

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.
- ❖ **PASCHA FEAST INFO:** The Pascha Feast will be Today April 20 after Agape Vespers, which starts at 3:00pm. Anna Phelps will be the money collector and will ask people to sign up to bring dishes and to clean up. *Adults are asked to pay \$10 and children to pay \$5.* If this will not be possible for your family, please don't stay home on account of money, instead talk to Fr. Matthew or Anna about your needs.
- ❖ **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN READING THE GOSPEL at AGAPE VESPERS,** then please see Fr. Matthew.
- ❖ **FR. MATTHEW WILL BE OUT OF TOWN April 24-May 2.** Fr. Thomas Frizelle will serve Liturgy on April 27 at St. Herman Church. If there is an emergency need for a priest during Fr. Matthew's absence, you may call Fr. Christopher Stanton at (907)775-2046.
- ❖ **LITURGICAL CALENDARS** for May are available in the narthex and online at www.sainthermanwasilla.org.
- ❖ **THE CHURCH BOOKSTORE** is now housed in Fr. Matthew's office, and will be open each Sunday briefly during coffee hour or other times by request.
- ❖ **AN ACOLYTE TRAINING DAY** will be Saturday May 17. Details on the time to follow. Any boy or man age 7 and older is welcome to come if they have any interest or experience in serving at the altar. If you are interested in serving at the altar but cannot make it to the training, then please talk to Fr. Matthew.
- ❖ **SAVE THE DATE – COUNTRY FAIR MAY 31.**

SAINT HERMAN

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

PRIMATE

His Beatitude, the Most Blessed Patriarch JOHN of Antioch

DIOCESAN HIERARCH

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Archbishop JOSEPH

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Matthew Howell

DEACONS

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

Rev. Dn. John Phelps

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PASCHA

THE FEAST OF
FEASTS

April 20, 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 or otherwise 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

*This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

SAINTS OF THE DAY

PASCHA – The Commemoration of our Lord's Rising from the Tomb

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ages 3-6: Next Sunday at 9:00am

Ages 7-9, 10-12, and 13-19: Next Sunday following Liturgy

NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TODAY

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

April 20 - 27

Today 3:00pm: Agape Vespers followed by Pascha Feast

Monday 9:00am: Bright Monday Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church in Eklutna

Wednesday 6:30pm: Bright Week Vespers

Saturday 6:30pm: Great Vespers

Sunday 9:00am: Matins; 10:00am: Divine Liturgy

A GOOD WORD

VITAMINS FOR THE SOUL

❖ "In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify: for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy Name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's Holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection: for in that He endured the Cross He hath destroyed Death by death." – Pascha Matins

"Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath dawned upon thee. Dance and be glad, O Zion. And delight thou, O pure Theotokos, in the rising of thy son.

How divine! How beloved! How sweet is thy voice, O Christ! For thou has faithfully promised to be with us to the end of the age. Having this as our anchor of hope, we the faithful do rejoice.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha; O Wisdom, Word and Power of God: Grant that we may more perfectly partake of thee in the never-ending day of thy kingdom." – Paschal Canon, 9th Ode



**THE SELF-RULED ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
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L058/0414

Buenos Aires, April 12th 2014

Very Esteemed Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy,
Honorable Members of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees
and Beloved Faithful
of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

I wholeheartedly greet you on Lazarus Saturday, having experienced the tranquillity of the company of the Lord to His closest friend, and having shared His imperishable promise to Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, that He is the resurrection for whoever believes in Him!

Last Wednesday, I arrived back in Buenos Aires in order to celebrate Holy Week and Pascha with our parishioners in Argentina. Nevertheless, I did not stop working for your beloved archdiocese, and I will do until my functions as a vicar come to fulfilment, when the Holy Synod of Antioch elects a new Metropolitan in order to succeed to His Eminence, our beloved Metropolitan Philip of eternal memory.

I would like to share with you some aspects of my experience, during the two weeks I have spent with you, from Monday March 24th (arrival to the Archdiocese's Headquarters) until Tuesday April 9th (Departure to Buenos Aires).

The first week was dedicated to the preparation of the funeral and reception of the Hierarchs, clergy and faithful who came from different parishes, churches and jurisdictions from the US, Canada and from abroad. We were blessed by the presence of the Hierarchs of the Holy See of Antioch, Their Eminences, Metropolitan Elias of Beirut, Metropolitan Antonio of Mexico, Metropolitan Sergio of Santiago (Chile), Metropolitan Damaskinos of Sao Paulo (Brasil), Metropolitan Ephrem of Tripoli, Metropolitan Ignatius of France and His Grace Bishop Ilia (Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Akkar). At the same time, many dignitaries, religious as well as civil, came to pray and pay their last farewell to His Eminence. The faithful seemed to have been moved by the prayers, celebrations, words, and the fraternal company and presence of all the brothers and sisters in a time of grief and mourning, but also a time of hope and faith.



The burial at the Antiochian Village was a time for me to meet with the Saliba Family, and later on to accompany Saiedna Philip to his new dwelling place, from where a “bridge” has been installed, i.e. a bridge of prayers: ours, for his eternal repose in peace; and his, for our salvation.

After the burial, during the second week, a series of administrative meetings took place at the Headquarters in order to insure the best continuity of the ongoing work of the archdiocese. The members of the concerned departments showed their best collaboration, dedication and cooperation in that regard. I feel grateful to all of them because they relieved me from a great responsibility by the way everyone carries on his work. A public announcement has been made about the timetable of the procedure that will take place in Chicago in order to prepare for the election of three nominees to the office of Metropolitan: The Local Synod meeting on May 13th; the Board of Trustees meeting on May 14th; and finally the Special Nominating Convention on June 5th.

Additionally, as agreed with the esteemed Hierarchs of the Archdiocese in our meeting of Saturday March 29th, I began a series of visits to the dioceses between Wednesday 2nd and Sunday 6th of April, as follows:

- Wednesday April 2nd: Celebration of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at St. Nicholas Church at Bridgeport, CT, followed by a dinner with the parishioners in the church’s hall. His Grace, Bishop Nicholas, organized the visit and accompanied me and His Grace, Bishop John, along with our archdiocesan seminarians from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.
- Thursday, April 3rd: meetings at the Chancery of the Diocese of Worcester and New England, lunch with members of the Board of Trustees from the region, followed by an almost four-hour clergy meeting. His Grace, Bishop John, who accompanied me in the visit, organized the visit.
- Friday, April 4th: Celebration of the last Akathist at the Antiochian Village, in the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, followed by a general meeting with the SOYO members, Fellowship of Saint John the Divine members and other faithful present at the celebration. His Grace, Bishop Thomas, who accompanied me in the visit, organized this visit.
- Saturday morning, April 4th: Supplication Service to Saint Raphael with the SOYO members, followed by a Trisagion at the tomb of Saiedna Philip, and later on, a conversation with them at the Conference Center.
- Saturday afternoon, April 4th: (partial) Clergy meeting of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic in Pittsburgh at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, followed by Hierarchal vespers and attendance at the IOCC’s dinner in for the benefit of victims of the war in Syria at the church hall. His Grace, Bishop Thomas, who accompanied me in the visit, also organized this visit.



- Sunday morning, April 5th: Celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Livonia (Detroit), followed by lunch in the church hall with the parish council and founders of the church.
- Sunday evening, April 5th: Vespers at Saint George Church in Troy, MI, followed by dinner in the church hall with the parishioners. On this visit, His Grace, Bishop Anthony, accompanied me.

In fact, the purpose of these visits is, first, to come to know you as much as the short time of my functions as a vicar allows. I want to convey to you my sympathy for the falling asleep of Saiedna Philip, as well as words of hope and comfort during this transitional period. These visits are also an opportunity for me to come to listen to you, try to answer your inquiries, and prepare with you the “spirit” with which the Special Nominating Convention shall be conducted.

After Pascha, other visits will follow in order to cover the other dioceses. I will be visiting Wichita, Houston, Miami, Los Angeles and San Francisco from April 22nd till 29th. After that, I am hopefully planning to visit Washington DC from May 2nd till 4th, and later on Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, from May 9th till 11th. The hierarchs of each diocese will announce in due time the specific program for each city once it is confirmed.

At the end of this brief summary, I have a request to ask from you. There is a big need for solidarity between all of us, in order to insure that this transitional period be the expression of what the Church means to us, of how we want to serve it, and of how we want it to be for us and also for our children in the days, months and years to come.

May you have a blessed “journey” heading towards Jerusalem along with our Lord, crucified and resurrected among the dead for our salvation.

† **Silouan**
Metropolitan of Buenos Aires and all Argentina
&
Patriarcal Vicar of New York and all North America