



St. Nicholas

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Orthodox Church

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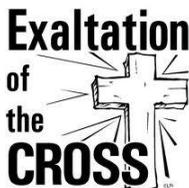
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September 24, 2017

*Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Commemoration of St. Euphrosynus the Cook*

THIS WEEK:

TUESDAY - 5:30 p.m. VESPERAL
DIVINE LITURGY



WEDNESDAY - *Great Feast of the
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS*

FRIDAY - 7 p.m. Bible Study

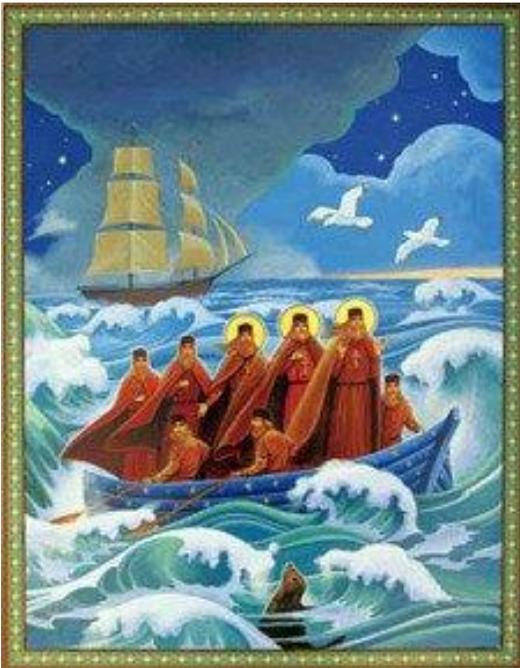
Strict fast Wednesday is a day of strict fasting and prayer for all Monongahela faithful. We remember the Lord's death for us on the Holy Cross.

In order to prepare for Holy Communion at Tuesday's Vesperal Divine Liturgy, we observe a complete fast following lunch that day or at a minimum from 2:30 p.m.

Remember in prayer Evelyn Volk, a patient at Jefferson Hospital.

September 24, 1794

The first formal Orthodox Christian Mission to America arrived on September 24, 1794, on Kodiak Island, Alaska. This Mission consisted of eight Monks and two Novices from Valaam Monastery in Russia. The American Mission, headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, immediately began the work of establishing the Church in Kodiak and the Islands and later on the mainland of Alaska. Despite great difficulties, this Mission was very successful, for virtually all the natives of Kodiak Island were baptized in just three years. During this period, one of the missionaries, Hieromonk Juvenaly, was martyred at Lake Iliamna by natives.



In 1798, Archimandrite Joasaph returned to Irkutsk in Siberia and was consecrated on April 10, 1799, Bishop of Kodiak, the first

Bishop for America, but he and his entourage, including Hieromonk Makary and Hierodeacon Stephen of the original Mission, drowned in a shipwreck on the return voyage to Alaska. Though the American Mission was now reduced to half of its original number, it continued its work. Notable was the great spiritual and missionary work of the Monks Herman and Joasaph. Not only did they instruct the natives in spiritual and religious matters, but they also taught them practical, secular subjects, such as mathematics, carpentry, agriculture, as well as animal husbandry.

In 1824, with the arrival of the Missionary Priest John Veniaminov (*now known as St. Innocent of Alaska*), a new impetus was added to the missionary work already done. The original missionaries had been replaced by others, so that by the time of the arrival of Father John, only the Monk Herman, now retired to Spruce Island, was left of the original American Mission. He died on December 13, 1837, and on August 9, 1970, he was canonized as the first Saint of the Orthodox Church in America.

First Confession We will celebrate the First Confession of two of our young people next Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Bible Study on St. Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians continues every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

