

# Parish News

## St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church

6980 S. County Line Road, Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
630 323-3525

<http://orthodoxssp.org>

Pastor: Fr. Herman Kincaid, Editor: Shirley Bryar, Digital Strategist: Ervin (Rusty) Mihalko. A quarterly publication concentrating on the events of our church, on the lives of our parishioners, and interesting things in the world. Back copies of previous issues can be viewed in our church library, or on our web site.



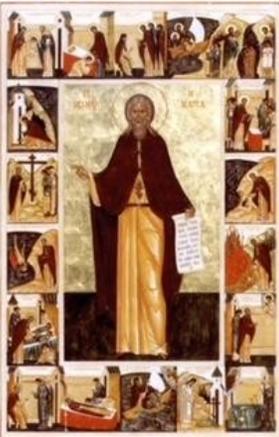
SUMMER 2020

### 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AMERICAN SAINT

We know that St. Herman of Alaska was born to a family of merchants in 1756 near Moscow, Russia, but his name at birth is unknown. He was given the name Herman at Trinity St. Sergius Hermitage near St. Petersburg upon his tonsure as a monk at the age of 16. He remained a simple monk his entire life and never received ordination as either a deacon or a priest.

Alaska was discovered by a Russian explorer in 1741, when the Orthodox Church of Russia decided to send a team to Alaska to bring the Light of Christ to the native people living there. The Monk Herman was among the 10 missionaries to arrive in September of 1794.

There was nothing ready for the team, no church had been built, no school and little interest from the Russian merchants who were exploiting the natives. Fr. Herman came to the defense of the local people and was placed under house arrest. The governor of the Colony accused him of treason for arousing the natives against the



Russians.

There were other set-backs for the mission team. Their leader, Fr. Joasaph, was consecrated the first Bishop for America, but drowned at sea in a wreck on his return from Russia. Another priest, Fr. Juvenaly was martyred by a group of natives, to become the first martyr of America. Others in the group died, or returned to Russia leaving Fr. Herman alone.

To escape the persecution he faced on Kodiak Island, Fr. Herman moved to nearby Spruce Island in 1808. He lived in a cave and later built a hut, chapel, school and guest house. He taught the natives the gospel of Christ, nursed them and continued to defend them.

He became known for his miracles. On Spruce Island a tsunami threatened, Fr. Herman took an icon of the Theotokos, placed it on the sandy beach and prayed. He told the people, "have no fear, the water will not go higher than the place where the icon stands." and sure enough the water rose no higher than the icon.

Fr. Herman was blessed with visions. As a young lad living in the monastery in Russia, he was miraculously healed of a throat infection or abscess, through a vision of the blessed Virgin Mary. A certain Russian Naval Officer, Baron Wrangel, wrote a letter to a Metropolitan in Russia which was dictated by Fr. Herman. When the letter was completed, Fr. Herman congratulated him on attaining the rank of ADMIRAL. The Naval Officer was surprised by these words as he had no knowledge of the promotion until weeks later when he received the news from Russia.

In 1837 at the age of 81, Fr. Herman Fell Asleep in the Lord. He asked that candles be lit in his room and the acts of the Apostles read. As he bowed his head in death the room was filled with a fragrant scent.

A chapel was erected over his grave in 1890. People began to take dirt from his grave through which miracles were performed. On August 9, 1970, the Elder Herman was glorified as the first Saint of America. His relics today rest in a shrine in Holy Resurrection Church of Kodiak Island, Alaska where a pilgrimage every August draws Orthodox Christians from around the world.



Divine Liturgy  
8-9-20



Upon his repose in the Lord, it was found that St. Herman voluntarily wore heavy chains under his garments throughout his earthly life.



St. Herman's  
grave.



Inside of the  
chapel.



The Chapel on  
Spruce Island

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To live and share the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, ministries and service.  
**VISION STATEMENT:** Grow God's family, experience God's transformative love and develop dynamic disciples of Christ.



**His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius fell asleep in the Lord on October 19, after an extended illness. He was the Primate of the**



**Orthodox Church from 1977 until his retirement in 2002. During his tenure in Alaska he oversaw the rebuilding of the historic Archangel Michael Cathedral that had been destroyed by fire. In May, 1970, as Bishop of Alaska, he headed the OCA's delegation that traveled to Moscow to receive the Tomos of Autocephaly, marking the beginning of the Orthodox Church in America.**



**The Tomos guaranteed the right of self-government for the Orthodox Church in America.**

**(All plans for a celebration of this 50 year event had to be cancelled because of the virus infecting much of the world this year.)**



**On October 21, 2020, Archbishop Paul presided over the Memorial Service for Metropolitan Theodosius at our church, after our**

**Vesper Service. He then talked about his personal knowledge of the kindness and understanding of our former Metropolitan.**



**The final service was held at the Monastery of the Holy Transfiguration, Ellwood, Pa.**



**Immediately followed by internment. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon directed that a Panikhida be served at all churches and chapels of the OCA on the fortieth day of his repose, November 27, 2020.**



