

ise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us” and to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. St Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church’s history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, St Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ’s Vineyard were St Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and St Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetov died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife’s death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive St Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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June 22, 2025

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: Romans 2:10 – 16

Gospel: St. Matthew 4:18 – 23

Services: *Sunday*—8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

Saints of the Day: 2nd Sunday After Pentecost—All Saints Local. Hieromartyr Eusebios, bishop of Samosata; Martyrs Zeno and his servant Zenas of Philadelphia; Alban, protomartyr of Britain; Ven. Anastasia of Serbia.

Order of Service

Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 1

The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, * and Your all-immaculate body being guarded by soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * Then the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O Giver of Life, and shouted, * “Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! * Glory to Your eternal rule! * Glory to Your plan for saving us, only benevolent God!”

Apolytikion of the Archangels Tone 4

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, implore and beseech You that by Your supplications You encircle us in the shelter of the wings of Your immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to You with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

Kontakion to the Theotokos Tone 4

A protection of Christians unshameable * intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering * reject not * the prayerful cries of those who are in sin * instead come to us, for You are good * Your loving help bring unto us * who are crying in faith to you * Hasten to intercede * and speed now to supplicate* as a protection for all time * Theotokos, for those who honor you.

Divine Services

Tues., June 24: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Wed., June 25: Paraklesis 5pm

Sat. June 28: Great Vespers 5pm

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is *"With the fear of God, faith and love"* that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

Bookstore and Library

There is something for everyone in our Church Bookstore! New books, Icons, and beautiful Orthodox gifts and items for your home are arriving weekly. We are ordering from various publishers, Orthodox websites, and even Etsy! Handmade items from Edward and Rose Lewis are available for sale too! If you can't find what you are looking for, I'm more than happy to place a special order. See you at our bookstore!

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

June 22: Parish Council

June 29: Sponsor Needed

July 6: Brawner Family

July 13: Sponsor Needed

Festival Donation Request

The AMGOC Greek Festival Committee is seeking donations to defer the costs of increased off-hour security at this year's festival. The committee has decided to hire an extra-duty CSPD officer with a police car presence to protect our equipment and supplies overnight during the festival. Please make checks payable to AMGOC and add "Festival Security" on the memo line. Thank you for your assistance.

Stewardship 2025

The 2025 Stewardship Sunday was on Sunday December 22nd and a presentation was offered by Ruxandra Georgescu and Nathan Pesch co-chairs. Stewardship Packets are available today. Please see Ruxandra Georgescu for more information. You may return your filled out card in the offering box.

Semi-Annual General Assembly

Today, following services we will gather to hold our Semi-Annual General Assembly. Please remember to have your stewardship up to date. If you have not filled out a Stewardship card, please see Bogdan for one.

Philoptochos Outreach

The next meeting will be on Saturday, July 19 at 10am. (*No meeting in June*). All women are invited to attend.

Ronald McDonald House Pull Tabs: During the months of June - August, Philoptochos asks for participation in "Pulling for the Ronald McDonald House." The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado keeps families together when their child needs medical care. Beverage tabs can be placed in the "Ronald McDonald Houses" available in the Church Hall. Please take one and return the pull tabs throughout the summer, that are to be placed in the large Ronald McDonald House, also located in the Church Hall. The pull tabs will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House in early September for recycling.

The Philoptochos will be hosting **Taverna Night** on Saturday, August 16th. Please join us for a night of fellowship, food, and fun to celebrate our vibrant Greek heritage and the community we cherish. OPA!

As we're hoping to offer this event at a low ticket cost for all parishioners to be able to attend, donations are welcome. Please scan the QR code to make a donation directly, or contact us at AMGOCPhiloptochos@gmail.com. We are so appreciative of our generous community



Capital Campaign

King Soopers Cards has established a new program by using their Loyalty Program. You may sign up online and our parish will receive 5% of you purchase.

Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will be held on TBA, following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

Saints Peter and Paul Fast

This fast began June 20, the Fast of the great Apostles Peter and Paul begins. This fast is moveable, in that its length is determined by the date of Pascha. The feast of the Peter and Paul is celebrated on June 29, which is a Wednesday this year. This fast is not as rigorous as the Great Lenten Fast or that of our Panagia, but allows fish, shellfish, vegetables & vegetable products, olive oil, wine, and fruit. Fish, wine and olive oil are **not permitted on Wednesdays and Fridays**. Please remember to go to Holy Confession during this period. It is always best to seek spiritual guidance from your spiritual father on how to fast. You may contact Fr. Dennis.

Saints of the Day

Synaxis of the Saints of North America, commemorated today: On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day. Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's prom-