

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org) Diocese of NY-NJ: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church"

### BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

#### SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 21

##### Sunday After the Holy Cross

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Church School & Teen Class

#### TUESDAY/SEPTEMBER 23

7:00p.m. Compline with Akathist to  
St. Herman of Alaska – celebrating the  
220<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of Orthodox  
Missionaries to Kodiak, Alaska on September  
24, 1794

#### THURSDAY/SEPTEMBER 25

7:00p.m. Compline with Akathist to  
St. John the Theologian (Sept. 26)

#### SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 27

9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 28

##### 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

##### St. Wenceslaus, Prince of the Czechs

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour and Q. & A. Period



*The original group of Valaam Monastery missionaries in America*

*Left to right: St. Herman, Hieromonks Athanasius and Macarius, Archimandrite Ioasaph, Hieromartyr Juvenal, two Hierodeacons Stephen and Nektary, and in front, monk Ioasaph being tonsured into small schema.*



*The ship called "The Three Hierarchs" on which the missionaries to America arrived in Alaska*

### **Offerings Week of September 21**

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Theodosia (birthday); for a safe trip and stay in Poland.

**Wine:** for blessing for trip to Poland; for a safe journey; in thanksgiving to God and for protection and salvation of Lucian Ioan.

### **Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!**

Sept. 21, 1977 Steven Trehubets  
Sept. 23, 1985 Mary Koles  
Sept. 24, 1917 Evdokia Philmiuchuk  
Sept. 25, 1937 Kuzma Trushko  
Sept. 25, 1959 Marie Dezko  
Sept. 25, 1997 Olga Semergieff

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

Sept. 21 Mantzafos and Sokol  
Sept. 28 Sarchisian, Dunaenko & Wypych  
Oct. 05 Peterson, Bakaletz & Mattei

### **Usher Schedule**

Sept. 21 Dennis F. & Charles D.  
Sept. 28 Edward S., A. Moldoveanu & Kahka  
Oct. 05 Timothy S. & Peter B.

### **Names Day Greetings**

St. Peter/Sept. 24: Peter Parsells  
Many Blessed Years!

### **Reliable Worker Available**

Small jobs, landscaping, painting, - Javier, contact through Fr. James.

### **99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Parish and International Food Festival Will Be Held on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

Sign-Up Sheets on the Vestibule Stand. Please sign-up. Questions? Speak with Jill Peterson or Pam Stone.

**Sheet A-1** - Food Team - Russian, Polish, Georgian

**Sheet A-2** Food Team - Middle East/Greek, Romanian, Italian, Beverages

**Sheet B** - Advertising and Outreach; Silent Auction, Solicitation of Donations and Set-Up; Set Up on Day of Event; Ticket Sales.

**Sheet C** - Children's Choir and Ethnic Dancing

### **Adult Study Classes Are Held on Evenings from 7-8:30p.m.**

The Fall Class Series will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> thru Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. Topic(s) to be announced soon. Suggestions, speak with Father James.

### **Church Media - Keeping in Touch**

- Parish website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)
- Diocese website: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)
- Parish Face book: Friends of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
- Parish e-mail: Parish Mailing List (to be on the mailing list you must subscribe from your e-mail; we cannot simply add you.)

### **The Importance of Sunday - The Lord's Day**

- Our participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgy is the most blessed and important event of the entire week.
- If we cannot be at the Sunday Divine Liturgy - for "a cause worthy of a blessing" we ought to participate in the Saturday evening service, so as not to forfeit our encounter with the Lord.

### **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of the Diocese of NY and NJ**

The Sundays of September 21, 28 and October 5 are designated as dates for consideration by our parishioners to supporting this program. Join us!

### **Church School Classes**

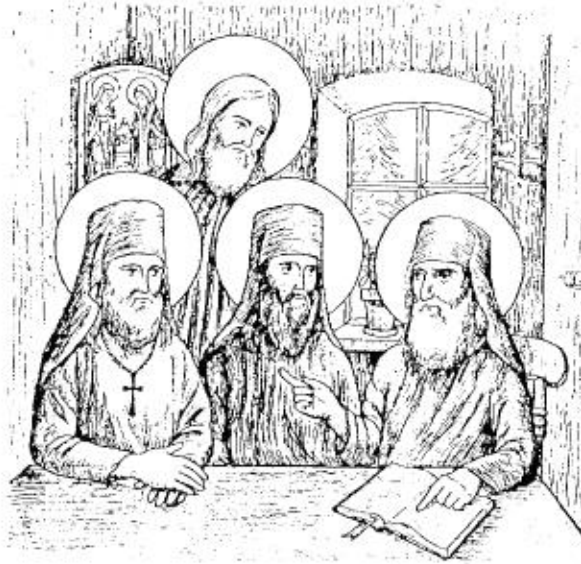
Our Church School Classes are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the Month, during the Coffee Hour. The Teen Class is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Please be sure your children and young adults are participating in Christian education.

### **The Parish Directory May be Viewed on line on the Parish Website**

If there are any changes or corrections needed, please let Father James know. Thank you.

