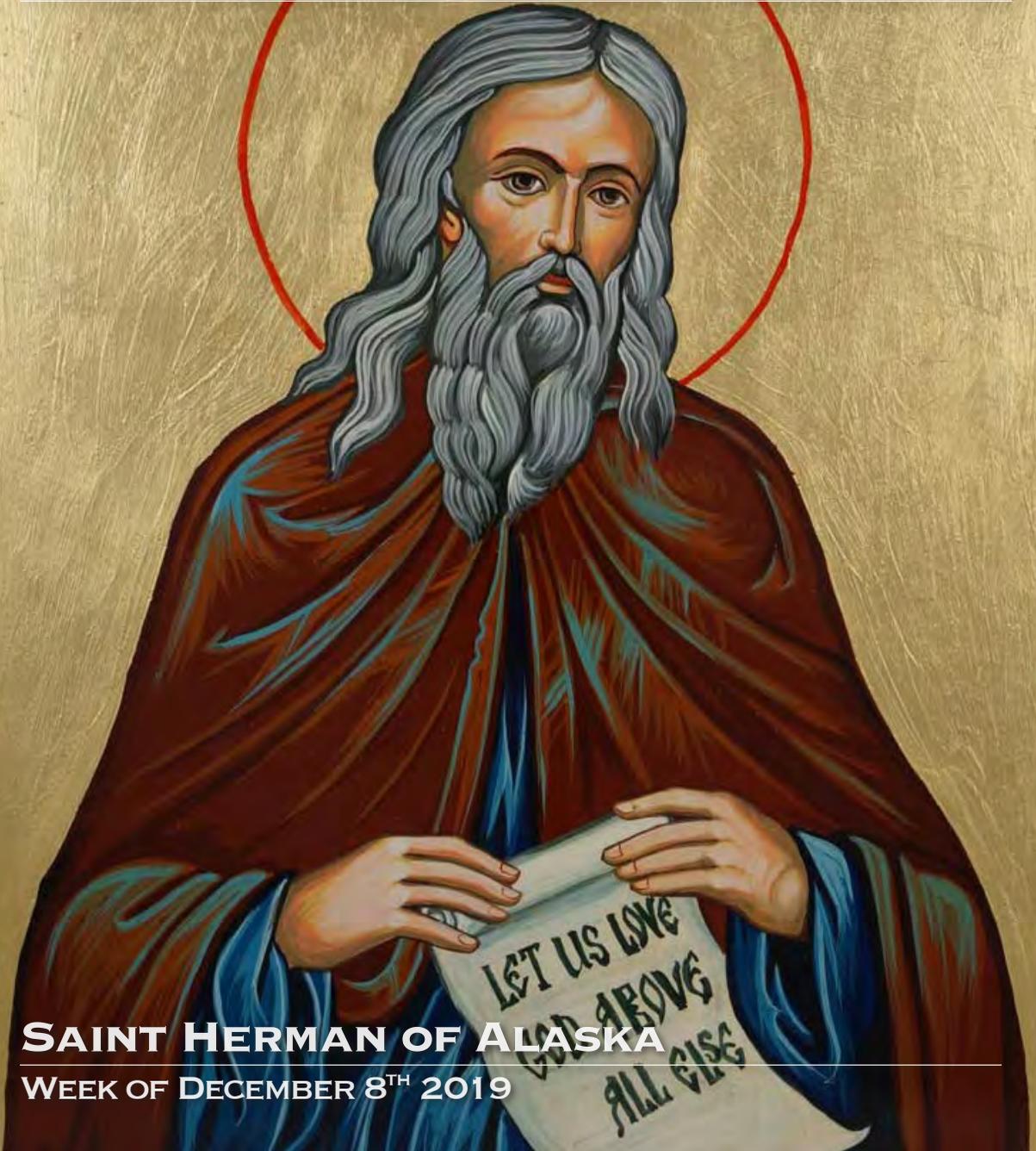


ST HERMAN OF ALASKA

# PETRA NEWS



**SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA**

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2019

## HOSTS & VOLUNTEERS

### MYRRHBEARERS

Cassie Tinsley & Demetra Gregory

### EPISTLE READER

Georgia Geerdes

## SERVICES & FEASTDAYS

### Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Paraclesis \_\_\_\_\_ 6pm

Orthodox Faith Class \_\_\_\_\_ 7pm

### Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Feast of Spyridon

Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30am

Services will be celebrated at the St Spyridon Parish in Loveland

### Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Feast of St. Herman of Alaska

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 7am

Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 8am

Metropolis Open House \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

### Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Great Vespers \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

Celebrated at St Catherine's in Greenwood Village

### Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Nativity Royal Hours \_\_\_\_\_ 8am

