

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church

30 Cross Street - Auburn, New York 13021 ([www.stnicholasauburn.com](http://www.stnicholasauburn.com))

Very Reverend Michael Speck – Parish Priest (315) 246-6051 [mspeck100@gmail.com](mailto:mspeck100@gmail.com)

Office Hours 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Thursday or any time by appointment

Reverend Deacon David Donch Reverend Deacon Michael W. Speck Reader Nathaniel Donch

Sr. Warden - Greg Michaels Jr. Warden – Reverend Deacon David Donch

Secretary – Jane Kimak Treasurer – Glenn Peters

## Sunday, July 7, 2024 - All Saints of North America



**Saturday, July 6 -5:00 PM – Great Vespers**

**Sunday, July 7 – 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour (in church basement because of an event in the hall)**

**Wednesday, July 10 – 8:30 AM - Divine Liturgy**

**Saturday, July 13 -5:00 PM – Great Vespers**

**Sunday, July 14 – 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour**

### *Donations*

*\$50 by Claudia Bashta for the Driveway Pavement Project*

*\$500 by Joan Panek in Memory of Michael Panek for the Driveway Pavement Project*

*\$100 in Memory of David A. Lupo by Dave Lupo for the Benevolence Fund*

*Congratulations to DeAnna and Steve Baumes on the birth of their daughter Annalese Marie on Friday, July 5. (9lbs., 3 oz., 21 inches)  
Congratulations also to Nancy and Katie Baumes and all of their family! God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!*

**Congratulations to:**

**Lizabethe Hanford who graduated from SUNY Oneonta with a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and French. She is currently completing an internship with the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in Washington, D.C.**

**Braydince Swartout who has graduated from Auburn High School and is now entering service in the United States Army.**

**Dr. Katie Schumacher who is entering her third year medical residency in Radiation Oncology at the SUNY Upstate Medical University.**

**Dr. Dave Urciuoli has completed his Internal Medicine Residency Program at the SUNY Upstate Medical University and was the recipient of the Ambulatory Medical Resident of the Year Award. He will be entering private practice**

**We will be applying the final coat of pavement to our church and hall parking lot within the next month or two. Any donations toward the completion of this great project would be greatly appreciated! Your generosity is a blessing to our church.**

**The Deanery Parish Council Conference will be held on Saturday, August 31 in Endicott, NY at Ss. Peter and Paul Church. Please plan to attend this important event!**

**The St. Alphonsus food pantry is in need of canned soup. We will be taking our donations this week. Please consider helping. Thanks!**

## “Our Lady of Sitka” Icon of the Mother of God



Commemorated on [July 8](#)

**Located at the Cathedral of Saint Michael the Archangel in Sitka, Alaska is one of the most revered Icons in North America: the Sitka Mother of God. This Icon has been attributed to a famous Iconographer, Vladimir Lukich Borovikovsky (1758-1826), a protégé of the Empress Catherine II who was instructed at the Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg, Russia. In addition to being a great portrait painter, Borovikovsky also painted many of the Icons for the Cathedral of the Kazan Icon in Saint Petersburg.**

**Painted in the style of the Kazan Mother of God Icon, on canvas, the Sitka Mother of God Icon is 36 x 17-1/2 inches in size. An exceptionally beautiful and detailed riza of silver covers the Icon of the Theotokos and Christ child, and the Image of God the Father blessing from above. The Cathedral received the Icon as a gift from the laborers of the Russian American Company in 1850, two years after the Cathedral was completed. Even with their meager wages, these men generously made their contribution to the Church. Miracles have been attributed to the Sitka Mother of God Icon over the years. It is believed that the gaze of the eyes of the Theotokos have led to the restored health of those who prayed before the Icon. Because of the peaceful gaze of the Theotokos, the Icon has been described as a “pearl of Russian ecclesiastical art of ineffable gentleness, purity and harmony....” And “...the most beautiful face of the Mother of God with the Divine Child in her arms is so delicately and artistically done that the more one looks at it the more difficult it is to tear one’s gaze away.”**

**Originally part of the main Iconostasis at the Cathedral of Saint Michael the Archangel in Sitka, Alaska, the Icon is now permanently located on the far left side of the Iconostasis in a special place of honor.**

## ***Tania Ashby – Memory Eternal***

**Tania Lee Ashby, 37, formerly of Auburn, fell asleep in the Lord on June 28, 2024 in Tampa, FL. Born in Auburn, September 22, 1986, Tania was known for her radiant presence and a smile that could light up any room. Despite her own health challenges, she never let that define her and remained a beacon of care and support for those around her. She was an avid reader and excelled in academics from a very early age. Tania graduated from Port Byron High School and furthered her education, earning a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Tampa and was President of her sorority, Delta Gamma. After graduation, she briefly worked at Hill Top Research as a research coordinator. Tania always loved adventure, so when she was presented the opportunity to move to the Washington DC area, she jumped on it. There, she joined the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office as a patent examiner and met her husband, Dave. However, Tania craved learning and decided to move back to Florida to pursue a Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies. She graduated top of her class from Barry University with a perfect 4.0. She dedicated her professional life to serving others, working as a physician assistant and a patent examiner, roles in which she excelled and brought comfort and aid to many. Tania's love of traveling shone through with trips to Italy and Greece, many states including Hawaii, and countless cruises. Besides her love for travel, she loved food, reading, had a zest for learning, watching scary movies and movies in general, loved the pool, the beach, massages, bowling, mini golf, and poker. Most importantly she loved to craft with her daughter and watch her perform gymnastics and dance.**

**In her personal life, Tania was a devoted mother, daughter, sister, and aunt. In addition to her husband David Kohut, she leaves behind her beloved daughter, Maia Kohut; her mother, Christina Ashby; her father, Kevin Ashby Sr.; brothers, Kevin Ashby Jr. (Miranda) and Sean Ashby; her Aunt Karen Hand; and many other aunts, uncles, and cousins. She also leaves behind her cherished nephews and nieces, Cohen Ashby, Camilla Ashby, Paislie Ladd, and Haiden Ashby. Tania was predeceased by her grandparents, James and Olga Acker, and Gerald and Anne Ashby; her Uncle Billy Acker; and her cousin Tricia Hand. Their memories were dear to her, and she spoke of them often. Tania's beautiful smile and kind spirit will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Friends are invited to join the family for a Funeral Mass to be offered Monday, July 8, 2024 at 12:45pm in St. Mary's Church. Burial will follow in St. Nicholas Cemetery, Aurelius. Calling hours for Tania will be conducted Monday, July 8 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the White Chapel Funeral Home Inc., 197 South Street, Auburn, here an Orthodox Service with Fr. Michael Speck, will take place at 11:00 am.**

# Synaxis of the Saints of North America



Commemorated on [July 7](#)

**On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.**

**Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God’s promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us” and to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians**

**Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.**

**The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.**

**On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons**

**Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.**

**Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.**

**Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.**

**As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.**

**Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.**

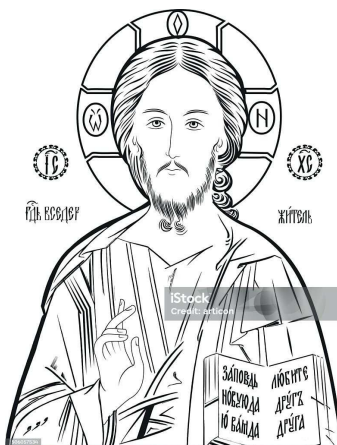
**Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.**

**Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.**

**The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was “How to expand the mission.” Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.**

**In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.**

**In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.**





# Georgia: 6th-century monastery damaged by tornado. (They don't only happen here in the U/S.)

*Akhmeta, Kakheti Province, Georgia, June 28, 2024*



**A 6th-century monastery complex in eastern Georgia suffered damage during a tornado that briefly struck on Tuesday. The National Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Georgia reports:**

**As a result of the natural disaster, the tin covering of the dome has been removed, the roof tiles on the southern slope of the cathedral are damaged, the windows on the western side of the cathedral and the dome are shattered, the tin roof of the bell tower and the tile roof of the episcopal palace are damaged, the balcony of the palace has collapsed, the cross has fallen from the cathedral's dome, and the infrastructure of the surrounding area is damaged.**



Photo: [wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Akhmeta_Monastery.jpg)