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Archpriest John Strickland

September 2022

# *The New Witness*

*To the Ancient Faith*

*A Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church*



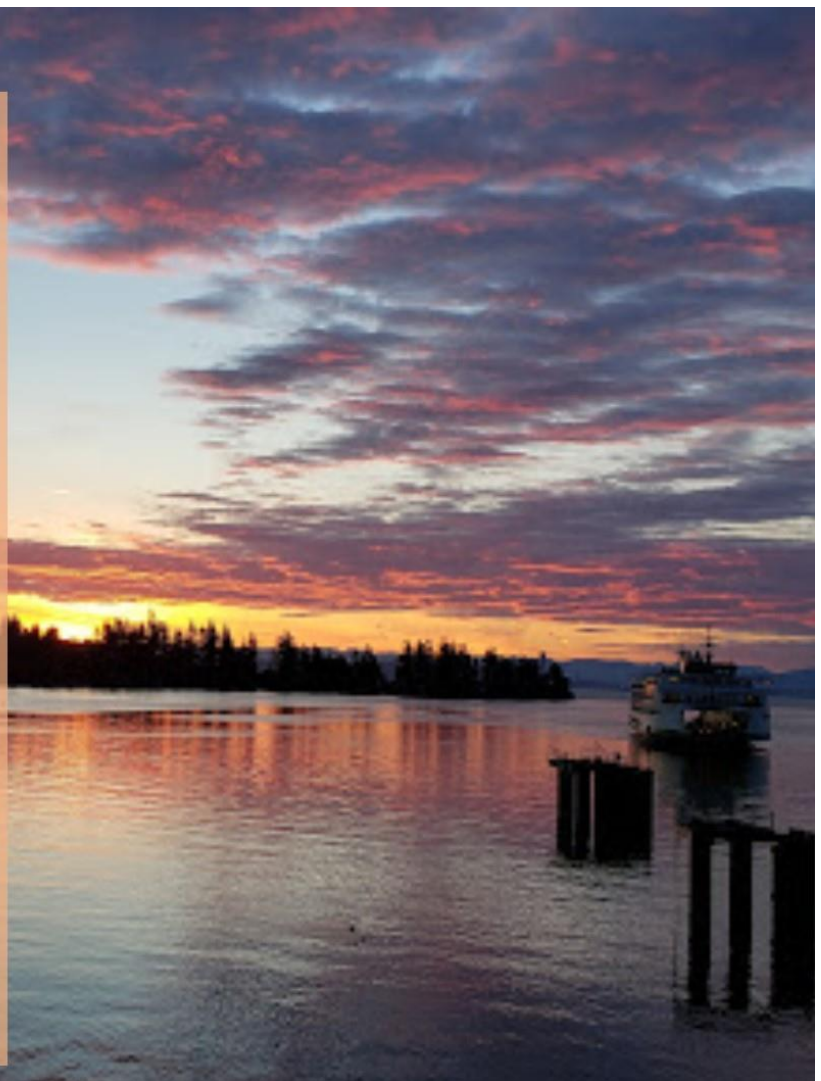
Unto my words give ear, O  
Lord; hear my cry,

Attend unto the voice of  
my supplication, O my  
King and my God; For  
unto Thee will I pray, O  
Lord. In the morning  
Thou shalt hear my voice.

In the morning shall I  
stand before Thee, and  
Thou shalt look upon me;  
for not a God that willest  
iniquity art Thou. O Lord,  
guide me in the way of Thy  
righteousness.

And let all them be glad  
that hope in Thee; they  
shall ever rejoice, and  
Thou shalt dwell among  
them. Amen.

A morning prayer, taken from Psalm 5.



# **PARISH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## **LITURGICAL NEW YEAR**

The Liturgical new year begins on September 1. A new cycle of sanctified time opens up to us every year at this time. Parishioners should ahead to the sequence of great feasts and fasting periods that will guide us into communion with God through corporate worship. The first great feasts are Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8) and Elevation of the Cross (September 14).

## **MONDAY CATECHESIS**

Father John will begin our new year of catechesis in September in person on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30. All of our catechumens will be attending this important part of preparing for entry into the Orthodox Church. Parishioners and inquirers, however, are also invited to attend in order to learn more about their faith.

## **SUNDAY CATECHESIS**

As an adjunct to Monday catechesis, Sunday catechesis will also resume in September. When you see our catechists leaving with our catechumens during the second half of the Divine Liturgy, that is where they are going. If you have a friend visiting our church for the Liturgy, be sure to invite him or her to participate.

## **COVID PRECAUTIONS**

Everyone is reminded that with continued concerns about Covid parishioners should keep four particular precautions in mind:

- Everyone who wishes to do so should feel free to wear masks, but they are not required
- Windows can be opened to improve ventilation
- Doors to the parish hall can be left open during services
- If anyone tests positive for Covid and has recently been to the church, please be sure to let Fr. John know.

## **BOOKSTORE NEWS!!**

No major news here but please let one of us know if you'd like to see the Bookstore offer a book or icon that we don't currently carry. We'll do our best to find a copy or two and include it/them in our selection.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

In Christ's service,

Nancy, Sheryl & Jamie

## **SEEKING PARISH PHOTOGRAPHER**

Looking for a new St. Elizabeth Photographer. It is nice to have events captured as they happen. Anyone can take pictures and share, but we need one person who is willing to gather and distribute images, and hopefully take them too. Contact Roxanne Reid-Bennett for details. [rox@tara-lu.com](mailto:rox@tara-lu.com)

## **GAME NIGHT**

Second Friday of each month we gather for Game Night. Bring your favorite board game and a snack (usually Lenten) and your favorite people and join us in the parish hall for some fun! All ages are welcome!

This month is Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>! See you there!

### **OUTDOOR CLEAN UP TIME**

Once more it is time to work together and get our hands dirty cleaning up outside the church. Please join us on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm to mow, edge trim, weed the gardens and clean up all around the outside of the church. This is the same day as Men's Fellowship! *Please* join us after the fellowship!! More hands make light work, even if for part of the time!!

There will be a sign-up sheet so please consider joining in this ministry to beautify the Church. Thanks!

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER**

Hello ladies! Let's gather on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for some fun fellowship. Since we begin a new Liturgical year on September 1<sup>st</sup>, next meeting we will plan our year ahead. We will discuss a mission statement, pick out a book to read, and vote on some fun ideas for the year ahead. We also need to choose a name for ourselves. Bring your ideas of a patron saint we would like to represent and pray for our fellowship. Maybe someone we can emulate in our service to our community and our Lord. See you there!

### **2022-2023 CHURCH SCHOOL**

St. Elizabeth's Church School is pleased to partner with you in the faith education of your children. We are honored to be trusted with this privilege.

We have had a number of changes in our parish, families moving in, and families moving out. We have limited space to hold multiple class rooms. I need a count of children and age groups to be able to set the rooms up.

We are looking for teachers and substitutes to support the upcoming year. Please consider officially volunteering for either role.

Classes will be held on Sunday starting about 30 minutes after Liturgy ends.

Classes will last about 45 minutes.

First church school class will be October 2nd.

Please fill out a separate registration for each child. However, we only require enough Parent information to identify families. For those of you who have filled this out before, you should answer "Yes" to this being your first child only if your address/contact information has changed. For new parents, with multiple children, you only have to fill out the address information once.

**2022 ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL** by Susan Ferrenberg

Fr. John, Sheryl Becker, and I attended this year's AAC in Baltimore, MD in mid-July. I thought I'd share just a little of what I learned.

Each session that involves any kind of a vote they take a count. The highest one I wrote down was 264 voting clergy and 232 lay delegates. All in one room! On top of those numbers, you have lay observers like Sheryl was and you have clergy observers plus spouses and children, as well as 13 Bishops!! They have an amazing youth program for the whole week! It never ceases to amaze me the sheer numbers of Orthodox Christians all gathered together. It was absolutely lovely!

There was a liturgy every morning Tuesday through Friday. Each day a different diocese lead the liturgy. Alaska diocese was Tuesday and it was really fun to listen to them sing many of the hymns in native languages. Mike Lestenkof, you would have loved it!

Some of the business agenda included discussing the Pension Plan. The Pension Plan has been under fire for the last couple of years and it was clear it needed some attention. I won't bore you with the details, but it seems they have a workable plan in place and work is ahead to address the issues that have been plaguing the plan.

Besides all the business aspects of the council, which can get a bit boring, there were other presentations that were fascinating. I'll just share a few tidbits that I gleaned from the council that I thought might be interesting here.