**Monastery of the Holy Transfiguration, Ellwood, Pa.**



**Finally the move has happened! On Feb. 28 the Chancery of the Midwest Diocese has moved from Chicago to 5037 W. 83rd St. Burbank, Ill. 60459, the site is next store to Archangel Michael Parish. The phone no. remains the same. Also, this is now the new residence of Archbishop Paul.**



**SAINTHOOD PROCLAIMED**  
**March 29, 2000, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America proclaimed the Glorification of our Holy Father Bishop Raphael. He was born in Beirut in 1860 to Syrian parents, was ordained to the priesthood in 1889, traveled the world, learned several languages, eventually coming to America as a missionary. In 1904 he was elected to the episcopate as the first consecration of an Orthodox Bishop to take place in America. He fell asleep in the Lord on February 14, 1915, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and is commemorated on February 27, repose. Hierarchs, clergy, and thousands of faithful attended the Glorification of St. Raphael, including our priest, Fr. Herman.**



**Transfiguration Blessing of fruit & vegetables**



**Fr. Herman blessed our cars in July.**



**St. Peter & St. Paul, our heavenly patrons!**

**St. Peter originally called Simon was born in the strongly gentile town of Bethsaida but had a home in Capernaum. Both were lakeside towns and this gave Peter the possibility to work as a fisherman. Unlike Paul who was highly trained in the Jewish law, Peter was not; he was married and was accompanied by his wife on his missionary journeys. After Pentecost, it was Peter who became the chief spokesman, principal preacher and administrator of discipline in the newly established Christian faith. St. Peter is portrayed as the courageous apostle, full of life, spontaneity and dynamism. He rejected Christ three times and cried bitterly for this but also confessed him as the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. He is the one whom Christ asked if he loved Him yet also called satan. However, the greatest characteristic of the Apostle Peter, so sensitively noticed by Archbishop Stylianos of Australia, was St. Peter's sincerity to proclaim publicly and without shame that he was so unworthy to have Christ perform miracles for him. In the gospel of St. Luke we read that as St. Peter saw Christ coming towards him after Christ had miraculously filled his nets with an abundance of fish, he said to Christ: "Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!" (Lk 5:8). Who else would have dared to make a confession of this kind? Who else would have thought that he is the least of all, and unworthy even of such an abundance of fish when so many other fishermen would have encountered similar hardships. All too often if we know influential people we try to see what favors they can do for us without thinking that there may be others around us who have more need. And it is this image of St. Peter, so full of humility, that must be recaptured again in the Church. On the other hand we are told that St. Paul was born in the city of Tarsus, a thoroughly Greek city in Asia Minor and was a Roman citizen. In his early life, not only was St. Paul a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, and a Pharisee, but also a staunch persecutor of the early Christian Church. In fact he had been given the official authority to direct a campaign against Christians. From his letters and the book of Acts, we learn that a dramatic revelation experience, on his way to Damascus, called Paul to follow Christ as an apostle. After spending his initial three years as a follower of Christ in Arabia, Paul went to Jerusalem to visit the apostolic community where he spoke to Sts. Peter and James. It would be fourteen years later that he would return for the second time to Jerusalem for the Apostolic Council of 48 AD. About 46 AD, he was commissioned by the Church in Antioch to undertake a missionary journey to Cyprus and Galatia. St. Paul has come to be known as the prodigious traveler, having undertaken four extensive missionary journeys to Asia Minor, Greece (including Macedonia, Thessalonika, Athens, and Corinth), Rome and possibly as far as Spain with a circle of missionary co-workers. It was during this time that he wrote his famous letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Falsely accused of violating temple rituals, he was arrested, imprisoned for two years by the governor Felix. After being set free by virtue of his status as a Roman citizen, since citizens of Rome could not be punished for cases not involving the breach of statute law, he went to Rome and was sentenced to death under the Emperor Nero. Holy Apostles, pray to God for us!**



**Archbishop Paul Celebrated the feast of the Chief Apostles St. Peter & St. Paul on 6-29**



*It was a big year for Gary & Paula Ogurkiewicz, as All 3 of the Ogurkiewicz children graduated from college. Natalia Ogurkiewicz*



*received a Juris Doctor degree from Washington U. school of Law in St. Louis, MO, has passed the Bar Exam and has been hired by the City of St. Louis, Mo. as a Prosecutor. The twins also graduated, Larissa from Columbia College in Chicago receiving a BA in Graphic Design & Marketing & Gregory from College of DuPage with a degree in Culinary/Food Sciences, currently working in the Catering Industry. We also want to congratulate Paula's mom, Pauline Michals on her 103rd birthday.*



*Jenny Ellement graduated Magna Cum Laude from St. Xavier University earning a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. She is looking forward to teaching 2nd grade at Kerkstra Elementary School this fall. Shown with her parents Karen & Pete, plus her sister Karen.*



