



St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

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



Important This Week:

Thursday, 17Oct, 7PM Adult Study / Friday, 18Oct, 7PM Enquirer's Class
Saturday, 19Oct, 10AM Soul Saturday Liturgy; 6PM Vespers
Sunday, 20Oct, 10AM, Divine Liturgy

13Oct24

16th Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 7

Deceit [Eph 5:6]

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We find ourselves at the threshold of another election. We are blessed to still live in a country where we, her citizens, have the right to merge our voices with others to select a person to in turn work to serve us.

That's the plan, at least.

But we all have suspicions that those who seek election are primarily serving themselves first. Our thoughts continue to suspect that the next to be served are those who hold large purses, who give to candidates in expectation of receiving not just payback, but increase. Perhaps we the people come next...

This is not an accusation pointed at one person, nor a particular branch (executive, legislative) in the political spectrum. If we're honest with ourselves, we find it highly probable that of all those in office, there are likely more takers than givers. And so what are WE to do? How do we make informed decisions about selecting one candidate over another for all the positions open in any given election?

One thing is for certain. We dare not just "go with your gut."

The worst part about all of this is that not just for this year's election,

but for several recent elections, those who are the candidates from whom we must select are not exactly 'the best and the brightest.' It seems as though the 'best' candidates get outspent very early on in the election process, and the choices that remain too often seem as if they're forcing us to select between the lesser of two evils.

As responsible citizens, we need to place our trust in people who conform not to just our hopes and aspirations, but more importantly who conform to what our faith tells us is Godly.

Let's stop there for a moment. No one, no current candidate, no past candidate, is a surrogate for Jesus Christ. There's no perfection in them, just as there's no perfection in me. The question we should ask ourselves is, "Which of the people seeking my vote (for President, for Senate, for Congress, or for dog-catcher) shows values consistent with *my faith*?"

Remember that teaching from St. Theophan: *If you're going to take a step, make sure that it is in the direction of the Kingdom!* I think that's wise counsel for us who may already be casting votes in this current election, but especially for

those whose minds have not yet selected the candidates for whom they should vote.

St. Paul gives valuable counsel as he instructs the people of Ephesus. *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.* (Eph 5:6)

St. Paul completes these thoughts with these words. *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

In explaining these teachings from St. Paul, the Orthodox Study Bible offers these words: 'The goal is not to abandon the world, but to keep oneself in Christ and salvage as much as possible from the evil world. Christians renounce the fallenness of the world, not creation itself.'

May our Lord give us all wisdom to choose wisely, and in accordance with His divine will let us attempt to vote for those who ALSO show the desire to seek His will—above the will of men!

Glory forever!

This Week's Prayer Requests

For Health—St. Herman's: Met. Joseph, Pat, Sandra, Richard, Sam, Judy, Mitchell, Joe, Christian, Al, Sam, Fr.Dn.Basil, Nikandra, Don, Nora & Bob
For the Departed: Patriarchs Maxim and Neofit, Metropolitans Theodosius and Maximos, Archpriest Stephan, Popadia Marika, Matushka Illaria, Nun Theophania, Matushka Theodora, Stephen, Reader Charles, Betty Lou, Lainey Kay, Katherine, Jeanne, Margaret, Lenni

Weekly Statistics

Saturday	Vespers	05Oct	- faithful	At StThomas
Sunday	Divine Liturgy	06Oct	31 faithful	13 views
Thursday	Adult Study	10Oct	6 faithful	

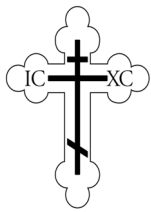
In the News

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

The last of this “season’s” Soul Saturday Liturgies falls this coming Saturday, Oct19, at 10AM. Let me give two suggestions. The first is, ‘Come and pray with us for your family’s beloved who are fallen asleep in the Lord.’ The second is, ‘If you can’t come for some valid reason, assure that all of the departed in your family are on the departed prayer list here in the church.’ If you’re not sure, give your list of names to Fr. Basil, and he’ll assure that your loved ones will be prayed for on Saturday, and at future Liturgies!

