

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2023**

**SYNAXIS OF ALL SAINTS OF ALASKA**

**Epistle Reading: Romans 8:28-39 and 2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 21:12-19 and 5:1-11**

**Troparion – Tone 4**

**Today Valaam joins Alaska / in celebrating this joyous feast, / as her spiritual son Juvenaly / embraces the new martyr Peter with love. / Together they suffered and for the Lord in America / and united the old world with the new by their voluntary sacrifice. / Now forever they stand before the King of Glory and intercede for our souls.**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Matushka Svetlana, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and Irene.  
Amen!!!

**\*\*\* To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski\*\*\***

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**HOLY SPIRIT**  
**ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**September 24th, 2023**

**MARTYR PETER THE ALEUT** - Saint Peter the Aleut is mentioned in the Life of Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13). Simeon Yanovsky (who ended his life as the schemamonk Sergius in the Saint Tikhon of Kaluga Monastery), has left the following account: "On another occasion I was relating to him how the Spanish in California had imprisoned fourteen Aleuts, and how the Jesuits (actually Franciscans) were forcing all of them to accept the Catholic Faith. But the Aleuts would not agree under any circumstances, saying, 'We are Christians.' The Jesuits argued, 'That's not true, you are heretics and schismatics. If you do not agree to accept our faith then we will torture all of you to death.' Then the Aleuts were placed in prisons two to a cell. That evening, the Jesuits came to the prison with lanterns and lighted candles. Again they tried to persuade two Aleuts in the cell to accept the Catholic Faith. 'We are Christians,' the Aleuts replied, 'and we will not change our Faith.' Then the Jesuits began to torture them, at first the one while his companion was a witness. They cut off one of the joints of his feet, and then the other joint. Then they cut the first joint on the fingers of his hands, and then the other joint. Then they cut off his feet, and his hands. The blood flowed, but the martyr endured all and firmly repeated one thing: 'I am a Christian.' He died in such suffering, due to a loss of blood. The Jesuit also promised to torture his comrade to death the next day. "But that night an order was received from Monterey stating that the imprisoned Aleuts were to be released immediately, and sent there under escort. Therefore, in the morning all were sent to Monterey with the exception of the dead Aleut. This was related to me by a witness, the same Aleut who had escaped torture, and who was the friend of the martyred Aleut. I reported this incident to the authorities in Saint Petersburg. When I finished my story, Father Herman asked, 'What was the name of the martyred Aleut?' I answered, 'Peter. I do not remember his family name.' The Elder stood reverently before an icon, made the Sign of the Cross and said, 'Holy New Martyr Peter, pray to God for us!'" We know very little about Saint Peter, except that he was from Kodiak, and was arrested and put to death by the Spaniards in California because he refused to convert to Catholicism. The circumstances of his martyrdom recall the torture of Saint James the Persian (November 27). Both in his sufferings and in his steadfast confession of the Faith, Saint Peter is the equal of the martyrs of old, and also of the New Martyrs who have shone forth in more recent times. Now he rejoices with them in the heavenly Kingdom, glorifying God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, throughout all ages.

### Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5pm Saturdays

**Hours:** 9:45am Sundays

**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00am Sundays

**Confessions:** Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

**Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

### Dates to Remember

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of September**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of September**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of September**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of October**

**PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS**

**Divine Liturgy at 9 am**

**Applefest from 9 am – 5 pm**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of October**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of October**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS!

#### Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshment in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation and ask any questions you may have.

#### Elevation of the Cross

Sincere thanks to Mark Benda for donating the flowers and adorning the cross. A beautiful work of art for this feast day.

#### Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM)

This ministry has been created by the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops to help parishes, priests, parents, and other caring adults help young people find joy in the Orthodox faith by encountering Christ, embodying the Church, and engaging the world in His name. September 24, 2023, has been designated as Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministry Awareness Sunday. We invite everyone to learn about OYM's ministry, sign up for their newsletter, and consider supporting them by visiting <https://www.theoym.org/>.

#### Annual "Church Musician Sunday"

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday on or following the commemoration of Saint Romanus the Melodist as "Church musician Sunday." This yearly designation will take place this year on Sunday, October 1, 2023. **We are grateful for Timothy Kachur and the rest of the choir for their continues service.**

#### Applefest 2023

It is almost time for the Applefest in beautiful Warwick, NY. HSOC will again participate in this one-day fundraising event. This is your opportunity to volunteer. Sign-up sheet will be available during the coffee socials. For more information, speak with Nadine Olsen and/or Mark Benda. **On that day, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Divine Liturgy will be served at 9 am.**

#### Christian Education Workshop

Attached is an updated poster for the Christian Education Workshop, taking place in all three Deaneries on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

#### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com)