



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Weekly Newsletter  
Sunday, October 18, 2020

## Sunday of Luke the Evangelist

Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18

Luke 10:16-21

### We Want to Hear from You!

We are preparing to place the order for 2021 offering envelopes. Please complete this brief, two question survey to help us place an accurate order for envelopes:  
<https://forms.gle/GFtcMcqxj6Ldo2PfA>.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Orthodoxy on Tap - Tuesday 10/13, 7pm  
Contact [church office](#) for link
- Bible study - Wednesday 10/14, 6:30pm  
[Zoom link](#)  
Mtg ID #751 7145 2841  
Password: 0zbpui
- Choir Practice - Tuesday 10/20 at 7pm  
Contact [Matt Gordon](#) for link

### Philly OCF

- Regular Meeting - Monday 10/19, 8pm  
[Zoom link](#)  
Mtg ID #835 2215 9264  
Password: Fellowship
- Bible study - Tuesday 10/27, 11am  
[Zoom link](#)  
Mtg ID #880 5713 0161  
Password: Scripture

### Upcoming (Virtual) Events

IOCC Philadelphia Virtual Event –  
October 25, 4pm – [Sign up for this free event on the IOCC website.](#)

- The following services will be held in the church and streamed on the [website](#):
  - **Tuesday 10/13** – Akathist, 7pm (online – please email Dn. Joseph for the link: [dnjosephclark@gmail.com](mailto:dnjosephclark@gmail.com))
  - **Saturday 10/17** – Vespers, 5pm
  - **Sunday 10/18** – Orthros & Liturgy, 9:30am
  - **Tuesday 10/20** – Akathist, 7pm (online)
- To attend one of the services listed above at the church, please sign up via Sign Up Genius ([October services](#)). When doing so, please keep in mind the following:
  - reserve the number of slots for family members attending (For example, if there are 3 household members attending, reserve 3 slots.)
  - those who are elderly, have pre-existing conditions, or currently are not feeling well are asked to remain home.
  - children who are too young to keep a mask on are asked to remain home.
- To set up a time to receive communion, please sign up via the [Sign Up Genius](#). Please reserve only one slot per household unit. Prior to arriving at the church for communion, please say the [Morning Prayers](#) and the [Prayers of Preparation before Communion](#).
- Confession is also being scheduled by appointment. To set up an appointment, please email the church office and provide a few dates/times you are available. The office will email you to confirm your appointment time.

**If you attend a service, you must wear a mask/face covering out of care for ourselves, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our neighbors.**

## Church History

*This week we continue a series on the Essentials of Faith. The hope is that we can all learn and be edified, and come to a “knowledge of the Truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), and to witness to the things of faith that were “delivered to the saints” (Jud. 1:3) in the Church, which is the “pillar and ground of Truth”. (1 Tim. 3:15) May God bless the labor. These lessons are taken from Fr. Thomas Hopko’s series The Orthodox Faith.*

### **Mission to Alaska**

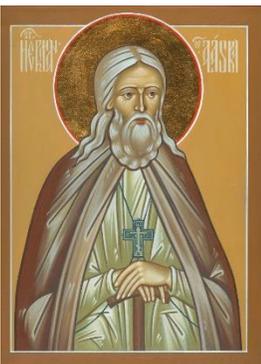
During the 18th century Russian missionaries began to move across Siberia towards the Pacific Ocean. In 1794 ten monks from the Valaam Monastery in Russian Finland and two other nearby monasteries arrived on the island of Kodiak in Alaska. These first Orthodox missionaries to North America were pleasantly surprised to find nearly all of the Native Americans quite eager to accept the Orthodox Faith. In fact, many of them had already been baptized by laymen working for the Russian American fur-trading Company.

The missionaries were careful to honor the local religion and culture as much as possible, especially as the natives’ basic worldview was in many ways already oriented towards the sacramental, tradition-based worldview of Orthodoxy. This very much helps explain how it was that some 12,000 natives were baptized and/or chrismated by the missionaries in their first two years there.



The missionaries also proved to be ardent champions of the human rights of the natives, who were often abused by the managers of the Russian-American Company. At the same time, many of the fur-traders married native women, and a distinctive creole, Aleut culture gradually developed.

One of the first ten missionaries, Saint Juvenaly of Lake Iliamna, left Kodiak to spread the Faith on the Kenai Peninsula of the mainland, and beyond. He was martyred by natives in 1797, thus becoming the Protomartyr of North America.



Another member of this first missionary party was Saint Herman of Alaska, a deeply pious, hesychastic monk who eventually settled in a hermitage on tiny Spruce Island, near Kodiak Island. His gentle compassion and care for the natives won their hearts. With his glorification as a saint by the newly formed Orthodox Church in America in 1970, he became North America’s first officially canonized saint.

### Wisdom of the Holy Fathers

Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing and not laymen No, no; every Christian without exception ought to dwell always in prayer.

+ St. Gregory Palamas