Kids #3!

One thing you can say about kids... they don't go around showing everyone pictures of their grandparents.



The prayer of Jesus both reveals the presence of demons in a man, and drives them out of the man.

(St. Ignatius Brianchaninov)

Fr. Thomas Hopko's "55 Maxims" - Third of Nine

THREE

- 13. Do not engage intrusive thoughts and feelings
- 14. Reveal all your thoughts and feelings to a trusted person regularly
- 15. Read the scriptures regularly
- 16. Read good books, a little at a time
- 17. Cultivate communion with the saints
- 18. Be an ordinary person, one of the human race



Fourth Sunday of St. Luke (oca.org)

We live in a world obsessed with outcomes. Winning – regardless of the methods, regardless of the means – counts. Nothing else. In nearly every area of our lives – our athletics, our politics, our business – winning is the criteria by which people are assessed. A person is either successful, by winning, or a loser. I don't think that was always the case. It was not that long ago when people of good character were winners. People who played by the rules were winners.

What you said – the views you espoused – didn't matter. What you did – that was what mattered. One's party affiliation was not nearly as important as one's generosity, or helpfulness. Selflessness we might say. You might not even know what political positions your neighbor held. What charities they gave to. What you saw, was their generosity. What you saw was them lending a hand to accomplish something that was important to someone else.

In the Gospel reading today, Christ reminds us that the outcome is significantly less important than the preparation. The outcome is determined by the preparation. The seed – the benefit and Grace of God – was given to everyone. Where it fell determined the outcome. If it fell by the wayside – a road or path – the birds would eat it and it would be trampled. If it fell on a rock, there would not be a path for moisture to reach the plant, and it would wither. If the seed fell on land that was overgrown by other seed, it would have to battle for survival, and the more established plants would have the significant upper hand. But – if the seed landed on ground that was prepared – ground that was cleared, and tilled – then the seed would take root, and blossom and grow. And produce an outcome. 100 fold – a bounty.

We won't be able to fool anyone at the last judgement. We won't be able to con anyone, or keep our true nature hidden. The outcome will betray us – and betray our preparation. We don't control growth. We don't control the crop. We do control the preparation of the soil – our heart, our mind, our will. The growth, the fruit – that's God's part. We guard that seed – that word. We tend it, and we nurture it. But God gives the increase.

So what do we know about preparing the soil – the heart, the nous – to receive the seed? To receive the Word of God? We need to ensure our ground is prepared for cultivation. We can't pave over it. We have to break up the rocks, the hardness that is the result of our inattention. The result of our affinity for other amusements. The distractions. We have to clear our field. We have to make sure that nothing else is growing there. No fear, no anxiety, no concerns about wealth, or status, or power. Nothing else. Only the Word. Only Christ. We have to break up our soil, our heart, by letting all those things go. Weeding them out. And then tilling our soil by serving others. Putting the wants and desires and needs of others first. Not just when it is convenient, and not just when it is visible.

Every time we have an opportunity to set aside our own wants and desires – our own will – and fulfill the wants and desires of another, we till another small part of our heart, preparing it for the seed which God showers on everyone.

Righteous and unrighteous. The grace is there. The word is there. But the issue is the preparation we have done. And if we don't take that opportunity? Our heart remains hard. One more rock to break up later. One more weed to pull later. Until there is no more "later". This is not easy, brothers and sisters. It is hard. It hurts. It is, in a way, quite violent. We are pulling things out – breaking things up – burying a spade in our heart and turning the soil over. It is something that cannot be done for us, nor can we do it for someone else. I can't prepare your soil – your heart. You can't prepare mine. We can't prepare someone else's. Only our own. Only our self. So that as St. Paul writes, we become the sanctuary of the living God. The field of the one who distributes all seed. We can be separate together. As a community. To support one another and encourage one another. Reminding us that the world around us does not define our world – our kingdom. Our family. God will be our Father. God is our Father. We are his children. And, since we are His, and He is ours, and those are the promises we hold: prepare the heart. Clear the land. Till the soil.