## NATIVITY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

### Tuesday, December 24

Vespers Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

### Wednesday, December 25

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8am

Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9am

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### RESURRECTION HYMN

(PLAGAL 4TH TONE, P. 89-90 GREEN HYMNAL)

*“From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord,  
for us did You endure, three days in the tomb  
that we may be, released from passions in this world,  
You who are our resurrection and our life  
Glory unto You O Lord.”*

### HYMN OF SAINTS PETER PAUL

*“Oh leaders of the Apostles,  
and teachers of the world,  
intercede with the Master of all  
that He may grant peace unto the world,  
and to our souls His great mercy.”*

### KONTAKION

*“On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to  
\* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \*  
Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings;  
\* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \*  
Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \*  
before the ages is God.”*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

Please join us for our annual Nativity Pageant next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. In addition to today's rehearsal after class, we will have a **final rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th at 3 pm.** Parents, please make every effort to have your children attend this important rehearsal. It is also crucial that the kids practice singing their hymns and rehearsing their parts at home as much as possible.

## DAILY READINGS - 10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

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### THIRD ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 16:9-20

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At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

### EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS 4:1-7

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Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you

were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 13:10-17

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At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.



# SAINTS & FEASTDAYS

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## ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA, WONDERWORKER OF ALL AMERICA

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Commemorated December 13th

A spiritual mission was organized in 1793, made up of monks of the Valaam Monastery. They were sent to preach the Word of God to the native inhabitants of northwestern America, who only ten years before had come under the sovereignty of Russia. Saint Herman was among the members of this Mission. The chosen men left Valaam for the place of their great appointment in 1793.

In America, Father Herman chose as his place of habitation Spruce Island, which he called New Valaam. He dug a cave out of the ground with his own hands, and in it he lived his first full summer. For winter there was built for him a cell near the cave, in which he lived until his death.

It is said that a wicker basket in which the Elder carried seaweed from the shore, was so large that it was difficult for one person to carry. The seaweed was used for fertilizing the soil. But to the astonishment of all, Father Herman carried a basket filled with seaweed for a long distance without any help at all. By chance his disciple, Gerasim, saw him one winter night carrying a large log which normally would be carried by four men; and he was bare footed. Thus worked the Elder, and everything that he acquired as a result of his immeasurable labors was used for the feeding and clothing of orphans and also for books for his students.

The Aleuts, men, women and children, often visited him. Some asked for advice, others complained of oppression, others sought out defense, and still others desired help. Each one received the greatest possible satisfaction from the Elder. He discussed their mutual difficulties, and he tried to settle these peacefully. He was especially concerned about reestablishing understanding in families. Father Herman especially loved children. He made large quantities of biscuits for them, and he baked cookies for them; and the children were fond of the Elder. Father Herman's love for the Aleuts reached the point of self-denial.

A ship from the United States brought to Kodiak Island

a contagious disease, a fatal illness. On the island there was neither a doctor nor medicine. The illness spread rapidly through the village, and then throughout the nearby areas. The disease affected all, even infants. The fatalities were so great that for three days there was no one to dig graves, and the bodies remained unburied. Father Herman, during this terrible sickness, visited the sick, never tiring. He admonished them in their fear, prayed, brought them to penance, or prepared them for death. He never spared himself.

The Elder was concerned in particular for the moral growth of the Aleuts. With this end in mind a school was built for children—the orphans of the Aleuts. He himself taught them the Law of God and church music. For this same purpose he gathered the Aleuts on Sunday and Holy Days for prayer in the chapel near his cell. The Aleuts loved to hear his sermons, gathering around him in large numbers. The Elder's talks were captivating, and his listeners were moved by their wondrous power.

Father Herman fed the birds with dried fish, and they would gather in great numbers around his cell. Underneath his cell there lived an ermine. This little animal cannot be approached when it has had its young, but the Elder fed it from his own hand. They also saw Father Herman feeding bears. But when Father Herman died the birds and animals left; even the garden would not give any sort of crops even though someone had willingly taken care of it.

On Spruce Island there once occurred a flood. The inhabitants came to the Elder in great fear. Father Herman then took an icon of the Mother of God from the home where his students lived, and placed it on a sandy bank and began to pray. After his prayer he turned to those present and said, "Have no fear, the water will not go any higher than the place where this holy icon stands." The words of the Elder were fulfilled. After this he promised the same aid from this holy icon in the future, through the intercessions of the Mother of God. This icon is preserved on the island to this day.