### **Visitation of Bishop Michael**

Bishop Michael will be with us on the eve of Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> for the Vigil (5:30p.m.) and Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 9:30a.m. Please mark your calendars.



*Leaving Valaam Monastery, the future American missionaries are instructed by Blessed Nazarius in spiritual principles by which all Orthodox missionaries are to conduct themselves. From left to right: Sts. Herman, Ioasaph, Juvenaly and Elder Nazarius.*

## **Letter of St. Herman to his Father Superior May 22, 1795**

Most reverend and holy, my dearest Batiushka, Fr. Nazary, with all my beloved brothers in the Lord, Rejoice in the Lord!

I wrote to you one rather unclear letter which had to be given to Fr. Archimandrite to be sent over to you through company personnel, whose reading of it could not be avoided. For this reason I could not write in it so that you would understand about our state here. Through the prelate, to whom I secretly wrote about many matters, you can find out from him yourself.

In that letter I mentioned also about certain Russian people, but did not tell how they came to be here. Here, rumors have it that they are Novgorodians who, during the reign of Tsar Ivan Vassilievich, went to Siberia and travelled down the Lena River to Kolyma. They constructed seven ships of a type which they call "kochka," and continued from Kolyma to Anadyr. There one vessel was shipwrecked. Those who came ashore began to live there; they built a church - the ground floor of which is still preserved -- and founded the town Anadyrsk. The other ships went into the sea and five of them landed in Izhiga, in Yakuma, in Tansk; the sixth was lost without a trace. It is believed that this ship was the one that landed in America where these people live to this day, for we hear about them all the time.

Just as I was mailing off this letter of mine, which I quietly finished writing in my little kitchen, I came into the room where our brothers live (where the church services are conducted -- many people come to them--) and I heard from the people who came from the mainland -- from the Lebedinsk Company -- that these Russian people are located not far from them. Although they have not seen them yet, we hear that they received from them large knives with inscriptions from these very Russians. We also hear that they live on a large river where there are fish just like in the Siberian rivers, which we in Kodiak do not have. They also have the Russian fish, pike and eel. If only, O father, we had some help from the Tsar, we could get a lot of goods. But with the merchants here, it is very difficult to conduct business with the local natives, because all the merchants care about is money and they hurt the poor Americans. I wrote about this to His Eminence at some length.

I am asking you, my dearest father, please render some help with your intercession concerning that report of mine on behalf of the poor local people. I especially asked His Eminence that he send to us as a bishop either Fr. Ioachim from Sarov or Fr. Theophanes, the former cell-attendant of the hierarch. It seems to me that they have little attraction for possessions, and it is of utmost importance that there be no greed here. I think, however, that it will be difficult here for Fr. Ioachim due to his old age and his not being accustomed to being in the midst of such worldly bustle. I would, therefore, very much like to see Fr. Theophanes here, and I think that it would not seem too wearisome but quite agreeable to his nature. We always have a lot of news and conversations.

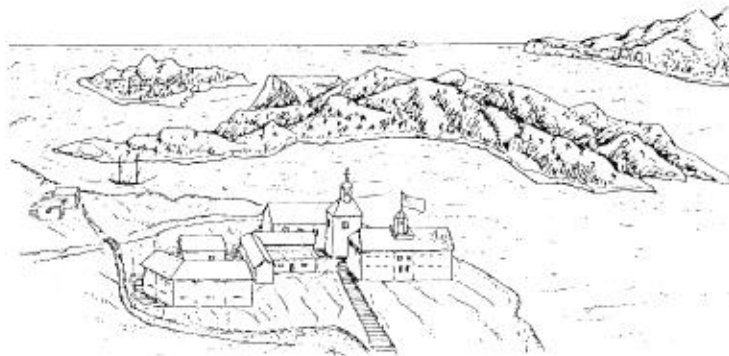
The hieromonks are truly exceptional: Fr. Macarius and Fr. Juvenal are always aflame with zeal and anxious to go off in all directions to preach, while Fr. Athanasius stays home with us, so that we will not be without a hieromonk. He conducts the services and baptizes those that come to us. And if the company people would only stop offending the Americans, then life here would really be quite pleasant.

I must say that we are quite poor in bread, but perhaps some wheat could grow here if an effort were made. One can find suitable places for it. The governor here is Baranoff, a man rich, and proud at that. He lives extravagantly and makes no effort towards any improvements here. You wouldn't believe what showings-off we have here; one would hardly find the likes of it in any Russian town. Our harbor is very much like some European town. They cast a bell of some five pounds and ring it before every service. In the morning and evening they make reveille with the playing of drums and flute. At the present the church services are conducted in our living quarters; a wooden church structure is under construction, but is not yet finished. On feast days travellers and settlers together with their friends attend church services; the governor also comes as well as seamen, the sturmen, and even some officers.

Here we can grow turnips, potatoes, and all garden vegetables; but cucumbers and wheat have not yet been tried. One summer a newcomer planted a pound of millet and harvested a whole pood and a half, while another summer nothing came up. There is so much sea fog here that nothing grew!