And tend the word in ourselves.

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 of the Week: (Tone 7) *By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers, You changed weeping into joy, and You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, granting the world great mercy.*

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.*

Glorify to the Father....

Kontakion of the Week: (Tone 7) *The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended shattering and destroying its power. Hell is bound while the prophets rejoice and cry: ‘The Savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!’*

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 6:1-10

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

Monthly Financial Tracker

September Total Income	\$43,498
September Total Expenses	\$ 2,293
September Net Income (Loss)	\$41,205

Web Tracker

StHerman Google Bus Site	586	interacts/28 days
Blog Site Views	48488	Total Views
Web Site Views	15889	Total Views
Facebook Followers	5488	Total

**St. Herman of Alaska
Eastern Orthodox Church
VRevFrBasil Rusen, Pastor**

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**CURRENT WEEK
HIGHLIGHTED**

October 2024												
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
14th Sunday 2nd Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 2Cor 1:21-2:4 Luke 6:31-36	29	30 Protection of Theotokos Heb 9:1-7 Luke 10:38-42,11:27-28	1	2 Gal 3:15-22 Luke 6:46-7:1	3 Adult Study 7PM Gal 3:23-4:5 Luke 7:17-30	4 Enquirer's Class 7PM Gal 4:8-21 Luke 7:31-35	5 Vespers/Conf 6PM 1Cor 4:17-5:5 Luke 5:27-32					
15th Sunday 3rd Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 2Cor 4:6-15 Luke 7:11-16	6	7 Gal 4:28-5:10 Luke 7:36-50	8 Gal 5:11-21 Luke 8:1-3	9 Gal 6:2-10 Luke 8:22-25	10 Adult Study 7PM Eph 1:1-9 Luke 9:7-11	11 Enquirer's Class 7PM Eph 1:7-17 Luke 9:12-18	12 Vespers/Conf 6PM 1Cor 10:23-28 Luke 6:1-10					
16th Sunday 4th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 2Cor 6:1-10 Luke 8:5-15	13	14 Eph 1:22-2:3 Luke 9:18-22	15 Phil 2:17-23 Luke 9:23-27	16 Eph 3:8-21 Luke 9:44-50	17 Adult Study 7PM Eph 4:14-19 Luke 9:49-56	18 Apostle/Evang Luke Enquirer's Class 7PM Col 4:5-9,14,18 Luke 10:16-21	19 Soul Sat Liturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM 1Cor 14:20-25 Luke 7:2-10					
17th Sunday 5th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 2Cor 6:16-7:1 Luke 16:19-31	20	21 Eph 4:25-32 Luke 10:22-24	22 Eph 5:20-26 Luke 11:1-10	23 Eph 5:25-33 Luke 11:9-13	24 Adult Study 7PM Eph 5:33-6:9 Luke 11:14-23	25 Enquirer's Class 7PM Eph 6:18-24 Luke 11:23-26	26 Grt Martyr Demetrius Vespers/Conf 6PM 2Tim 2:1-10 John 15:17-16:2					
18th Sunday 6th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 2Cor 9:6-11 Luke 8:26-39	27	28 Phil 1:1-7 Luke 11:29-33	29 Phil 1:8-14 Luke 11:34-41	30 Phil 1:12-20 Luke 11:42-46	31 Adult Study 7PM Phil 1:20-27 Luke 11:47-12:1	1 Sts Cosmos & Damien Enquirer's Class 7PM 1Cor 12:27-13:8 Mat 10:1, 5-8	2 Vespers/Conf 6PM 1Cor 15:58-16:3 Luke 8:16-21					