

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Tone 7  
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Ephesians 2:14-22  
Luke 13:10-17  
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Homily by  
Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:  
Jennifer Medders

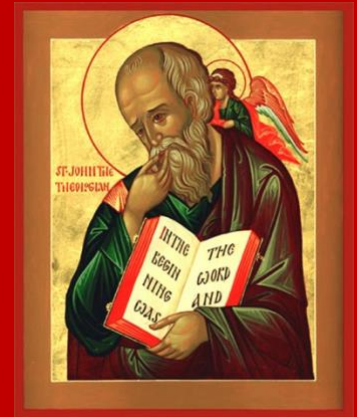
Coffee Hour Hosts:  
Ihde / A. Stallman /  
Weaver

# St. John Orthodox Cathedral

## Weekly Bulletin

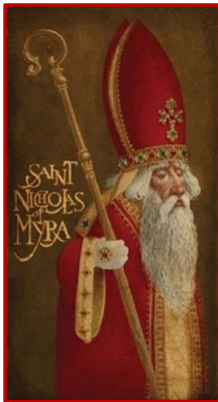
Sunday, December 8, 2024

And the Days Following



*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

## Feast Days and Services



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**Great Vespers Tonight at 6:15pm – Friday, December 6**  
**Saint Nicholas of Myra – December 6**

*We will celebrate this day as part of our Advent preparations by sharing gifts put in our shoes during Vespers for the Feast Day.*

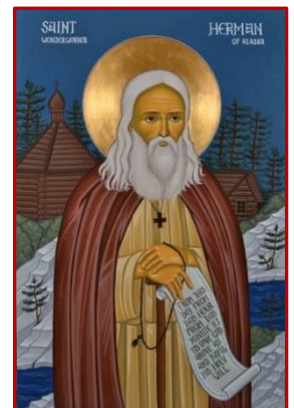
*Please leave your shoes in the Church Basement if you wish to receive a gift.*

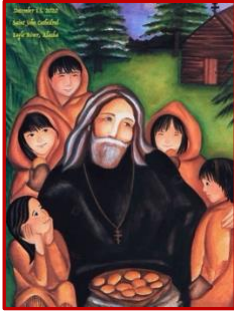
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**Akathist Hymn to St. Herman - Friday Evening**  
**the 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**

**Saint John's Celebration of Saint Herman of Alaska**  
**December 13**



Following the "Akathist" Hymn there will be hot spiced tea and cookies in the upper parking lot to share around a campfire. Children can bring sleds to sled on the hill. A few sleds from the school will be set out too.





## Cookie Exchange

We will also have a “Cookie Exchange and Giveaway” on Saint Herman’s Night. Families are invited to bring 4-dozen holiday cookies divided into small baggies with 3 cookies each. Before the Akathist Hymn begins, these are arranged on tables set up in the Narthex, labelled with the family name and kind of cookie. After the Akathist, one member from each family can go in line along the tables and pick up a bag of cookies of each kind. (Bring your own container.) Even families who do not bring cookies should be able receive cookies to take home. Mary Curry will again help direct the “Cookie Exchange and Giveaway” this year. Please text her at (907) 764-9696 if you have any questions.

## Parish Events and News



### Bring A Poinsettia to the Church

As a continuing tradition of our church decorating, you may bring a poinsettia plant this week to be placed on the steps before our iconostasis. Please bring covered so they don’t die as quickly from cold exposure.



### Coming Up - Time to Decorate Our Cathedral – Saturday, December 14th 11am to 3pm - Your Help is Needed

Saturday, December 14, we will decorate the Cathedral with garlands and a tree. We especially need young people (under 60) to do ladder work for hanging the garlands in the Nave. We also need a crew to decorate the tree and put up the Nativity scene. I will also need help in getting the décor out of the church attic. Call Lily Cowan for questions (907) 299-1432.



### Children’s Choir Practice This Sunday at 12:00

Please join us on Sundays at 12:00 in the Nave for our children’s choir practice for Christmas. All children ages 4 through high school are welcome. We look forward to singing with you!



### Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) 12:30pm – 2:00pm

### Rides Needed for Oksana Atrz to Get to Church

Oksana would appreciate rides to church on Sundays. Please contact Dn. Kevin for any details. (Evan if you can only do one direction, that is helpful!)

**The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride: December 8 // December 22**



## Good Works Basket/Advent Outreach 2024 Christmas Bags for Women Staying at Downtown Soup Kitchen

Many of you have volunteered at the Downtown Hope Soup Kitchen. I go weekly and take people with me from church each time. 30+ adults and many children from our parish have volunteered since March.

For this year's Advent Outreach Project, we will be providing Christmas bags to the 80 women staying at the shelter. Many of the ladies we have come to know and love, and I hope we can benefit them with these bags.



For part of this project, we will be running a three weeklong good works basket drive for warm socks and hand warmers. **We need at least 80 socks and hopefully 160 hand warmers. Final collection date will be December 15<sup>th</sup>.** The church will be purchasing additional items that have been requested from the shelter and the women staying there. **If you'd like to donate \$ to this, please contact me asap.** In the coming weeks you will see more details on this and the details on the evening of the 16th of December when we will get together and stuff the bags. Thank you! —Sydney Ihde (907) 854-5517

Deborah Stallman and Brandon Weaver volunteered with other parishioners at the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center making lunches for 300+ people in need of food. This effort from Saint John's is organized by the Sisters of Mary and Martha under the direction of Sydney Ihde. May God bless your good work as you help our Anchorage neighbors.



## Inquirer's Class Thursdays at the Saint James House from 7-8:30pm



## *Coffee Hour This Sunday - December 8, 2024 Group B - Second Sunday of the Month*

**Hosts Families: Ihde / A. Stallman / Weaver**

Snacks: Agnew, Alvarez, Betson, Davisson, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hoyt, Ihde, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Linear, Peters, Ray, Stevens, Sturdevant, Villafana

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*Next Sunday - Group C - December 15, 2024 - Hosts: Dougherty / Cook*

*Snacks: Arnold, Clement, Curry, Dunham, Fisher, Greene, Hanna, Hawi, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Kelly, Kendall, Labrecque, Medders Families, Okuley, Polson, Saur, Scherer, Sparks, Stiehr, Taylor, Temple, Wasile*

## PFD Project Focus 2024 for St. John's Parish St. James House Upgrades

This year we put all PFD tithing toward several well overdue upgrades to the St. James House. The priority will be making the SJH accessible for persons with disabilities. At the same time, we will replace the back deck to make it more usable for all, as well as upgrade the back steps.

For many years the tithe and donations from the PFD has allowed our Parish to accomplish some important projects. Providing access for those with disabilities to the Saint James House has long been on our wish list. This will be accomplished by building a long ramp from the parking lot to the back door into the dining room. Please donate to this much needed improvement and mark your PFD tithe or more for this project so we can all continue to enjoy the St James house facilities. Click [HERE](#) for the Donation Link. - *Martha Fisher and Bruce Johnson, Co-chairs of the Parish Council*



### *News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese*

Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [The Holy Scriptures: Nourishment of the Faithful, Part Three](#)

### *Notes and Pictures from Parishioners*

#### **“Checking In” with Each Other**

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email [stjohnalaska@aol.com](mailto:stjohnalaska@aol.com)



#### **Tonga Mission Update with the Joneses**

Michael and Meghan Jones have returned to Alaska for a furlough visit until mid-January. We will be giving a report of the past 16 months serving at the Orthodox Mission in Tonga, with photos, songs and (if the girls can overcome their shyness) a traditional Tongan dance. We look forward to visiting with all of you while we are home!

- ✚ **What: Tonga Mission Update with the Joneses**
- ✚ **Where: St. James House**
- ✚ **When: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6:30-8 pm**

#### **Newsletter from the Jones's**

Catch up with the Jones Family in their latest OCMC [Newsletter](#) which includes “Matching OCMC donations, 50 cents on the dollar”.