Jason Bilas

*Jason's Grandmother Mona, & Aunt Laura. Grandfather Joe, fell asleep in the Lord in 2015,*



*but we are sure he would be very proud of his grandson.*



*Jason was Chrismated in our church by Fr. Stephen. Jason's grandparents, Joe & Mona Bilas picked him up at his home and brought him to church each Sunday. He was an altar server until he went to college. He just graduated from U of I this year with a degree in Computer Engineering, with a minor in Business, and is employed at a major trading company in downtown Chicago.*



*Anna Metlushko graduated from UIC College of Engineering & was accepted into Northwestern's Graduate Research Fellowship Program this fall to work on her PhD. Shown with her parents Olga & Vitali.*



*Gia Pinkowski, granddaughter of parishioner Chuck Pinkowski, graduated from Nursing School, and just started her new job as a nurse at Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Illinois. Thanks to Bob Ciolino for setting up this photo shoot.*



*Casey Treanor graduated from Middle School. He is the son of Jennifer & Sean Treanor.*



*Caleb Kenny, son of Deacon David & Mat. Debra graduated from 8th grade with honors for Outstanding Academic Excellence. He is also an Altar Server.*



*Mikhail Evdokimov, another 8th grade graduate and altar server at our church. Son of Olga & Anatoly Evdokimov.*



*A creative graduate.*



Fr. Herman's son Nathaniel wanted a "Drive-By" event for his May 9th, birthday. The "pandemic" had many of us social distancing, wearing masks, & forced to stay away from church for a time, and he missed us all so much. Nathaniel loved it all, even got to sit in a DeLorean car.



On 1-24-20, Alex & Dorothy Demetzsky celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in our beautifully decorated Parish Hall. They have a large family.



Dennis Koranda and Jessica Maas we're married in our church on July 18, 2020.



Dr. Dave & Matuska Macrina Kenny Celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary on June 10th.



On Feb. 2, 2020 Larissa Gurnic with our priest/ Navy Chaplain Herman took her Army enlistment oath at our church. Her parents, Dennis & Leah, & grandmother Louise were on hand for the ceremony.



On June 13, 2020, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Duke & Carol Jovanovich. Because of the pandemic, our celebration was held outside the church entrance. There was a beautiful cake, sandwiches, and champagne to toast the happy couple.



Parishioners Tanya Cole and Matthew Adams were married in our church on June 14, 2020.



Thank you to Kristy Brown for organizing the Lenten Psalter Group. We read a section from the Book of Psalms every day during Lent, starting on Clean Monday, March 2 & ending on April 12, Palm Sunday, which meant we ended up reading the Book of Psalms twice during Lent.



We want to Thank Fr. Esteban Vazquez of St. Panteleimon Church, in Summit, for the 2 hour Thursday evening Bible Study classes, studying the Book of Acts.



Alice Sutko fell asleep in the Lord on July 4th, just a month after her husband John. They had been married for 63 yrs. We learned from daughter Cynthia that Alice had a BA in Education from ISU in 1956, then taught Business/English classes at Riverdale HS until 1958 when she had her son David, daughter Cynthia came later. Years later, after the kids were out of the house, she worked as a Travel Agent. She loved traveling with John, & taking family trips with her children & grandchildren.

Cynthia told us about a special event in her mom's life. Alice was on the front cover of the Bridgeport Newspaper in 1947 because she won 1st Place in a Spelling Bee for St. Mary of Perpetual Help. She had beaten winners from 21 other schools at the contest held at her school. She thereby became the first spelling bee home champion. Fr. Alexander led the Panahida for his grandmother on Aug. 8 at the cemetery.

Built in 537, the largest Eastern Orthodox Church in the world, but in 1453, the area was conquered by the Ottoman Turks, renamed Istanbul, & the Church was turned into a Mosque. In 1935 it was established as a museum by the First President of the newly established Turkish Republic. Ataturk went on with cultural & economic reforms that were ahead of his time. It was so incredible that one man could do so much for a country that in 1981, the centennial of his birth, he was honored by the UN as "The Ataturk Year in the World." The current president of Turkey, whose govt. has been plagued by problems, is being accused of destroying everything that Ataturk did. The latest is that he had asked the court to reverse the designation of Hagia Sophia back to being a Mosque, and on August 3, 2020 the Moslem service was held.



Hagia Sophia is on the left. They already built a copy of it, shown on the right, and it is the official mosque of Istanbul, plus

they have many mosques throughout the country. We join the outcry of Church Leaders throughout the world and condemn Pres. Erdogan's action and prefer Hagia Sophia to be a museum so that we can visit again.



Church converted: Tourists on Friday 8/21/20 visit Istanbul's Church of St. Saviour in Chora. On the same day, the Turkish government formally converted the church, which

dates to the 4th century, into a mosque. The move came about a month after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan turned the landmark Hagia Sophia museum into a Muslim house of prayer.

*St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church*

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
6980 S. COUNTY LINE ROAD  
BURR RIDGE, IL 60527