

**Our Righteous Father Herman of Alaska  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on December 12**

Saint Herman (his name is a variant of Germanus) was born in Moscow in 1756. In his youth he became a monk, first at the Saint Sergius Hermitage near Saint Petersburg on the Gulf of Finland; while he dwelt there, the most holy Mother of God appeared to him, healing him of a grave malady. Afterwards he entered Valaam Monastery on Valaam Island in Lake Lagoda; he often withdrew into the wilderness to pray for days at a time. In 1794, answering a call for missionaries to preach the Gospel to the Aleuts, he came to the New World with the first Orthodox Mission to Alaska. He steered on Spruce Island, which he called New Valaam, and here he persevered, even in the face of many grievous afflictions—in the loving service of God and of his neighbour. Besides his many toils for the sake of the Aleuts, he subdued his flesh with great asceticism, wearing chains, sleeping little, fasting and praying much. He brought many people to Christ by the example of his life, his teaching, and his kindness and sanctity, and was granted the grace of working miracles and of prophetic insight. Since he was not a priest, Angels descended at Theophany to bless the waters in the bay; Saint Herman used the holy water to heal the sick. Because of his unwearying missionary labours, which were crowned by God with the salvation of countless souls, he is called the Enlightener of the Aleuts, and has likewise been renowned as a wonderworker since his repose in 1837.

*Dismissal Hymn of the Righteous One. Fourth Tone*

**B**LESSED Ascetic of the northern wilds and gracious intercessor for the whole world, teacher of the Orthodox Faith, good instructor of piety, adornment of Alaska and joy of all America, holy Father Herman, pray to Christ God that He save our souls.

*Kontakion of the Righteous One. Plagal of Fourth Tone  
To thee, the Champion Leader*

**M**ONK of Valaam, who through ascetic labours didst become \* an emulator of the desert-dwelling Saints of old, \* O beloved of the Mother of God and Virgin, \* having taken prayer as sword and shield, thou wast revealed \* as the scourge of pagan darkness and the demons' hosts \* Hence we cry to thee: O Saint Herman, pray that we be saved.



**The Holy New Martyr Peter the Aleut  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on December 12.**

The Holy New Martyr Peter suffered martyrdom in San Francisco, at the time that California belonged to Spain. An Aleut from Alaska, he and his

companions were captured in California by the Spaniards. When he refused to abandon Orthodoxy to accept Latinism, which they wished to force upon him, the Spaniards submitted him to a Martyrdom like that suffered by Saint James the Persian, cutting him apart joint by joint. He died from loss of blood in steadfast confession of the Faith in 1815.

Rest from labour. Wine and oil allowed.

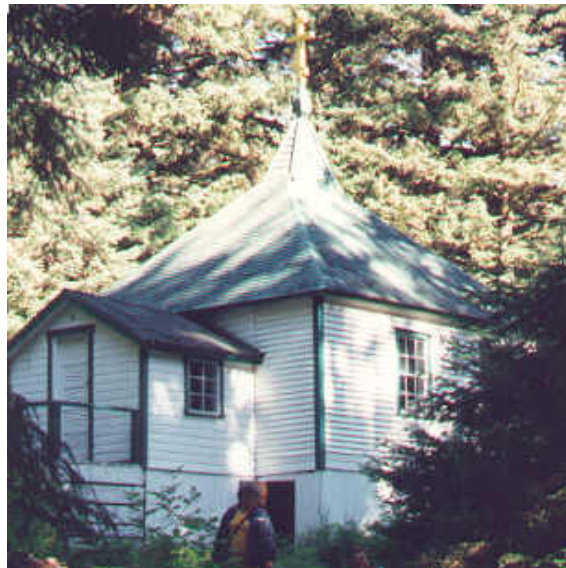
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*Dismissal Hymn of the Martyr. First Tone*

**O** PETER, upon the rock of thy faith hath Christ built His Church, and in the streams of thy blood hath He hallowed our land. In thee thy people hath been sanctified, O Aleut; from the farthest islands of the west hath He raised thee, a light unto all. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

*Kontakion of the Martyr. Fourth Tone*  
*On this day Thou hast appeared*

**A**S a skilful fisherman, \* the martyr Peter \* was not harmed when he was caught \* by the adversaries of the Faith; \* but in a sea of martyric blood, \* he gained the Kingdom and destroyed bitter heresy.



Saint Herman's Chapel on Spruce Island