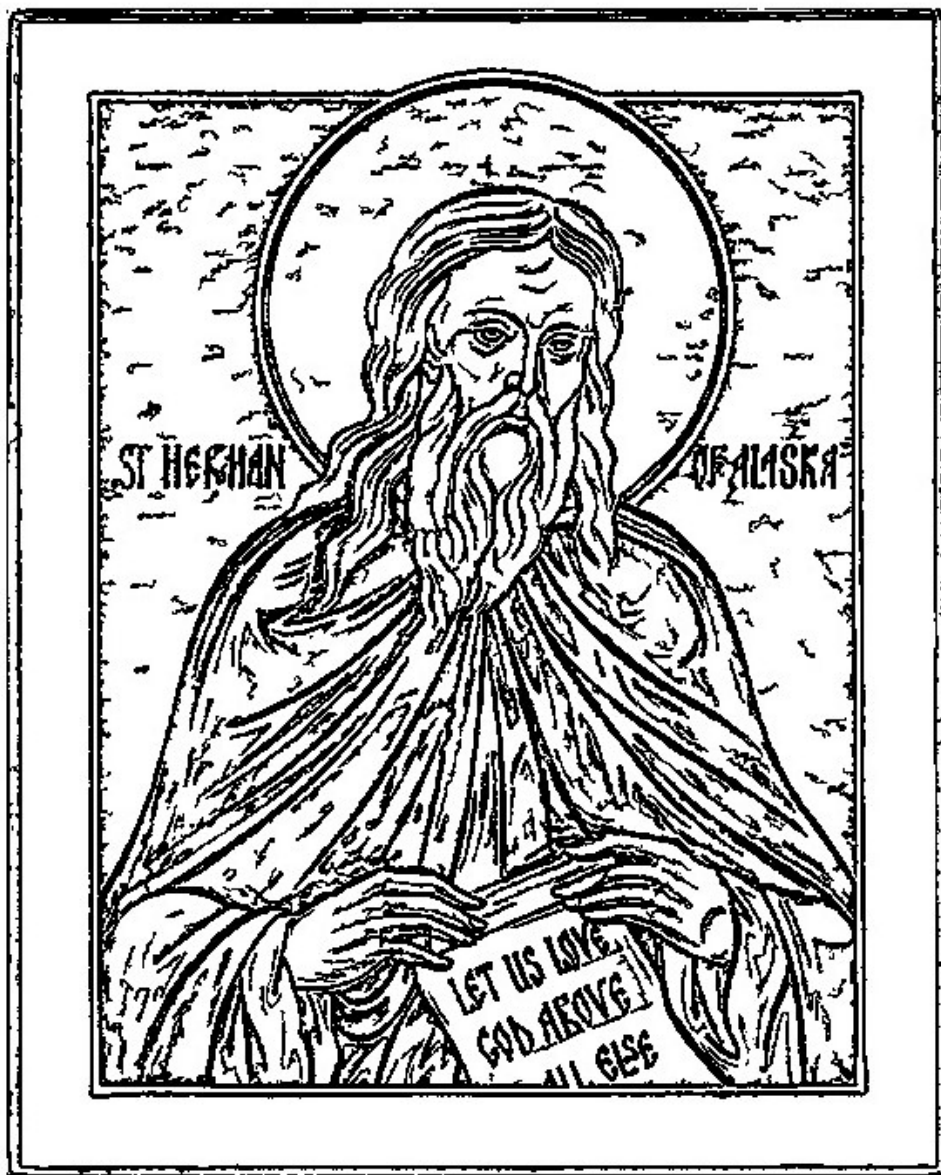


Saint Herman, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Volume 9, Issue 50

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



The highways and hedges

Do you like looking at maps? Do you sometimes wonder how far away things are on a map? When you read the Bible, have you ever thought about how far away from you is the place where Jesus spoke? Have you ever tried to find the Holy Land on a map?



In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus tells a parable about bringing people from far away into God's house. Most of us live far away from Palestine, where Jesus told this parable. Although we are far away from the Holy Land, Jesus said that people far away would come to God's house to a great banquet—a joyous party! God wants His house to be filled—not just with His family and friends, but with everybody!

In the Gospel today we read, "the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'" We are the ones far away, in the highways and hedges. The servant in the parable is like an apostle, going to far away places to bring people to God. That's us! God said a long time ago and far away that many people from far away from the Holy Land will be invited to His house, to His great banquet! Let's always say yes to that invitation. And even more, let's help others come to this banquet too!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Alaska
- America
- Apostle
- Banquet
- Hedges
- Herman
- Highways
- Invitation
- Maps
- Missionary
- Saint

I	T	H	U	E	X	A	B	A	N	H	V	C	D	R
N	N	Y	R	F	K	A	R	L	E	A	I	O	E	W
V	I	Z	H	S	N	E	I	D	T	Q	M	A	S	B
I	A	Y	A	Q	W	H	G	Q	H	B	N	R	P	P
T	S	L	U	V	V	E	J	H	I	N	C	F	E	I
A	A	E	A	D	S	G	U	A	G	T	C	J	F	H
T	T	P	N	C	V	T	T	J	H	X	N	W	X	X
I	A	G	O	H	N	Z	D	D	W	J	S	I	X	H
O	A	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	R	Y	N	A	V
N	S	I	V	O	T	F	D	R	Y	H	K	F	N	S
Y	B	N	W	H	H	L	G	A	S	J	B	G	Y	T
L	K	L	Q	K	E	F	E	A	C	I	R	E	M	A
P	I	H	Y	U	D	S	P	A	M	C	Y	J	P	Q
B	P	W	D	N	Q	O	F	I	Z	W	G	Y	O	N
Y	M	K	X	R	O	S	X	I	G	B	Q	J	L	M

What's in an icon?

In this icon, you can see Saint Herman in a boat with some other monks.

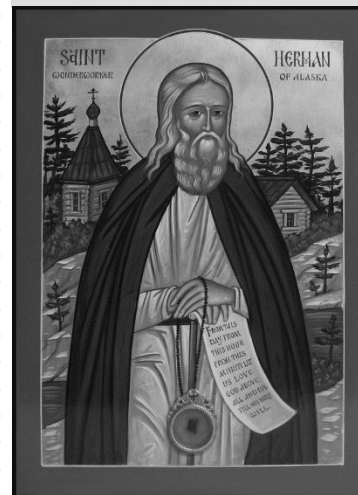
They are traveling from Russia to Alaska.

What do you think? Does it look like a pleasant trip in the stormy, icy sea?



© Alexandra Houck 2021

SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA THE FIRST AMERICAN SAINT



Did you know that 221 years ago, when George Washington was still president, our first American saint lived in our very own country?

Saint Herman was born in Russia, and he became a monk there. In the 1700s, lots of Russians were living in Alaska so they could get animal furs and then sell them back in Russia. It was a big business! These Russians were Orthodox, so they wanted to have priests and churches there in their new land.

The Russian government also wanted to teach the native people about Christ and to help them become Orthodox Christians too.

So Saint Herman left Russia, along with a few other men, to help the Russian fur traders and to try to help the native people on Kodiak Island. But they had lots of problems. Their main problem was the fur traders!—they were not nice to the native Alaskans, and they forced them to work for them, cheated them out of money, and were awful to the innocent people.

Saint Herman lived in Alaska for almost 40 years, and he had many problems there. But he always stuck up for the native people, teaching them about God, but even more, showing them Christ's love with his own life.

We celebrate St. Herman tomorrow, December 13th (OC: Dec. 26th).