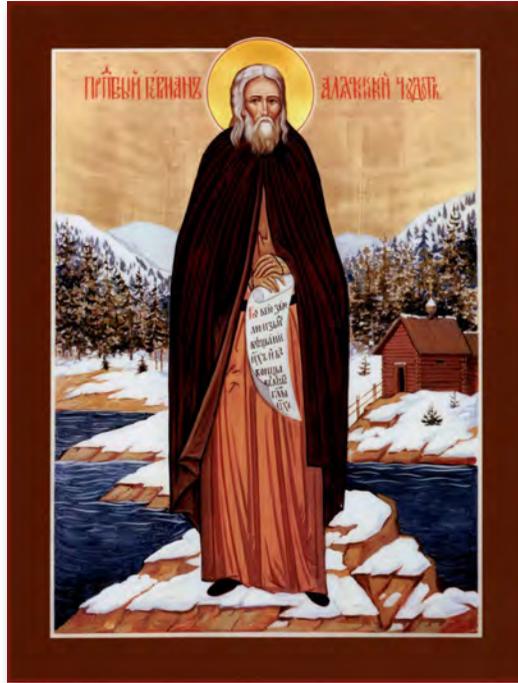
Father Herman said to the administrator Kashevarov, from whom he accepted his son from the font (during the Sacrament of Baptism), "I am sorry for you, my dear. It's a shame; the change will be unpleasant for you." In two years, during a change of administration, Kashevarov was sent to Sitka in chains.

Once, the forest on Spruce Island caught fire. The Elder, with his disciple Ignaty, in a thicket of the forest made a belt about a yard wide in which they turned over the moss. They extended it to the foot of the hill. The Elder said, "Rest assured, the fire will not pass this line." On the next day, according to the testimony of Ignaty, there was no hope of salvation (from the fire) and the fire, pushed by a strong wind, reached the place where the moss had been turned over by the Elder. The fire ran over the moss and halted, leaving untouched the thick forest which was beyond the line.

"Although a long time shall elapse after my death, I will not be forgotten" said Father Herman to his disciples. "My place of habitation will not remain empty. A monk like me, who will be escaping from the glory of men, will come and he will live on Spruce Island, and Spruce Island will not be without people." (This prophecy has now been fulfilled in its entirety. Just such a monk as Father Herman described lived on Spruce Island for many years; his name was Archimandrite Gerasim, who died on October 13, 1969. This monk took on himself the responsibility of taking care of the Chapel under which the Elder Herman was first buried.

The time of the Elder's passing had come. One day he ordered his disciple Gerasim to light a candle before the Icons, and to read the Acts of the Holy Apostles. After some time his face glowed brightly and he said in a loud voice, "Glory to Thee, O Lord!" He then ordered the reading to be halted, and he announced that the

Lord had willed that his life would now be spared for another week. A week later, again by his orders, candles were lit, and the Acts of the Holy Apostles were read. Quietly, the Elder bowed his head on Gerasim's chest; the cell was filled with a sweet-smelling odor; and his face glowed, and Father Herman was no more! Thus he died in blessedness, he passed away in the sleep of a righteous man in the eighty-first year of his life of great labor the 13th day of December 1837.



One evening, above the village Katani an unusual pillar of light which reached up to heaven was seen above Spruce Island. Astonished by the miraculous appearance, experienced elders and the Creole Gerasim Vologdin and his wife Anna said, "It seems that Father Herman has left us," and they began to pray. After a time, they were informed that the Elder had indeed passed away that very night. This same pillar was seen in various places by others. On the night of his death a vision was seen in another of the settlements on Afognak; it seemed as though a man was rising from Spruce Island into the clouds.

In 1842, five years after the passing away of the Elder, Archbishop Innocent of Kamchatka and the Aleutians, was near Kodiak on a sailing vessel which was in great distress. He looked to Spruce Island, and said to himself, "If you have found favor in God's presence, Father Herman then may the wind change." It seems as though not more than fifteen minutes had passed, said the bishop, when the wind became favorable, and he successfully reached the shore. In thanksgiving for being saved, Archbishop Innocent himself conducted a Memorial Service (Panikhida) over the grave of the blessed Father Herman.

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

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

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### ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH SERIES

Wednesday, December 11, 7pm

NEXT CLASS, TOPICS:  
"GOD WITH US: WE ARE CREATED IN  
GOD'S IMAGE"



This series will hopefully offer not only an introduction to the Orthodox Faith, the teachings and doctrines, but Orthodoxy as a way of life. What does it mean to be an Orthodox Christian? The class is open to everyone. Cradle Orthodox and those who are new to the Orthodox Church will enjoy this new series. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com.

### SISTERHOOD CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE AND BRUNCH

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All women of the church are invited on Saturday, Dec. 14th from 10am - 1pm at Jan Marose's house (2153 Summerlin Lane, Longmont). Bring a \$10 wrapped gift if you'd like to participate and a dish to share.

### VISIT OUR BOOKSTORE

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We have several wonderful books for the Nativity Advent Fast.

