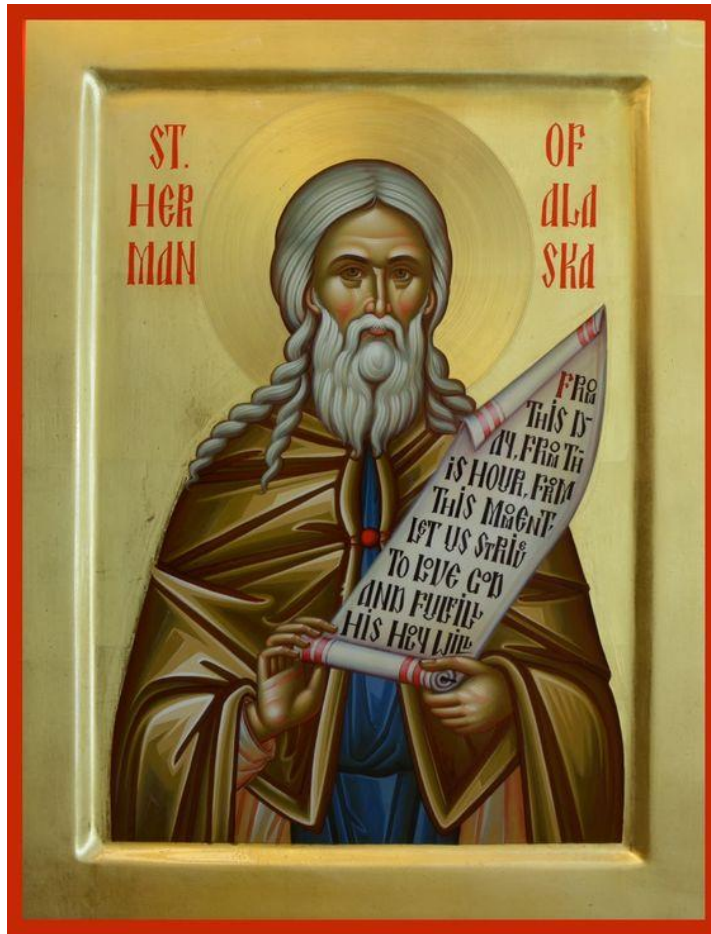


HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Elmira Heights, NY – 607-732-3980 – www.holytrinityorthodoxchurch.org



Sunday, December 13, 2020: 27th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 2

St. Herman, the Wonder-Worker of Alaska;

St. Deborah, Prophet & Judge; St. Nathan the Prophet;

Sunday of the Forefathers of the Lord · “Group B” Church Attendance

CHARITY PROJECTS STILL UNDERWAY – YOUR HELP APPRECIATED!

Option 1: We would like to help [St. Michael’s Orthodox Food Pantry in Binghamton](#) which is in need of the following: Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Rice (1 lb. bags), and Elbow Macaroni (1 lb. bags)

Please pick up one of these items on your shopping day and bring it to the church between now and Christmas. This will fill up their pantry for when supplies have been depleted after the Holidays.

Option 2: Donate **\$20 for a Christmas Ham** to be delivered to an Elmira Family in Need. So far, three hams have been donated. We would love to donate a total of six!

Please speak with Mat. Tamara or Mat. Katie to participate. ***Thank you!***

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:

*Most Services May Be Joined by Live Stream at
Web Address www.facebook.com/htocelmiraheights
or go to www.YouTube.com and search for "Holy Trinity Church Elmira Heights NY"*

Today – Feast of Saint Herman of Alaska, Prophets Deborah and Nathan

8:50 AM Third Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

1:00 PM Church School – by Zoom; Families, Check Your Email for Instructions

Tuesday, December 15

6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting, by Zoom – Council Members, Check Email for Directions

Wednesday, December 16

7:00 PM "Orthodox Journeys" Adult Education & Fellowship – By Zoom; Check Your Email for Details

Saturday, December 19

5:00 PM Great Vespers; Private Confession Available Before Vespers By Appointment; or After Vespers

Sunday, December 20 – Forefeast and Sunday Before the Nativity; Saint John of Kronstadt (+1908)

8:50 AM Third Hour

9:00 AM Mystery of Holy Chrismation for Elizabeth Holobinko

Divine Liturgy

1:00 PM Church School – by Zoom; Families, Check Your Email for Instructions

Tuesday, December 22

6:30 – 7:30 PM Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood! – Details to Come By Email

Thursday, December 24 – The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

8:00 AM Royal Hours

7:00 PM Vigil (Compline & Matins) for the Nativity of Christ

Friday, December 25 – Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ – Christmas Day

9:50 AM Third Hour

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ – CHRIST IS BORN!

The Nativity Fast Continues:

The Fast ends with the participation in Holy Communion, at the Divine Liturgy of our Lord's Nativity (Christmas) on Dec. 25. During the Fast we strive to abstain from meat, from dairy as best we can, from spiritually unproductive entertainment, conversation, and distraction. And it is fitting to offer Confession during this season, as well. Confession is available regularly, on Saturdays – before or after Vespers – or by appointment during the week.

Christmas Caroling, Here in the Heights – Tuesday Before Christmas, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Although we cannot make our customary Caroling visits to nursing homes and hospitals this year, we will share some Christmas joy with our neighbors right here in the Heights! We will gather at the church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday evening, December 22, and go caroling through the neighborhood. We will see you here!

Nativity Service Schedule: More Details Forthcoming

Depending on whether the limits on church attendance change in our area, I might schedule additional services in order to welcome as many parishioners as possible for Christmas. Please stay tuned by email and next week's Bulletin. With love in Christ, Fr. David

CHOIR GROUP SCHEDULE

Group A: Steve Cheplick; Reader William & Carol Haluszczak **Group B:** Maria Turic, Toni Weeks & John Terry
12/13: Group B 12/20: Group A 12/27: Group B

READER SCHEDULE

12/12-13: Alex Charlanow 12/19-20: Steve Cheplick
12/24-25 Nativity: Rdr. William Haluszczak 12/26-27: Mat. Tamara & Rdr. Gabriel

SCRIPTURE READINGS

EPISTLES Colossians 3:4-11 Brethren: When Christ Who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scyth'ian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Galatians 5:22-6:2 Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

GOSPELS Luke 14:16-24 Our Lord spoke this parable: "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.'"

Luke 6:17-23 At that time, Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets."

Prayer List

Memory Eternal: Archbishop David of Alaska (11/27); Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, Metropolitan Amfiliohije of Montenegro, Bishop Lazar of the Georgian Church, Metropolitan Maximos; Archpriest Demetrios; Anna; Marie; George; Harry, Sister Ellen, Reader Timothy, Irene, Mary, Todd, Ana, Victoria, John, Basil, Anastasia; Corinne, Elena, Sergei, Catherine, Fr. Michael, Henry, Constance. All those taken from us by the Coronavirus, by sickness, violence, and accidents. All the departed named for St. Herman the Wonderworker and for the Prophets Deborah & Nathan, among them Matushka Deborah Dahulich (Archbishop Michael's wife). Ever-memorable Alexander Melnik.

For Health: Archpriest Jason, Archpriest Nicholas, Archpriest Daniel Kovalak, Archpriest Herman, Archpriest John, Archpriest John, Archpriest Ken James, Rdr. Thomas & Mildred, Rdr. William, Mat. Cynthia, Mat. Anastasia; newborn Ezekiel & mother Larissa; Scott, Steven; Juliana, Antonina; Rachel; Ferrol; Ryan; expecting mothers Elena, Ashley, Lauren & Matushka Margaret; Jane Ann, Donald, Susan, James, James, Child Hannah, Shirley, Joshua, Chloe, Helen, Nadezhda, Kathleen, Erica, Sherri, Ruth, Harriett, Katherine, Kristen, Sierra, Maria, Michael, Kate, Lorraine, Abigail.

In the Diocese: Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Peter, Fr. Nilus, Fr. Nikolas, Fr. Cyprian, Dn. John, Dn. Alexander, Mat. Tamara Skvir, Reader John, Reader Peter, John, Michael, Nadine, Dasha, Roman, Luke, Lydia, Alexis, Marion, Terrance, Joel, Caroline, Anthony, Robert, Cheryl, Theodore, Loretta, Alexandra, Claire, Aurelia, Ann, Fr. Paul; Fr. Andreja; Fr. Alexander, Matushka Anastasia, Matushka Oksana & newborn Nicholas; Juliana & newborn Michael; Michael, Susan, Alexander, Jonathan, Gabriel; Walter; Nicolas. Drs. Carol & Steven, Dn. Michael, Adam; Officers Luke, Boris & Charles, and all of the healthcare and public safety personnel in our parish and our communities; all those afflicted with the Coronavirus and those caring for them, those afflicted by sickness and injury. **Name Day:** Metropolitan HERMAN; Deborah King, Nathan Devens, Lucia Green (12/13). **Birthdays:** Maria (Jam) Cheplick (12/5), Larissa Cheplick (12/10), Anna & Katherine McKane (12/11), Denis Kingsley (12/17).

Parish Children:

Lucia	Hannah	Jeremiah	Andrew	Myra	Anthony	Anysia
Lydia	Natalie	Emilia	Patrick	Sophia	Dmitri	Jonah
Gabriel	Angelina	John	Thomas	Nikolai	Melania	Alexei
Larissa	Julianna	Nadia	Nathan	Justus	Gabriel	Ezekiel

College Students:

Anna McKane – Duke University Katherine McKane – Sarah Lawrence College

Please give prayer requests to Fr. David, Dn. Michael, Subdcn. Walter, or Reader William. Typically, prayers for Newly Departed and Health remain on this list for 40 days, unless requested otherwise. Thank you.

PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible: In thine ineffable goodness, look down upon us, thy people gathered in thy Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou hearest our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who lovest mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Corona Virus. Send thine angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace; that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRAYER IN A TIME OF CIVIL UNREST

Our Father, great and glorious God Who art in Heaven, yet Who dost look upon the earth with compassion, meting out Thy justice and Thy mercy upon nations: look down upon our earthly and temporal homeland, the United States of America, which is now divided by strife, and send Thy Spirit, the Spirit of peace, upon us like a heavenly Breeze, to restore peace to our cities, our countrysides, and our hearts. May He, the Spirit of truth Who leads the saints into all truth, teach us the truth, that we may abide in it, repenting of our error and ignorance. May He, the Spirit of righteousness, lead us in the way of righteousness, that we might cast aside and forever reject all hatred and bigotry. May He, the Spirit of Justice, strengthen us to restore justice to our land, that we may root out all corruption. O Father Almighty, adorn our rulers with a spirit of wisdom; adorn our civil authorities and the police and all who enforce the law with a spirit of mercy and restraint; and adorn all who dwell in our land with a spirit of love for one another, regardless of race or class. O Father without beginning, Who at the breathing of Thy Spirit didst cause dry land to appear out of the churning waters of chaos when the world was founded: deliver our earthly homeland from disorder, and grant us all to stand firmly on the ground of Thy justice and Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom is due all worship, together with thee, the God and Father, and the All-holy Spirit, the Comforter, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Please consider your financial PLEDGE to the parish for 2021.

THE “GIVING GRID”

Our 20 pledgers for 2020 pledged an average of \$56/week.

If everyone who pledges were to increase their pledge

by even 1 percent of their income;

and if those households who aren't yet pledging (many of whom already give!)

could commit to a pledged amount for 2021,

then we could raise that average amount to \$73/week per pledging household ...

Then, we could meet our anticipated budgeted Parishioner Support of \$73,000 for the year 2021, just through the fulfilling of pledges!

That would be another great step in the maturing **stewardship** of our parish family!

So, ask yourself:

Where am I on the grid?

If I'm not at 10%, can I move 1 square to the left

and pledge that amount for 2021?

	Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Beyond a Tithe		Weekly Tithe	Weekly Upper Range of Giving			Weekly Middle Range of Giving			Weekly Lower Range of Giving		
			15%	12%		10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%
A	\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
B	\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
C	\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
D	\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
E	\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
F	\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
G	\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
H	\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15

**Pledge Commitment Forms were mailed out Saturday 12/12;
look for yours in your mailbox.**

**Thank you for your generous stewardship
of the ministries of Holy Trinity Church!**

**With love in Christ,
Fr. David**

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS, AND YOUR PARENTS: THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!



CROSSROAD
HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS



96 ORTHODOX
YOUTH

10 DAYS

2 LOCATIONS

1 AMAZING
PROGRAM

CrossRoad Applications Available Now!

What happens at CrossRoad?

- Deeply explore your Orthodox Christian faith
- Develop authentic and lifelong friendships
- Encounter service in a new way
- Take theology and scripture courses with some of the best professors in the country
- Discover Boston or Chicago

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Orthodox Christian high school juniors and seniors (graduating in 2021 or 2022)
- Students 16 to 18 years old

Summer 2021 Dates

- Session 1: June 12 - June 22, 2021 (Boston)
- Session 2: June 29 - July 9, 2021 (Boston)
- Session 3: July 19 - July 29, 2021 (Chicago)

Apply Online!

- Application dates:
 - *Priority* deadline **January 4, 2021**
 - *Regular* deadline: **February 16, 2021**
- Website: <https://www.crossroadinstitute.org/apply>
- Phone: 617-850-1309

*COVID-19 Update:

At this time, we are preparing to host the program in-person for summer 2021. However, given the ever-changing nature of this pandemic, we are prepared to host the program virtually, if necessary. A decision will be made by April 2021 whether we will be in-person or virtual. We thank you in advance for your patience as we navigate these unprecedented times! Rest assured, CrossRoad 2021 WILL BE HAPPENING.