

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On break for Christmas and Theophany; classes will resume Jan. 13

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

December 28 – January 4

Sat. 6:30pm: Great Vespers

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

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.
- ❖ **THEOPHANY SERVICES** will be as follows:
 - Tues. Jan. 5 – 10:00am – Royal Hours (1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th)
 - Tues. Jan. 5 – 6:00pm – Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Paramon of the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord, *with the indoor blessing of the waters after communion*
 - Wed. Jan. 6 – 9:00am – Festal Matins
 - Wed. Jan. 6 – 10:00am – Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
 - Wed. Jan. 11 – Outdoor Blessing of the Water at the Catletts' house following liturgy
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **JANUARY LITURGICAL CALENDARS** are available in the narthex and online at www.sainthermanwasilla.org.
- ❖ **HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH** will have services *on December 31* in honor of St. Basil the Great, the patron saint of Fr. Vasili Hillhouse. Matins starts at 5:00pm and Liturgy starts at 6:00pm. All are welcome to attend. The church is located at 2800 O'Malley Road in Anchorage.

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

Contact Information

6988 N. En Dove Road
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Office Telephone: (907)373-5254
Pastor's Cell Phone: (916)396-6325

FrMatthewHowell@gmail.com
www.SaintHermanWasilla.org

SUNDAY AFTER
THE NATIVITY
CHRIST

December 28, 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 Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel.

THE GOSPEL (CONTINUED)

But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

SAINTS & FEASTS OF THE DAY

After-feast of & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ;
Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King,
and James the brother of the Lord

A GOOD WORD

VITAMINS FOR THE SOUL

- ❖ "Do not delay, unless you wish to teach your children procrastination. Instead, show them your love and gratitude to God for His blessings by working hard to complete your work, and you will teach your children to be grateful for what they have." -- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH
- ❖ "One need not look at the money he gives to beggars, but rather one should mix up the money in his pocket and give only what the hand removes. That hand will draw out whatever God's providence ordains." -- St. Philaret the Almsgiver
- ❖ "Save yourselves; repent every moment and pray to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His Most pure Mother." -- St. Athanasius of the Kiev Caves
- ❖ "Never confuse the person formed in the image of God, with the evil that is in him: because evil is but a chance misfortune, an illness, a devilish reverie. But the very essence of a person is the image of God, and this remains in him despite every disfigurement." -- St John of Kronstadt
- ❖ "A healthy parish requires a healthy choir and chanter's stand. Those who sing must prepare themselves for the task of serving the parish by constantly pursuing a life of spirituality." -- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH
- ❖ "Wherefore also the Lord Jesus Christ, wishing to make us more strong against the temptations of the devil, fasted when about to contend with him, that we might know that we may in no other way overcome the enticements of evil." -- St. Ambrose of Milan
- ❖ "When we argue and fight over liturgical music, God is no longer present in our thoughts: we have become servants of the idol of 'religiosity' rather than Jesus Christ. We cannot improve our Church music if we are convinced we are doing it the 'right way.' When we are open to change, then God will lead us to what is better." -- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH