

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

January 22 – January 29

Mon. Jan. 23 – 9:30am: “Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children”, followed by knitting & coffee fellowship 10:00am-noon

Tue. Jan. 24 – 7:00pm: Little Compline

Sat. Jan. 28 – 6:30pm: Great Vespers (confessions heard afterward)

Sun. Jan. 29 – 9:00am: Orthros

Sun. Jan. 29 – 10:00am: Divine Liturgy

- ❖ **WELCOME** to all who are visiting with us today! We hope you will feel at home here and, if you do not already have a church home, will consider becoming a part of the Saint Herman Church community.
- ❖ **FR. MATTHEW** will be back in town on Tues. Jan. 24.
- ❖ **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 29.** We will elect parish council officers, review the parish budget, and discuss the establishment of a new “Site Committee”.
- ❖ **“PURPOSE, VISION, MISSION” WORKSHOP** – Feb. 3-5, 2017 with Fr. David Rucker. All parishioners are invited. More details to come in the bulletin on January 29.

ST. HERMAN'S FAMILY NIGHT – TUESDAY JAN. 24

5:30-6:00pm: Dinner \$3/person or \$12/family

6:00-7:30pm: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (ages 3-9)

6:00-7:30pm: Preteens (ages 10-12) and Teens (ages 13-19)

6:00-7:00pm: Adult Education –Video

7:00-7:30pm: Little Compline

SAINT HERMAN

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West*

PRIMATE and DIOCESAN HIERARCH

His Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Matthew Howell

DEACON

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

Contact Information

6988 N. En Dove Road

Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Pastor's Phone: (907)373-5254

priest@sainthermanwasilla.org

www.SaintHermanWasilla.org

*“Zacchaeus
Sunday”*

January 22, 2017

A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome! In the Orthodox Church, reception of the Holy Eucharist is reserved for baptized, chrismated Orthodox Christians who have *prepared by prayer, fasting and a recent confession*. If you are visiting from a non-Orthodox church or otherwise are not prepared to commune today, you are welcome to receive some of the unconsecrated, blessed bread which the acolytes are holding. We pray for all to be united in the Body and Blood of Christ! If you would like to learn how you can enter into communion with the Orthodox Church, please speak with our clergy.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God; ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke—"Zacchaeus Sunday")

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE DAY

Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost & Fifteenth Sunday of Luke;
Holy Apostle Timothy & Anastasios the Persian;
Venerable Joseph the Sanctified of Crete

A GOOD WORD

"Lent is a time of repentance, and repentance is a re-examination, a re-appraisal, a deepening, a shaking upside down. Repentance is the sorrowful uncovering of one's neglected, forgotten, soiled "inner" person. The first announcement of Lent, the first reminder, comes through a short gospel story about an entirely unremark-able man, "small of stature," whose occupation as a tax collector marked him, in that time and society, as greedy, cruel and dishonest.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Christ; he wanted this so much that his desire attracted the attention of Jesus. Desire is the beginning of everything. As the gospel says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21). Everything in our life begins with desire, since what we desire is also what we love, what draws us from within, what we surrender to. We know that Zacchaeus loved money, and by his own admission we know that to get it he had no scruples about defrauding others. Zacchaeus was rich and he loved riches, but within himself he discovered another desire, he wanted something else, and this desire became the pivotal moment of his life.

This gospel story poses a question to each of us: what do you love, what do you desire—not superficially, but deeply? There is no mysterious teacher walking through your town, down your street, surrounded by crowds of people. But is that really so? Isn't there some mysterious calling walking by your life every moment; and some-where in the depths of your soul, don't you sometimes feel a longing for something other than what now fills your life from morning till night? Stop for moment, pay attention, enter your heart, listen to your own inner per-son, and you will find within yourself the very same strange and wonderful desire Zacchaeus encountered, which no human being can live without, yet which almost everyone fears and suppresses with the noise and vanity of everything external. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," the New Testament says (Rev 3:20). Do you hear this quiet knock? This is the first invitation of the Church, of the gospel, and of Christ: desire something other, take a deep breath of something other, remember something other. And the very moment we stop to listen to that call is as if a pure and joyful wind blows into the stale air of our joyless lives, and the slow return begins.

Desire. The soul taking a deep breath. Everything becomes—has already become—different, new, boundlessly meaningful. The little man, with his eyes to the ground focusing on earthly desires, now ceases to be little as his victory over himself begins. Here is the start, the first step. from exterior to interior, toward that mysterious homeland which all human beings, unknown often to themselves, long for and desire." —Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Great Lent*

Annual Parish Meeting – January 29, 2017

Our annual parish meeting will occur Sunday January 29, 2017 following coffee hour. Here is a preliminary agenda for the meeting:

- ❖ Review 2016 news and events
- ❖ Highlight upcoming events and goals for 2017
- ❖ Discuss formation of new “Site Committee”
- ❖ Review 2016 Financial Reports, and 2017 Budget
- ❖ Vote on Proposed Mortgage Refinance
- ❖ Parish Council Elections: We will elect one new member for the parish council at our annual church family meeting. One person will be elected and one person will be appointed to the parish council by the pastor. The parish council will select officers at their first meeting after the new parish council members are elected. Our current chairwoman, Donna Young, will contact all those who are eligible to see if they are interested in putting their name on the ballot. No nominations will be taken from the floor. To be eligible to serve on the parish council, a person must meet the following requirements:
 - 25 years of age
 - Contributed financially to the parish for at least 6 of the last 12 months
 - Be a member of the parish for at least one year
 - Be in good standing canonically with the Orthodox Church (as determined by pastor)



Women's Valentines Tea

Ladies, the women of St.Herman's would like to invite you to our Annual Women's Tea

When: February 11th
Time: 3-5pm

Where: 6988 N.En Dove Road, Wasilla AK

Cost: Each family is asked to please bring a sweet & savory dish to share. Thank you!



SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH
 6988 N En Dove Rd - Wasilla, AK 99654
 Reverend Matthew Howell, Pastor (907)373-5254



FEBRUARY 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 29 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy Annual Parish Meeting following coffee hour	Jan 30 Three Holy Hierarchs	Jan 31 <i>Family Night</i> 5:30-6:00pm: Dinner 6:00-7:30pm: Christian Education for all Ages 7:00pm: Little Compline	1 6:00pm: Orthros 6:45pm: Divine Liturgy Fast	2 MEETING OF THE LORD	3 Feb. 3-5: Parish Workshop with Fr. David Rucker Topic: Purpose, Vision, Mission All are invited. See bulletin for times and details. Fast	4 Feb. 3-5: Parish Workshop with Fr. David Rucker 6:30pm: Great Vespers
5 Publican and Pharisee Feb. 3-5: Parish Workshop with Fr. David Rucker 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy	6 Fr. Matthew to Diocesan Clergy Symposium in Alhambra, California Feb. 6-10 Fast free	7 <i>Family Night</i> 5:30-6:00pm: Dinner 6:00-7:30pm: Christian Education for all Ages 7:00pm: Little Compline Fast free	8 Fast free	9 Fast free	10 Fast free	11 6:30pm Great Vespers Fast free
12 Prodigal Son 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy	13	14 <i>Family Night</i> 5:30-6:00pm: Dinner 6:00-7:30pm: Christian Education for all Ages 7:00pm: Little Compline	15 Fast	16	17 Fast	18 Saturday of Souls 9:00am Divine Liturgy with Memorial for the Departed 6:30pm Great Vespers
19 Sunday of the Last Judgment 9:00am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Meatfare Sunday	20 Fast: dairy, fish, wine, & oil	21 <i>Family Night</i> 5:30-6:00pm: Dinner 6:00-7:30pm: Christian Education for all Ages 7:00pm: Little Compline Fast: dairy, fish, wine, & oil	22 Fast: dairy, fish, wine, & oil	23 Fast: dairy, fish, wine, & oil	24 Fast: dairy, fish, wine, & oil	25 6:30pm Great Vespers Fast: dairy, fish, wine, & oil
26 Forgiveness Sunday 9:00am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Cheesefare Sunday Fast: dairy, fish, wine, & oil	27 6:30pm: Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 1) Fast	28 6:30pm: Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 2) Fast	Mar 1 6:30pm: Presanctified Liturgy followed by Soup Supper Fast	Mar 2 6:30pm: Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 4) Fast	Mar 3 6:30pm: Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn (Part 1) Fast	Mar 4 6:30pm Great Vespers Fast: wine & oil

WHY WE DO HOME BLESSINGS

Why do we do home blessings? Our homes are the site of much of our spiritual struggle and labor, so we need them properly prepared for our spiritual lives. A home blessing also functions as a sort of “spiritual house cleaning” that renews our homes and washes away the accumulated spiritual dirt. **Why do we do them this time of year?** We bless holy water at Theophany (Jan. 6), the feast of Christ’s baptism, and then take it to all our homes for the blessing.

PLAN TO BLESS YOUR HOME

Please sign up to have your house blessed, and arrange your calendar to be there—**your home blessing is a high priority event for you and your family and is not optional for Orthodox Christians**. If you cannot be at home at the scheduled time, or if you would like to spend more time together than is on the schedule, please contact me at 907-373-5254 or via email at frmatthewhowell@gmail.com, and we will make other arrangements. I will arrange house blessings by location and call you when I am on my way to your house.

EVERY HOME SHOULD BE BLESSED

It is the tradition in the Orthodox Church for homes to be blessed every year following the Great Feast of Theophany (Jan. 6). It is also mandated by our Archdiocese. Our bishop expects that every home be blessed before the beginning of Great Lent, if possible.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR THE HOUSE BLESSING

Before the priest arrives:

1. **Open** all the doors inside the house.
2. **Turn on** all the lights on, so that I can easily navigate to bless all the rooms.
3. **Turn off** televisions, smartphones, iPads/tablets, video games and stereo systems. Your home blessing shouldn’t have to compete with anything else going on.
4. **Handle** and control pets properly and with consideration.
5. **Light** lampadas, candles, and/or incense in the family icon corner. If there is not an icon corner, set out icons on the dining room table.

After the priest arrives:

1. **Greet** the priest. He should be greeted by all of the family members, each of whom asks the priest’s blessing and reverences his right hand.
2. **Gather** the entire family with the priest before the icon corner (or table) to begin the Theophany House Blessing.
3. **Lead** the priest through the house.