#### **Babysitter Needed**

I have a friend whose son & wife had a baby boy on November 21st. The woman that they had lined up to watch him had something come up & cannot take on watching a newborn. Do you know of anyone (perhaps a young mom or retired woman) who might be interested in watching baby Summit in the morning (until noon)? They live in Eagle River & can be contacted at: Jason Brooke (907) 223-6036. If you have any questions, you can contact me – Valorie Sparks.

## Photos from Baptisms and Snider's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Nov. 24



### *Dates to Remember*

#### *Monday 'Moms with Kids' Reading Group*

Calling all moms with babies and toddlers! Please join us for reading group on Mondays at 10 AM. We meet at Saint James House in the living room area. Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.



#### *Thursday Reading Group*

The Thursday 10 am reading group will be meeting at the Senior Center.

#### *Birthdays This Week*

December 9 - Colleen Polson

December 12 - Andrea Stiehr

*M A N Y Y E A R S !*



#### *Anniversaries This Week*

Russell & Rhonda Clodfelter - December 8, 1984 (40 years)

*M A N Y Y E A R S !*

#### *Clare House Meal - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of Each Month*

For the Month of **December** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is: **Saturday, December 28**. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



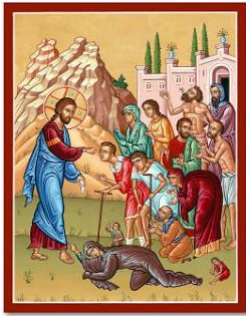
#### *Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month*



\* Thomas Hyde Webster - December 1, 2021

\* Paul Frederick Schanzenbach - December 25, 2016

*M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !*



## Remembering in Prayer...

Gwyn Jones

Nina Potts

Joe Dunham

Helen Gillquist

We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine  
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to  
war and for peace

Oksana Artz

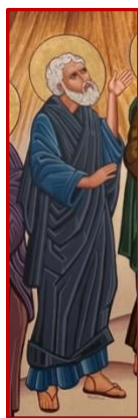
Josphine Hanna & her  
family

Dwight Stallman

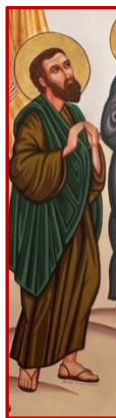
## Who's That Apostle?



Apostle  
Philip  
Nov 14



Apostle  
Matthew  
Nov 16



Apostle  
James, son  
of Alphaeus  
Oct 9



Apostle  
James  
Apr 30



Apostle John  
Sep 26, May 8



Apostle  
Peter  
Jun 29

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## THE SYNAXARION

### Patapios of Thebes – December 8

On December 8, in the Holy Orthodox Church we prepare to celebrate the Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna, and we commemorate our righteous Father Patapios of Thebes in Egypt.



#### *Verses*

*Having patiently forsaken the earth's corruptible pathways,  
You tread, O Patapios, where the feet of the meek also  
tread.*

*On the eighth, O Patapios, you tread in green pasture.*

Patapios abhorred the vanity of this world and withdrew into the wilderness of Egypt. There he devoted himself to a life of asceticism, cleansing his heart of all earthly desires and thoughts for the sake of God's love. However, when his virtues became known among the people, they came to him for solace in their sufferings. Fearing the praise of men, which darkens the minds of men and separates them from God, Patapios fled this wilderness to Constantinople, thinking he could hide himself more easily in a big city; but a light cannot be hidden. A child, blind from birth, was led by God's providence to Patapios. He besought the saint to pray to God that he be given his sight to look upon God's creation and praise Him all the more. Patapios, having compassion on the suffering child, prayed to God, and the child's sight was restored. This miracle revealed God's chosen one, and people rushed to him for healing, comfort and instruction. Patapios performed many other miracles, all through prayer in the name of Christ and by the sign of the Cross. In great old age, he peacefully entered the Heavenly Kingdom in the seventh century.

On this day, we also commemorate Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Crispos, Caesar and Epaphroditos of the Seventy; and Martyr Parthenios of Chios. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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#### **Bulletin Announcement Guidelines**

Send announcements to church email address: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.com](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.com) Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

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#### **Saint John Orthodox Cathedral**

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Parish Council Email [parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org) • Website: [stjohnalaska.org](http://stjohnalaska.org)

• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson