



THE GOOD SEEDS

SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
-ESTABLISHED IN 1991-
62 HARVARD AVENUE, ALLSTON, MA, 02134

“From this day, from this hour, from this moment, let us strive to
love God and fulfill His Holy Will”

January, 2007
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“This Is My Beloved Son, In Whom I Am Well Pleased”

Theophany was one of the times during the yearly cycle reserved for baptizing the catechumens and it is called The Feast of Illumination referring to the Illumination of Baptism. It is also the time that water is blessed and consecrated for use by the Church and faithful. As Christ was baptized and descended into the waters of the Jordan, he purified the waters as if a fiery coal entered in. These are now the purified waters that we enter into at baptism for the cleansing of our souls and bodies.

What does it mean that Our Lord descended into the Jordan, was baptized and blessed the waters? Let us go back to the beginnings of things.

When God created the heavens and the earth, it was dark and water surrounded the earth as envelope around it. Water was created by Him and had a specific essence and purpose. It was from water that life was first called forth when God made sea animals.

The Spirit of God “moved upon the face of the waters”. What does it mean “moved”. The Syriac word used

for “moved” means “cherished”. St. Basil the Great said that the Spirit of God prepared and “cherished” the watery substance to bring forth living creatures as one sees a bird cover its eggs with its body and impart warmth, care and vital force.

Milton, the great poet captured the sense in these verses of Paradise Lost, (chapter VII):

*“Darkness profound covered the abyss; but on the watery calm
His brooding wings the Spirit of God outspread,
And vital virtue infused and vital warmth,
Throughout the fluid mass.”*

The watery substance that was made to be infused with life, at the Fall was polluted. The Baptism of the Lord purified the waters. At the blessing of the waters this substance is once again infused with divine life and energies so that it may become cleansing of the souls and bodies of all those who in faith draw of it and partake of it. **What a great gift is given to us!**



**Father Patrick Tishel,
Headmaster.**



News from Saint Herman of Alaska School:

- This is the first issue of our periodical newsletter, “The Good Seeds”. We feel it is important to keep you updated not only of the big projects that we are trying to work on, but also with the day-by-day grace filled events. We hope you’ll enjoy this new expression of our community.

Grant proposals “in the works”:

We applied for a matching grant from AB/BC Community Fund to help St. Herman of Alaska Christian School expand its outreach to children who are learning English as their second language and their families, through more intensive language training. If we get it, the award from the AB/BC Community Fund will help finance:

1. An ESL computer lab for children and families from other countries, enabling them to learn English as a second language;
2. Renovation of the school library, which will house the ESL computer lab and loan good books, DVDs, and other carefully selected resources to children and their families;
3. Scholarships for foreign-born children whose families are unable to afford tuition at St. Herman of Alaska Christian School.

As a parish school within the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, St. Herman of Alaska Christian School has a 16-year track record of working with children and families from other countries. Our mission is to provide Christian classical education for life in the modern world. This project will enable St. Herman School to expand this work among those who are struggling to adjust to a new language, country and culture.

We also applied for a grant to Christ The Savior Brotherhood to fund, among other things, replacements for some of our computers.

Learning to care for the least of My little ones:

Open Door Soup Kitchen/St. Bridget's Food Pantry (established 1989) currently serves an average of 70 warm dinners every Monday evening to a diverse group of guests—homeless, low income, immigrant, mentally ill, elderly. Meals are served rain, snow or shine. In addition to the meal, St. Bridget's Food Pantry also provides generous food donations from its fully stocked food pantry, both at the Monday night dinner and on a case-by-case basis throughout the work week. The Children of St. Herman’s set up the tables and chairs for the guests of the Open Door meal. Some families cook the meals and people from the surrounding Orthodox parishes and local neighborhood help to serve about 70 people each week.

Also every other week the Middle school and fourth graders go to Rogerson Communities to be with the elderly and bring them joy. Mrs. Anna Higgins and Mrs. Elizabeth Roussos accompany them. The Rogerson staff have been impressed and delighted to see the children interact with the clients in a loving and caring way. These are seeds of serving the Lord and realizing that we need to be attentive “*to the least of My little one*”.

Announcing Irish Step Dancing:

Starting with Wednesday, February 7th, the Irish Step Dancing classes will begin and will run until the end of March. All the children should wear P.E clothes on that day (the Irish Step Dancing Classes will replace Monday P.E. classes). A performance will be scheduled for April 11th.

FEBRUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Meeting of Our Lord (Liturgy and Repast)	16	17
18	19 President's Day (no classes); Beginning of Great Lent.	20 Great Lent (noon dismissal all classes)	21 Great Lent (noon dismissal all classes)	22 Great Lent (noon dismissal all classes)	23 Great Lent (noon dismissal all classes)	24
25	26	27	28			