Forgive me, Father, forgive me! I sorrow and regret that I cannot talk to you any longer. The ship is about to set sail. I fervently bow down before all the dearly beloved Valaam brothers. Also, Fr. Ioasaph, the former Cosmas Alexeyevitch, who lives with me in the bakery, sends his warmest greetings. We ask your holy prayers and blessing.

*lowly Herman*  
May 22, 1795



*Kodiak Mission as it looked in 1799 when the main Resurrection Church was constructed along the lines of a fort.*



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

I would like to start putting together photo boards that will be on display for our 100th anniversary celebration, October 4, 2015.

If you find yourself with some "down time" over the next few months, please consider looking through old photos from our parish. If you can, please write on the back the people and date if known.

Parish organizations/events such as the men's club, sisterhood, yolkas (I remember our presentation of the Nutcracker...anyone have any photos from that production?), Cosmopolitan Dinners, picnics, baking events, church building mortgage burning, pierogi prep, camps, construction, church school, Pascha celebrations, etc. Please consider old family photos of our founding members.

Photos can be put in a zip lock bag, with the owner's name and given to me.

Thanks!

Larissa Mattei



**THAT WE MUST ALWAYS GUARD THE 'ATMOSPHERE OF HEAVEN' WITHIN US**

From Elder Thaddeus of Serbia (+2002)

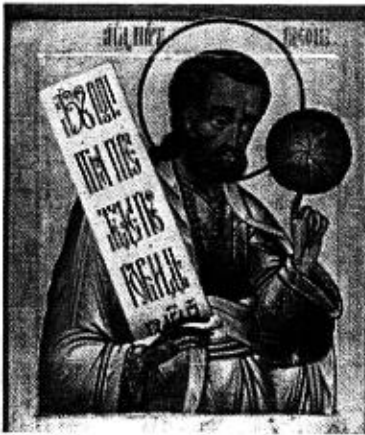
"We can keep guard over the whole world by keeping guard over the atmosphere of heaven within us; for if we lose the Kingdom of Heaven, we will save neither ourselves nor others. He who has the Kingdom of God within himself will imperceptibly pass it on to others. People will be attracted to the peace and warmth in us; they will want to hear us, and the atmosphere of heaven will gradually pass on to them. It is not even necessary to speak to people about this. The atmosphere heaven will radiate from us even when we keep silent, or talk about ordinary things. It will radiate from us even though we may not be aware of it."



*First hierarch of America, equal-to-the-Apostles Ioasaph Bolotoff (1761-1799), a missionary-minded bishop who was responsible for the baptism of thousands of Alaskans and gave his life for the cause of Orthodoxy when he drowned in the ocean on his return from consecration in Russia.*

# A Hesitant Hero

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



**September 26th is the feast day of Gideon, an Old Testament hero who is named and praised in Hebrews 11.**

But Gideon's story is not altogether heroic. He first appears in Judges 6, which begins with a melancholy description. God has delivered faithless Israel into the hands of her enemies. Now, whenever the Israelites plant seed, the Midianites "encamp against them and destroy the produce of the land as far as the neighborhood of Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel, and no sheep or ox or ass" (6: 4). The Israelites have cried out to God to deliver them from the Midianites' ravages.

Gideon is humbly beating out wheat—doing it in the wine press to hide it from the Midianites—when the angel of the Lord appears to him and says, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor."

Gideon isn't feeling valorous. He answers, "Pray, sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us? And where are all His wonderful deeds which our fathers recounted to us...?" When the angel tells Gideon that he will be the one to deliver Israel from Midian, Gideon replies doubtfully that he is the least of his small clan.

Yet when the angel asks Gideon to destroy his pagan family's idol and build an altar to the Lord, he readily does so, an indication that there is courage in him. He does it by night, however, fearing his family and the townsmen.

Gideon's hesitation continues. He asks God (named in 6: 36) to produce dew on a fleece, leaving the ground around it dry, as proof that He has chosen Gideon to deliver Israel. Then he asks God to leave the fleece dry while wetting the surrounding ground. Father Eugen Pentiuic writes in "The Old Testament in Eastern Orthodox Tradition" (Oxford University Press 2014), that Gideon is "...redundant and almost ridiculous in his request." Even so, God is patiently compassionate: "Instead of being indignant at Gideon's nagging tests, God responds without hesitation."

As Gideon's confidence grows, God requires him to act with greater faith. He radically reduces the size of Gideon's army (using some tests of His own to determine which soldiers are fit for battle) so that Israel must depend on Him and won't be able to boast that "my own hand has delivered me" (7:2).

God supports His successful warrior, whose stature becomes so great that the men of Israel ask him to become their king, because he has saved them from Midian. But Gideon's faith in God has also increased, and he tells them, "I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you" (8: 23).

But Gideon, like many Biblical heroes, succumbs to temptation, described in 8: 24-27. After he dies, the people again turn to pagan worship, forget God, and fail to show kindness to Gideon's family.

Israel will continue to test God's patience, and Gideon, like all the Old Testament personages listed in Hebrews 11, will have to wait for God to send salvation so that they can be "made perfect."