

Saint Juvenal, Protomartyr of America

Saint Juvenal, the Protomartyr of America, was born in 1761 in Nerchinsk, Siberia. After his wife died in 1791, John entered a monastery at Saint Petersburg (Saint Herman's Letter of December 13, 1819) and was tonsured with the name Juvenal. Three years later, he went to Alaska as a missionary. In 1796, Saint Juvenal came to the mouth of the Kuskokwim where he was killed by a hunting party.

The precise reason for Saint Juvenal's murder is not known. However, the natives later told Saint Innocent that Saint Juvenal did not try to defend himself when attacked, nor did he make any attempt to escape. After being struck from behind, he turned to face his attackers and begged them to spare the natives he had baptized.

The natives told Saint Innocent that after they had killed Saint Juvenal, he got up and followed them, urging them to repent. They fell upon him again and gave him a savage beating. Once more, he got to his feet and called them to repentance. This happened several times, then finally the natives hacked him to pieces. Hieromonk Juvenal became the first Orthodox Christian in America to receive the crown of martyrdom.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Reflection from oca.org; Hymnography from oca.org

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, September 24th, 2017

*New Martyrs of Alaska; Protomartyr and equal to the Apostles
Thecla*

16th Sunday after Pentecost

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Readings

Epistle 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Romans 8:28-39

Gospel Luke 5: 1-11; Luke 21: 12-19

Tone 7 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen,// granting the world great mercy..

Tone 4 Troparion (*New Martyrs of Alaska*)

Today Alaska rejoices and America celebrates, for the New World has been sanctified by martyrdom. Kodiak echoes with songs of thanksgiving, Iliamna and Kenai observe the festival of faith. The apostle and martyr Juvenaly is glorified, and Peter the Aleut is exalted by his voluntary sacrifice. In their devotion and love for the Lord they willingly endured persecution and death for the truth.// Now in the kingdom of heaven they intercede for our souls.

Tone 7 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith;// enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Tone 4 Kontakion (*New Martyrs of Alaska*)

Today Valaam joins Alaska in celebrating this joyous feast, as her spiritual son Juvenaly embraces the New-Martyr Peter with love. Together they suffered for the Lord in America and united the Old World with the New by their voluntary sacrifice.// Now forever they stand before the King of glory and intercede for our souls.



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, September 24th - *New Martyrs of Alaska*

- 8:00 AM - Matins
- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 25th - *St. Sergius of Radonezh*

- 6:30 PM - Jesus Prayer
- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers for St. John the Theologian

Wednesday, September 27th - *Martyr Callistratus*

- 7:00 PM - Class in Port Townsend

Thursday, September 28th - *Ven Chariton the Confessor*

- 6:00 PM - Greek Class

Saturday, September 30th - *Hieromartyr Gregory of Armenia*

- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers