

## Entry of the Thotokos into the Temple

The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God. When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow.

They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the hand-maiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home.

### **St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church**

*Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West*

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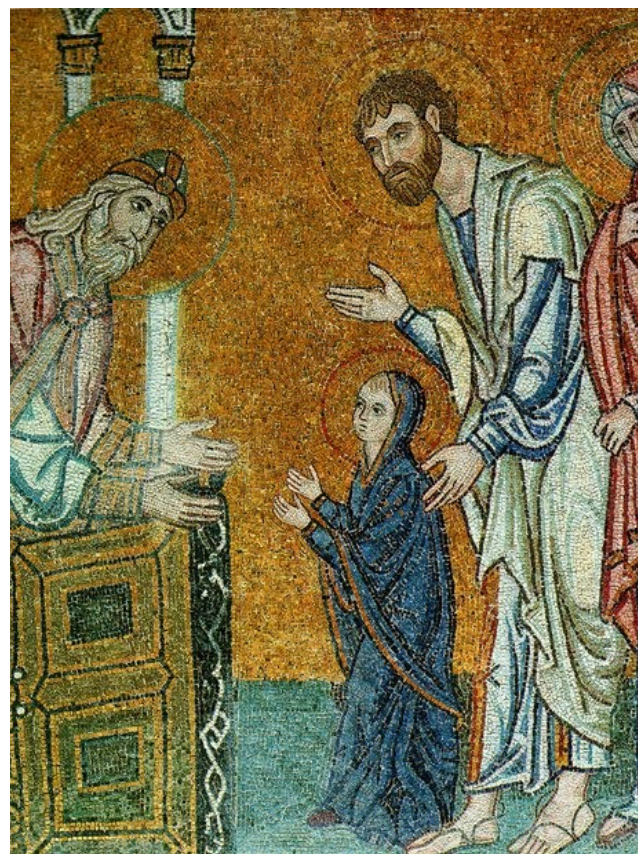
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# St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Prophet Obadiah; Martyr Barlaam*

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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**Readings**

Epistle Ephesians 2: 14-22

Gospel Luke 12: 16-21

**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 2 Troparion** (*for Prophet Obadiah*)

We celebrate the memory of Thy Prophet Obadiah, O Lord; through him we beseech Thee: "Save our souls!"

**Tone 4 Troparion** (*for Martyr Barlaam*)

Armed with youthful fervor, Thou didst endure martyrdom in old age and glorified Christ. Thou didst offer Him thy right hand as a whole burnt offering and thy holy soul as a blameless sacrifice. Intercede that all that be granted forgiveness, Great-martyr Barlaam!

**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 1 Kontakion** (*Prophet Obadiah*)

The great Obadiah, acquiring a mind luminous with divine splendor, speaks through the Holy Spirit, proclaiming things to come. Today we honor him with faithful minds, // celebrating his holy memory which enlightens the hearts of men.

**Tone 3 Kontakion** (*Martyr Barlaam*)

Though weak with old age thou didst vanquish the Evil One in thy mighty contest, O Barlaam. Thou didst endure the rack like one without a body, and steadfastly endured the burning of thy hand. Therefore, God the Word has crowned thee with a crown of glory.

This Week at St. Herman's

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** - *Prophet Obadiah Fish Wine & Oil*

- 8:00 AM - Matins
- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy
- Myrrh bearers meeting

**Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** - *Ven Gregory Decapolites*

- 7:00 PM - Vigil for Entrance of the Theotokos

**Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>** - *Entrance of the Theotokos Fish Wine & Oil*

- 9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>** - *Apostles of the 70 Philemon, Archippus, and Martyr Apphia*

- 6:45 AM - Coffee and Books

**Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** - *St. Amphilochius of Iconium Wine & Oil*

- 10:00 AM - Thanksgiving Akathist
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**Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** - *Hieromartyr Clement Fish Wine & Oil*

- 6:30 PM - Jesus Prayer
- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers