



December 14th, 2025

27th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke) - Tone 2

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Scripture Readings

Colossians 3:4-11 (Epistle 257)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Luke 14:16-24 (Gospel 76)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Many Years!

anniversaries

27th - Larry Don & Lori Meier

birthdays

1st - Robert Boyd
2nd - Pete Pyatt
2nd - Marah Robinson
2nd - Meagan Gardner
6th - Jeanie Mikita
11th - Anya (Boyd) Gazii
12th - Mayzie Ann Jackson
17th - Tatiana Boyd
20th - Lexi Ann Guy
29th - Sabrina Lee
31st - Natalie Hlatki

Calendar

December 17th Adult Study
— Wednesday 6:30p

December 20th Vespers
— Saturday 6:30p

December 21st Divine Liturgy
— Sunday 9:30a

Wisdom!

"For our good, for our happiness, let us at least make a vow: that from this day, from this hour, from this minute, we shall strive to love God above all else and to fulfill His holy will."

+St. Herman of Alaska

St. Herman of Alaska *Commemorated Saturday December 13*

Saint Herman joined a 1793 monastic mission from Valaam Monastery to evangelize native Alaskans under Russian rule. Born around 1756-1760 in Serpukhov to merchants, he entered monastic life at 16, possibly named Gerasimus, training at Trinity-Sergius Hermitage, Sarov, and Sanaxar under Elder Nazarius before Valaam.

At Sergius Hermitage, he miraculously healed a severe throat abscess by praying all night before a Theotokos icon, wiping it with a towel, and dreaming of her cure—leaving only a mark, defying physicians' expectations.

He deeply loved Valaam and Nazarius, later calling Alaska's Spruce Island "New Valaam." There, he lived ascetically in the wilderness, performing obediences and tearful worship.

Of the ten missionaries, most perished early—Joasaph drowned, Juvenal martyred—leaving Herman alone for decades to enlighten Aleuts.

On Spruce Island ("New Valaam"), he lived over 40 years in a self-dug cave then cell, with chapel, school, and garden. He labored intensely—gardening, carrying heavy loads barefoot—wearing ragged deerskin clothes, sleeping on a bench with a board "blanket," eating minimally, and bearing iron chains.

Herman tirelessly helped Aleut orphans and natives, defending them from oppression, reconciling families, baking for children, and nursing during a deadly epidemic. As spiritual teacher, he taught orphans Scripture and music, preached captivately, converting skeptics like administrator Yanovsky through profound talks on loving God above all. He fed wild animals and performed miracles, like controlling fish, halting floods and fires via prayer and icons.

He prophesied future events accurately: a bishop for America, epidemics uniting settlements, his lasting remembrance, and a monastery on Spruce Island.

Facing temptations from spirits and human opposition, he remained humble, refusing higher ranks. In 1837 (December 13 O.S.), aged 81, he peacefully reposed during Apostolic readings, his body remaining incorrupt and fragrant for weeks despite delays. Visions of light pillars marked his death. Venerated as a holy ascetic, his grave drew pilgrims; prophecies fulfilled, including later monastic life there.

O Holy Father Herman of Alaska, pray unto God for us!

Troparion | Tone 2 *(Resurrection)*

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: 'O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!'

Troparion | Tone 2 *(Forefathers)*

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed./

Kontakion | Tone 2 *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst rise from the grave, all-powerful Savior; and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; and with Thee Adam also is glad; and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

Kontakion | Tone 6 *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"



Prayer List

living

Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan, Mother Cassiana, Combs Family

Libbie and the Infant Lawrence, Toni Dell, Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Tony, Diane, Bourg Family, Betty, Muriel, Child Gerhard & Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lillian, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Infant Dominic, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, Makenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael.

Departed: Gavin

Those with child: Mka. Lindsey

Those who are confined: Ethen, Basil, Hannah, Theodore

Commemorations

Righteous Priest Aaron, Righteous Benjamin, Righteous Deborah, Righteous Hezron, Righteous Isaac, Righteous Jacob, Righteous Judith, Righteous Miriam, Prophet Nathan, Prophet Nehemiah, Righteous Noah, Righteous Rebecca, Righteous Sarah, Prophet Solomon, Righteous Susanna, Righteous Ruth, Righteous Mary, Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios, and Kallinikos, Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Arrian, and Theonas of Alexandria, Saint Hilarion, Metropolitan of Suzdal and Yuriev

Coffee Hour

Join us in the hall, following liturgy today, for a coffee hour sponsored by Vickie Tipton. Next week coffee hour will be a potluck for the annual Youth Play. Please consider signing up to sponsor a coffee hour.

December 14 — Vickie Tipton

December 21 — Potluck | Youth Play

December 28 — Available

Cookbooks

Warm up your kitchen with a taste of St. Mary's! The Rose Marie Ladies' beautiful parish cookbook is now on sale for only \$20. Filled with generations of cherished family recipes, it's the perfect Christmas gift or treat for yourself. Support our parish and bring home the flavors of St. Mary's today!

See Becky for more information!