The Alaskan Diocese is the oldest diocese in the OCA. It is also the poorest. The OCA is creating an endowment fund for the priests that serve in this diocese. The AVERAGE annual salary for

**PRAYER LIST**

*ND: Newly Departed CSB: Child She Bears*

Departed

ND Vern Paul

Living

Michael

Jeff Seraphim

Irina

Sara CSB

Alison

Monika

Jenny CSB

Michael

the priests that serve in Alaska is just \$7200!! Yes! I said ANNUAL salary \$7200!!! This, in a state where a gallon of milk can cost up to \$25! Most priests serve not just one parish but often up to 4 or 5 churches in various villages. They live in houses that are poverty level often filled with mold and drafts and sometimes even dirt floors. The OCA is creating an endowment fund for these priests. They are urging all parishes to pledge just \$100/month for 2 years. If we can do that the endowment will become self-sustaining and they will be able to give each priest an increased stipend. At the end of the council we voted on a resolution, which passed unanimously, to create a Alaskan Clergy Endowment Sunday. This will be the Sunday closest to St. Herman's feast day in December and each parish is urged to honor St. Herman by taking up a free-will offering for the Alaska Clergy Endowment. Mark your calendars!

St. Tikhon Seminary report shared some new programs that are beginning there. They are starting a 1-year Choir Director training program. They just completed the 1<sup>st</sup> pilot program. It is very complete and very intensive. Alternatively, they have monthly retreats which you can attend virtually! Check out [https://www.stots.edu/news\\_210701\\_1](https://www.stots.edu/news_210701_1)

At our own Diocesan Assembly Bishop Daniel was presented with a farewell gift from Bishop Benjamin. He is leaving to serve the Diocese of the Midwest. During his farewell speech he said something that has really stuck with me... "The Lord has called me to serve in a different corner of the same vineyard."

We heard from various departments and of 2 I will speak.

The Department of Evangelization offers 43 FREE pamphlets that all parishes are welcome to utilize. There are so many topics to choose from like Introduction to Orthodoxy or topics on Great Lent or Church Worship. Printed on high quality paper these could be a great resource for parishes. Found here: <https://www.oca.org/about/departments/evangelization>

Department of Liturgical Music offers many wonderful resources including free webinars and online classes on music theory and choir directing. Watch <https://www.oca.org/about/departments/liturgical-music> for announcements of those classes if interested. But the biggest news from this department is the launch of a choir director certification program!! I don't have dates but it will be announced on the website when it is going to start. And lastly, the OCA has announced an annual Church Musicians Sunday. The first Sunday of October (Sunday closest to St. Romanos the Melodist), this year it is October 2<sup>nd</sup>. They encourage parishes to highlight & honor their choirs. Mark your calendars.

Attending an All-American Council is an experience that is simply wonderful! Rooms full of Orthodox Christians! Meeting new folks from all over the US, Canada and even Mexico. Looking out over the massive ballroom at a sea of black...clergy from everywhere! They come to learn and find encouragement and fellowship. When the clergy of the AAC line up to take communion, it can take a very long time! It is the only time you'll ever get to take communion before many of the priests!

And lastly, it was truly a blessing to visit the Exhibition of the Metropolitan Museum/Repository. This was an exhibit that had many of the sacred treasures of the OCA which is typically housed at St. Tikhon's Monastery. Sacred Relics and Treasures included the Chalice and Panagia of Saint Innocent of Alaska, Gospel of Saint Innocent with preface by Saint Jacob Netsvetov, the Mantia of Saint Patriarch Tikhon (Bellavin) from his enthronement, the vestments and Mitre of Saint Nicolai of Zhica, vestments of Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Saint John of San Francisco, Saint Raphael of Brooklyn, and many other items from Metropolitan Leonty, Archbishop Arseny, Archbishop John of Chicago, Archbishop Kirprian, Archbishop Gregory of Sitka and Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas. It was an honor to venerate many of these holy relics.

This is much longer than I thought it would be! But I can say I truly had a very inspiring time and I never regret going. I love attending these functions because it is uplifting to see so many others who serve God in our Orthodox world. If you ever get chance...take it!!

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

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### **SEEKING**

Fraser & Daniel are still seeking to buy a small home in Kitsap County. If you know of one that may be on the market soon, please reach out to them.

### **FREE**

Piano: We have a piano we inherited years ago from Marie Burkheimer and it needs a new home. In good shape just needs a good tune-up and cleaning. ***Free!***

Lawn chairs: white plastic lawn chairs in near new condition. About 10 (give or take).