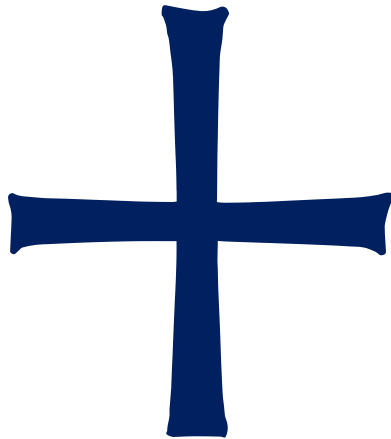


SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

September 24, 2023—16th Sunday After
Pentecost. Holy New Martyrs of Alaska.



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Welcome to St. Elizabeth

WELCOME VISITORS! We are delighted you are here. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church. Please join us after the service for coffee and refreshments in our fellowship hall. If you have questions about any facet of Orthodox worship, our priest—Father John Strickland—would be very happy to meet and assist you in any way possible.

If you are not familiar with the Orthodox Church, you may see some things that are new to you—icons and incense, the sign of the cross, veneration of the saints, and a lot of standing. These elements have been part of traditional Christian worship from ancient times. They reflect the heavenly nature of the Church.

If you would like to learn more about Orthodoxy, we have a small bookstore where Orthodox publications may be purchased and a lending library where many Orthodox books and periodicals can be borrowed. If you would like to learn more about our parish, please visit our website at <https://stelizabethorthodox.org>. There, you can find a link to our parish YouTube page where you can view Father John's Sunday homilies.

Please note that Orthodox priests may serve Communion only to baptized and chrismated members of the Orthodox Church. The Eucharist is the paramount expression of unity among Christians; but the reality today is that many Christians are not united in matters of doctrine and practice. While some Christians are content to agree to disagree, we believe true unity will occur only when modern Christians are reconciled to the ancient Church, with its faith and life delivered “once, and for all.” In light of this, we respectfully request that rather than partaking of the Eucharistic Chalice, our non-Orthodox guests join us in receiving the *antidoron*—or blessed bread—served at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Please feel free to contact Fr. John any time at (360) 598-9700 or rector@stelizabethorthodox.org.

—Thank you for joining us today. Glory to Jesus Christ!

Bulletin News

- ✦ Church School—Our parish will begin a new year of St. Elizabeth's Church School in October, and we are looking for teachers and substitutes to support the upcoming school year. We need six volunteers to be teachers, and at least three for substitutes.

To parents of children ages 5 to 18—St. Elizabeth's Church School is pleased to partner with you in the faith education of your children. You can now register your children for the upcoming school year at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/29n7zpar>.

Please contact Roxanne with any questions at rox@tara-lu.com. You can also email her for an individual invite to the registration form above. Please pray for our Church School whether you have children or don't, whether you might volunteer or not!

- ✦ Meal Teams—If you enjoy our Sunday meals and have not joined a meal team, please join one! We need your help. Contact Joy at whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com to join a team.

This Week at St. Elizabeth

Sept. 25th—Monday
6:30pm Catechesis

Sept. 27th—Wednesday
6:00pm Vespers &
Orthodox Studies

Sept. 30th—Saturday
9:00am Men's Fellowship
6:00pm Great Vespers

Today's Hymns

16th Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 7. Holy New Martyrs
of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut

Tone 7 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 5 Troparion *(Church)*

O God-wise Elizabeth,
with humility thou didst hide thy nobility and honor Christ
especially by imitating the labors of Martha and Mary.
As a sacrifice to God, thou didst arm thyself with works of mercy,
patience, and love.
Seeing thy life of good works and suffering, we sincerely beseech
thee, our true teacher.
O Venerable Martyr, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, //
entreat Christ our God to enlighten and save our souls.

Tone 4 Troparion *(New Martyrs)*

Today Alaska rejoices and America celebrates,
for the New World has been sanctified by martyrdom.
Kodiak echoes with songs of thanksgiving,
Iliamna and Kenai observe the festival of faith.
The apostle and martyr Juvenaly is glorified,
and Peter the Aleut is exalted by his voluntary sacrifice.
In their devotion and love for the Lord
they willingly endured persecution and death for the truth.//
Now in the kingdom of heaven they intercede for our souls.

Tone 2 Kontakion *(Church)*

Who can tell of thy great acts of faith,
O long suffering Grand Duchess Elizabeth,
while enduring death in the depths of the earth,
thou didst radiate the brightness of Paradise.
Rejoicing in psalms and hymns, thou didst pray with the angels for
thy torturers,
"O Lord forgive them for they know not what they do." //
 O Christ our God, through her prayers, have mercy, and save
 our souls.

Glory . . .

Tone 4 Kontakion *(New Martyrs)*

Today Valaam joins Alaska in celebrating this joyous feast,
as her spiritual son Juvenaly embraces the New-Martyr Peter with
love.
Together they suffered 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.

. . . over

Now and Ever . . .

