust God or anyone else, but only himself. We have not surrendered ourselves completely to God's Divine Providence or we lack of true faith. This is one of the main reason why many Christians do not come every Sunday to Church.

Lack of faith is the spiritual illness of today's society. Lack of faith has as its result that we do not pray every day or even if we do so, then our hearts are not turned to God, but wonder here and there. Lack of faith is the reason why we do not obey God's Commandments and we do not trust ourselves in His Will. Lack of faith is the reason why man does not believe in God and His Teachings. Lack of faith is the reason why man turns to evil deeds and is disobedient to God's Word.

If we wish to have God's blessings in our homes, our works and our lives, then we have to turn to Him, bow before Him and trust ourselves to His Divine Providence. Let us imitate St. Peter's example. Let us show trust and faith in Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let us practice God's Commandments. Let us be obedient to His Divine Will. This way of life will bring upon us God's blessings. This is the way for our salvation, to be before God and surrender ourselves to Him.

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 6) *The angelic powers were at Your tomb. The guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure Body. You have captured hell, not being tempted by it. You have come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord, who arose from the dead, 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.*

Glorify to the Father....

Troparion to St. Sophia: (Tone 5) *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.*

Now and ever....

Kontakion for the Day: (Tone 6) *When Christ God the Giver of Life raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!*

Epistle: 2Cor 4:6-15

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Monthly Financial Tracker	
August Total Income	\$ 3666
August Total Expenses	\$ 2998
Month Net Income (Loss)	\$ 668

Yearly Financial Tracker	
<i>(based on year-to-date income/expenses)</i>	
Projected 12mo Income	\$59,340
Projected 12mo Expenses	\$57,975
Projected Year Income (Loss)	\$1,364

Web Tracker	
StHerman Google Bus Site	3089 views/28 days
Blog Site Views	12798 Total Views
Web Site Views	136 visits/30 days
Facebook Reach	760 people/28 days

**St. Herman of Alaska
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VRevFrBasil Rusen, Pastor**

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**CURRENT WEEK
HIGHLIGHTED**

September 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
				2Cor 7:1-10 Mark 1:29-35	2Cor 7:10-16 Mark 2:18-22	Vespers/Conf 6PM 1Cor 1:26-29 Mat 20:29-34
12th Sunday Divine Liturgy 10AM	4	5	6	7	8	9
1Cor 15:1-11 Mat 19:16-26	T3 2Cor 8:7-15 Mat 3:6-12	2Cor 8:16-9:5 Mark 3:13-19	Forefeast Nativ Theotokos Vespers/Liturgy 6PM	Nativity of Theotokos	Phil 2:5-11; Luke 10: 38-42,11:27-28	Before Elev of Holy Cross Vespers/Conf 6PM
Before Elev of Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 10AM	11	12	13	14	15	16
1Cor 16:13-24 Mat 21:33-42	T4 2Cor 12:10-19 Mark 4:10-23	Forefeast Elevation Holy Cross Vespers/Liturgy 6PM	Elevation of Holy Cross	1Cor 1:18-24; Jn 19:6- 11,13-20,25-35	Gal 1:1-10,20-25	After Elev of Holy Cross/StSophia Vespers/Conf 6PM
After Elev of Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 10AM	18	19	20	21	22	23
2Cor 1:21-2:4 Mat 22:1-14	T5 Gal 2:11-16 Luke 3:19-22	Gal 2:21-3:7 Luke 3:23-4:1	Leave of Elevation Adult/Teen Study 7PM	Gal 3:15-22 Luke 4:1-15	Gal 3:23-4:6 Luke 4:16-22	Conception St John Forerunner
15th Sunday 1st Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM	25	26	27	28	29	30
2Cor 4:6-15 Luke 5:1-11	T6 Gal 4:28-5:10 Luke 4:37-44	Gal 5:11-21 Luke 5:12-16	Adult/Teen Study 7PM Gal 6:2-10 Luke 5:33-39	Eph 1:1-9 Luke 6:12-19	Eph 1:7-17 Luke 6:17-23	Protection of Theotokos Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 9:1-7; Luke 10: 38-42,11:27-28