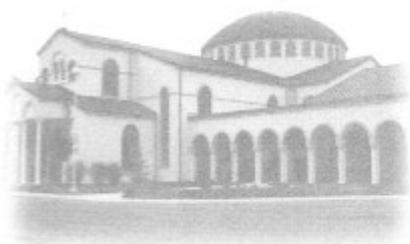


**SUNDAY OF THE  
FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST**

**HERMAN OF ALASKA,  
ENLIGHTENER OF THE ALEUTS**

**DECEMBER 13, 2020**



**ST. NICHOLAS  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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616-954-2700 ▪ [info@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:info@stnicholasgr.com) ▪ [www.stnicholasgr.com](http://www.stnicholasgr.com)

**CLERGY**

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH  
*Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America*

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY  
*Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

Very Reverend Michael Nasser  
*Pastor of St. Nicholas ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ [frmichael@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:frmichael@stnicholasgr.com)*

V. Rev. Fr. Elias Mitchell  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Reverend Theodore Sirotko  
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey  
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff  
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



## WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located on the table in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

## WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas is a worshipping community in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian tradition that preserves, proclaims, and practices the Faith given by Christ to the Apostles, serving Him, one another and our neighbors. We manifest His love through sacramental and liturgical life, education, hospitality, works of mercy, and fellowship.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that ALL will find Eternal Life in Him.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



# HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

## HYMNS

### ***RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 2)***

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS (TONE 2)***

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF ST. HERMAN (TONE 4)***

Blessed ascetic of the northern wilds and gracious intercessor for the whole world, teacher of the Orthodox Faith, good instructor of piety, adornment of Alaska and joy of all America, holy Father Herman, pray to Christ God that He save our souls.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)***

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

### ***KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (TONE 3)***

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

## EPISTLE

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.  
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians 3:4-11**

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 14:16-24**

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

## **SYNAXARION**

*(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)*

On December 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, and Orestes at Sebastia; Virgin-martyr Lucia of Syracuse; and Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Serbia.

On this day, we commemorate our righteous Father Herman of Alaska, Enlightener of the Aleuts, who reposed in peace in the year 1837.

### **Verses**

*Having stripped off the old man with many labors,  
To the new world came Herman as an Apostle.  
On the thirteenth, Herman shineth with Alaskan gold.*

Herman was born in 1756. At age 16, he entered the Orthodox Christian monastic life at the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Hermitage near St. Petersburg. Later, he moved to the Valaam Monastery. Father Herman was selected, along with seven other monks, to begin a mission into the Alaskan territory. They arrived on Kodiak Island on September 24, 1794. The monks educated and converted the Aleuts and native Alaskans and, as time progressed, they found themselves protecting the natives from exploitation and abuse. Thus the monks themselves were abused, arrested and physically threatened. The natives regarded Herman as their defender and intercessor before God. Herman died on December 13, 1837, and was forgotten until the first investigation of his life in 1867 by Bishop Peter of Alaska.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## HOLY OBLATION IS OFFERED

For the Health & Safety of Dan and Kathy Abraham by Keith Marshall & Joe Samra. May God grant you many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Carole Kaufman on the occasion of her birthday by Ryan, Leah, Rebekah and Sarah. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of our parents, Ryan and Carole Kaufman, on their 44th wedding anniversary by Leah, Sarah and Rebekah. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Sophia Olson with much love on the occasion of her 17th birthday by her family.

For the Health and Blessings of Keith McAdams for his tireless efforts for our parish. We appreciate you! May God grant you many years!

In memory of Louis James who fell asleep in the Lord on November 22, offered by Laura Olson. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of the handmaiden of God, Bertha Barkett, on the 15th anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord by her daughter, Debbie, and Alan Abraham, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. May her Memory be Eternal!

## REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*If you desire a name to be added to this prayer list, Holy Oblations may be offered, with the option of being added to the bulletin Prayer List for 40 days.*

### LIVING

Metropolitan Paul	Archpriest George
Archbishop John	Archpriest Joseph

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty throughout our Nation, in Brazil, India, Turkey, and throughout the world.

### HOLY OBLATIONS

Dan	Carole
Kathy	Sophie
Ryan	Keith

### ONGOING PRAYERS

Attallah Amash	Joe Corey	David Francis
Audrey Nicoloff	Laura Lee	Michael Cotter
Vera Mijatovic	Shirley Salhaney	Nicholas
Ralph Thomas	Hatem Karadsheh	Correnna
David Corey	Marge Simon	Maen
Barbara Sielaff	Roy Gurk	



### DEPARTED

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty throughout our Nation, in Italy, Mexico, Brazil, and throughout the world.

### TRISAGION/HOLY OBLATIONS

Louis  
Bertha