

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

December 9 - Tuesday Night Family Night

5:30-6:00pm – Dinner – \$3 per person or \$15 per family

6:00-7:30pm – Classes for Ages 3-19

7:00-7:30pm – Daily Vespers

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **CHRISTIAN ED** will continue Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, then take a break for Christmas.
- ❖ **ST. HERMAN DAY** will be celebrated Dec. 12-13. We will have Great Vespers with Lita at 6:30pm December 12. God-willing and weather permitting, we will also have a bonfire along with hot tea and cider following Vespers. Each family is asked to bring one dozen cookies to share. We will then have Matins at 9:00am and Liturgy at 10:00am on Saturday December. 13.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS SERVICES** will be as follows:
 - **Dec. 24** - 9:00am – Royal Hours (1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th)
 - **Dec. 24** – 10:30am – Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Paramon of the Feast
 - **Dec. 24** – 11:00pm – Christmas Matins followed at Midnight by the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- ❖ **METROPOLITAN JOSEPH** will visit our parish Dec. 27-28 for Great Vespers, Matins, and Liturgy. Please plan on being at church that weekend to welcome our Chief Shepherd. It will be the first time the acting Metropolitan of our Archdiocese will visit our parish.
- ❖ **AN ENTHRONEMENT GALA** will be held Saturday January 31 in Los Angeles for those who could not make it to the enthronement of Metropolitan JOSEPH in New York. If you want more information about this event, please speak with Fr. Matthew.
- ❖ **WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR ACOLYTE VESTMENTS.** Last week we collected \$215, and had another \$800 promised. Our goal is \$2000 for a matching set of 10 gold robes. Please make your check out to St. Herman Church and write “vestments” on the memo. Thank you.
- ❖ **DECEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDARS** are available in the narthex and online at www.sainthermanwasilla.org.

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

DEACONS

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

Rev. Dn. John Phelps

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26TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

December 7, 2014

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 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

SAINTS & FEASTS OF THE DAY

Ambrose, bishop of Milan; Martyr Athenodoros of Mesopotamia;
Venerable Gregory, founder of Gregoriou monastery on Athos

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

December 7 -14

Tues. 7:00pm: Daily Vespers

Fri. 6:30pm: Great Vespers with Litia for St. Herman

Sat. 9:00am: Matins followed at 10:00am by the Divine Liturgy

Sat. 6:30pm: Great Vespers

Sun. 9:00am: Matins followed at 10:00am by the Divine Liturgy

A GOOD WORD

- ❖ When asked why the good Lord permits assaults and trials to fall on the true Faith while He permits the pleasure of tranquility to heresies and paganism, St. John Chrysostom replied: "So that you might recognize their weakness (i.e., of heresies and paganism) when you see that they disintegrate on their own without any disturbance – and also be convinced of the power of the Faith that endures misfortunes and even multiplies through its adversities."
- ❖ "The wondrous love of God toward man is recognized when man is in misfortunes that are destroying his hope. Here God manifests His power for man's salvation. For man never recognizes the power of God in tranquility and freedom." -- St. Isaac the Syrian
- ❖ "If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood, but in virtues, for this is true nobility." -- St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria
- ❖ "Christians, above all men, are forbidden to correct the stumblings of sinners by force...it is necessary to make a man better not by force but by persuasion. God gives the crown to those who are kept from evil, not by force, but by choice." -- St. John Chrysostom
- ❖ "Just as a calm and sheltered harbour provides great security to the ships moored there, so does the temple of God: when people enter it, it snatches them away from worldly affairs as from a storm, and gives them the capacity to stand and listen to God's words in calm and security. This place is the bedrock of virtue and the school of spiritual life...You need only set foot on the threshold of a church and at once you are liberated from the cares of daily life. Go on into the church, and a spiritual dew will envelop your soul. The stillness there moves you to awe, and teaches you how to live spiritually. It elevates your thoughts and prevents you from remembering things or matters belonging to the present life. It transports you from earth to heaven. And if there is such great gain from simply being in church when no service is going on, then how much benefit will people derive from being present...when the holy Apostles proclaim the Gospel, Christ stands in our midst, God the Father receives the Mysteries that are performed and the Holy Spirit gives His own joy." -- St. John Chrysostom