Tone 6 Steadfast Protectress

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the Creator,
despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,
but in thy goodness come speedily to help us who call on thee in
faith,
hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,//
for thou dost always protect those who honor thee.

Today's Scripture Readings

Epistle Reading—2 Corinthians 6:1–10

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Gospel Reading—Luke 5:1–11

While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb'edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Today's Commemorations

Saint Juvenaly, Heiromartyr of Iliamna

Father Juvenaly left Kodiak during the summer of the following year (1796) and headed for mainland Alaska. At Nuchek, on the coast, Father Juvenaly baptized more than 700 Chugach Sugpiag Indians. He then traveled northwest across the Kenai Peninsula to Cook Inlet (near present-day Anchorage), and spent the winter evangelizing and baptizing faithful among the Athabaskan Indians who lived there. As he told Father Macarius earlier, his plans were to continue his missionary activities west toward Lake Iliamna and then further northwest toward the shores of the Bering Sea where a Russian Settlement was rumored to exist. After making his westward crossing of the mountains near Lake Iliamna, Heiromonk Juvenaly was never heard from again.

Local oral traditions among the Alaskan peoples today relate the location and events of the martyrdom of Father Juvenaly and his guide. The elders of the Kuskokwim Delta tell of a priest who was martyred by a hunting party of coastal Yup'iks:

The priest arrived by boat at Quinhagak, near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. He had a companion with him, very likely an Athabaskan or Tanaina Indian from the Iliamna or Kenai area. The companion, who was apparently a Reader in the Church, assisted Father Juvenaly as a translator and guide. The local Yupiat Eskimos were frightened by the arrival of these outsiders. As Father Juvenaly stood up in the boat to speak to the Eskimos and “waved his arm as if he were chasing away flies” (that is, he blessed his murderers with the sign of the Cross), the Yupiat shaman ordered that the intruders be killed immediately. A shower of spears and arrows flew at Father Juvenaly. His companion quickly jumped from the boat and dove down deep into the current. He was able to remain underwater, swimming and diving for long periods. This ability to “swim like a seal” seemed remarkable to the Eskimos, but with their kayaks, they eventually outlasted their prey, capture and killed him as well. Father Juvenaly’s body was then taken up the Kuskokwim River into the mountains and buried.

Now, Alaska shamans were responsible among the people for such things as maintaining order and harmony between the tribe and the whole world, communicating with the spiritual realm, curing illness, invoking blessings (especially in relation to hunting) and curses, and prophesying the future.

The story continues that the shaman who was a member of this hunting party was very interested in the cross that Father Juvenaly wore. After Father Juvenaly had been killed, the shaman removed the cross from the body and put it around his own neck. He performed his rituals, but he became frustrated in the attempt—for he found that he could do nothing. He remarked that each time he tried to work his magic, he found himself being lifted several feet above the ground. He quickly took this “brass” cross off and warned others not to harm anyone else who might come dressed like this alien shaman. He told his companions that these people undoubtedly possessed great power, and it would be best to treat them very well.

Saint Peter the Aleut, Martyr of San Francisco

There is a similar version of the murder of Peter the Aleut in a letter dated November 22, 1816, from Simeon Yanovsky (the chief director of the Russian-American Company in Alaska) to Igumen Damascene of the Valaam Monastery in Russian Finland. . . . Yanovsky writes about a conversation he once had with St. Herman.

Yanovsky told the monk the story of how Roman Catholic priests in California tried to force the Aleut hunters to embrace Roman Catholicism. The prisoners said "We are Christians; we have been baptized." They even showed the Latin priests their baptismal crosses.

"No, you are heretics and schismatics," replied one of the priests. "If you do not agree to take the Catholic Faith, we will torture you." The captives were then told to "think it over."

Coming back later that night, the priests found that the Aleuts again refused to renounce Orthodoxy and to embrace the Roman Church. They took a prisoner and cutoff one of the toe joints from one of his feet and then from the other. In response to this, the Aleut simply repeated: "I am a Christian; I will not betray my faith." Next they cut a joint off each finger—first from one hand then from the other. Then they hacked off one foot at the instep and then one hand at the wrist. The Aleut's wounds were terrible, and he eventually died from the loss of blood. The remaining Aleuts were promised that they would be tortured the next day unless they forsook their false religion.

During the night, an order came, commanding that the remaining prisoners be sent immediately under guard to Monterey, the capital of California. The order was carried out.

After Yanovsky told this all to St. Herman, the elder asked the name of the tortured Aleut. "Peter," Yanovsky replied, "but I cannot remember his other name." Then, standing before the icon, the monk crossed himself, and said, "Holy, newly martyred Peter, pray to God for us!"

—*Portraits of American Saints*, George A. Gray

The Nicene Creed: the Symbol of Faith (sung together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages: Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pre-Communion Prayers (said together)

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord in Thy Kingdom.

May the communion of Thy Holy Mysteries be neither to my judgment, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body. Amen.