#### **Meditations for Advent**

#### **Preparing for Christ's Birth**

by Fr Vasileos Papavasiliou, \$13

#### **Let all Creation Rejoice:**

#### **Reflections for Advent, The Nativity and Epiphany**

by Fr Stavros Akrotirianakis, \$20

### THE ST LUKE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX LITURGICAL CHOIR

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Sunday, December 8, 2019 @ 4 pm

Featuring Ancient and Modern Music

**Free Admission - Refreshments**

**Christmas Carol Sing-along**

St Luke's, 722 Austin Ave. Erie

## THE METROPOLIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & OPEN HOUSE

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His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver and the  
Metropolis Council Invite you to attend

Friday, December 13, 2019

5 pm to 9 pm

Denver Metropolis Center

4550 East Alameda Avenue, Denver

### THE DENVER AHEPA FAMILY INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

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Saturday, December 14, 2019

Great Vespers (Evening Prayer) 5 pm

5:30 pm Cocktails - 7 pm Dinner

Where: St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church  
5555 S. Yosemite Street, Greenwood Village

#### **Reservations Deadline, December 6th**

Adults \$50 - Students \$40

Cash Bar - DJ - Santa - Valet Parking

Questions / Reservations:

Marshall Monsell 303-619-1753

### UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

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#### **OCF - ORTHODOX COLLEGE / CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP**

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#### **WELCOME CU STUDENTS!**

Please join us for our next campus fellowship and dinner., **Sunday, December 8, 5pm.** If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com or call 720-329-5212

#### **GOYA**

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Mark your December calendar!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**

Nativity Christmas Pageant, Sunday,

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**

Nursing Home & Shut in visitations  
with Father Jordan

# Christmas Cookie Baskets Order Now!

Sponsored by and benefits the many philanthropic projects of Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Society

Gift Baskets include a variety of cookies including ... Mediterranean, European, Middle Eastern, American, and other Christmas favorites!

**Donation**  
**\$20<sup>00</sup> per basket**

**Please order on or before, December 16, 2019**  
**Order Forms available in the Narthex**  
**and Fellowship Hall**



## Philoptochos Christmas Fundraiser

**Help Attention Homes  
fill their Amazon wish list.**

**What is Attention Homes?** Founded in 1966, Attention Homes is a safe resource for youth in crisis providing access to crucial services so that homeless and displaced youth can become stable, independent members of our community and achieve their potential.

Attention Homes has provided safe housing and supportive services to over 12,000 young people in Boulder County between the ages of 12-24 who need help.

**How Can I Help?** Two ways. This November Attention Homes opened a 40 unit transitional housing complex for ages 18-24. 50% of adults experiencing homelessness had their first episode of homelessness between the ages of 18-24. By having a safe, and affordable place to stay these adults will break this cycle. Grab an ornament, of different items and cost, off the tree and take it to the Philoptochos table. Philoptochos will order the items off Amazon and they will be delivered by Christmas. Second, give a monetary donation so Philoptochos can purchase what they need.





## SAINTS PETER & PAUL

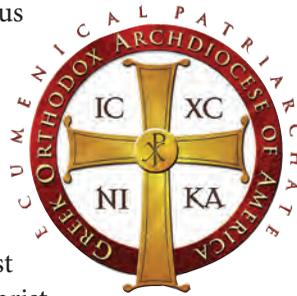
Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301

303-581-1434 • [stpeterandpaulboulder.org](http://stpeterandpaulboulder.org)

### ABOUT OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors worshipping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith, as well as Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians. The foundation of the Orthodox Church are the teachings and Holy Tradition of Jesus Christ. We follow the first Christians who began to worship Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion and Resurrection.



Please introduce yourself to our priest and members of our community. We also encourage you to join us for our fellowship after services in the parish hall and visit our bookstore. If you are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please visit with our priest, Fr. Jordan Brown.

### HOLY COMMUNION IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Holy Communion is reserved only for baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by prayer, fasting, and confession.

The Orthodox Church understands the reception of Holy Communion to be the highest expression of our faith. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike are invited to receive the 'antidoros' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



### PRIEST

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

### PARISH COUNCIL

President - George Tsiouvaras  
Vice President - Nicholas Kallan  
Treasurer - Brian Gregory  
Secretary - Phillip Haratsaris

### PHILOTOCHOS

Presidents - Dana Gall and Sharon Dzilvelis  
Treasurer - Julie Powers

### BOOK STORE

Sharon Dzilvelis

### YOUTH / GOYA

Fr. Jordan Brown

### SENIOR MINISTRY

Dena Tinsley

### CHOIR DIRECTOR

Presbytera Marika Brown

### RECURRING SERVICES

Orthros - Sundays, 8:15am  
Divine Liturgy - Sundays, 9:30am  
Great Vespers - Saturdays, 5pm  
Confession by appointment.