

CHRIST IS BORN!!!

GLORIFY HIM!!!



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!!!

The world around us celebrates Christmas very differently than us Orthodox Christians...

December is filled with Christmas Parties (which they now simply call 'holiday' parties), family and friend Christmas dinners, Christmas shopping, Christmas baking, eating and drinking, and general excess.

Meanwhile Orthodox Christians prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord in prayer, fasting, and Vigil, celebrating this Great Feast for 12 days starting Christmas day through the Feast of Theophany. Talk about counter-cultural!

Parish Contacts

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Donations: E-Transfer to:
treasurer@saintherman.net

Weekly Services:

Every Saturday:
530pm Great Vespers

Every Sunday:
930am Matins
10am Divine Liturgy
12pm Potluck Lunch
1pm Catechism Classes

Feast Days:
Please Check our Calendar

7221 - 198B Street
Langley, BC V2Y 1R9

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CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

The Nativity Fast, while more relaxed than Great Lent, prepares us through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and good works to approach the Nativity of Christ in such a way as we would if the Lord Himself appeared to us on Christmas Day (as He does through the Divine Liturgy!)

There is also the tradition of giving gifts during the Christmas season.

This tradition comes from the three Magi (aka Wise Men) presenting our Lord with Gold (fit for a king), Frankincense (fit for worship of God), and Myrrh (fit for the burial of a man).

While we share Christ's love with our family and friends by buying them gifts, we need to remember the poor and needy, and help look after them as best as we can. Most importantly though, we should remember that this tradition began with the 3 Magi presenting gifts to our Lord. We should likewise present the Lord with the gift that he desires most from us. That we love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength; and that we love our neighbors as ourselves.

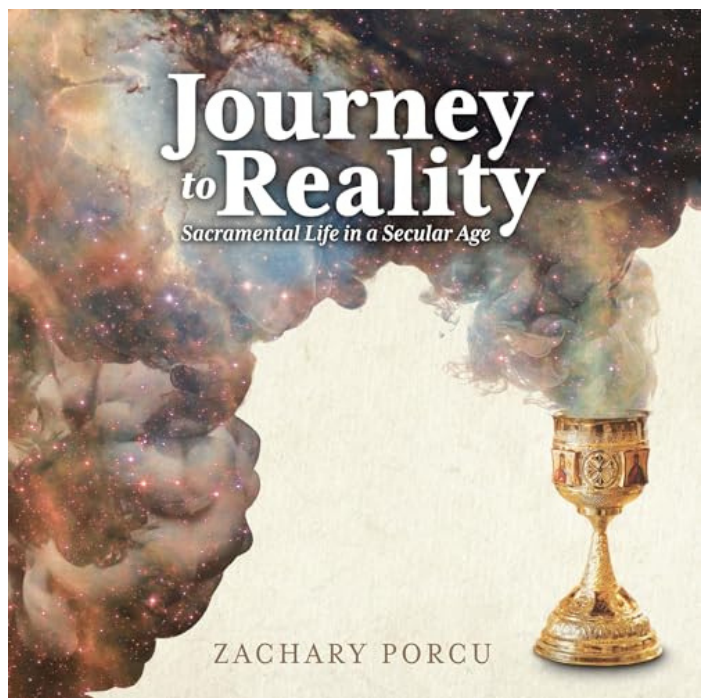
While the world is feasting this Christmas season, there are many families which are in need. While we pray and fast, we also have the opportunity to share Christ's Love with those most in need.

Sharing with those in need is greater than any Christmas present we could give to our family or friends. When we give to the poor, it's like we are giving gifts to Christ Himself!

While we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord with Prayer, Fasting, and Church Attendance, let us also join ourselves to the 3 Wise Men, bringing our gifts to Christ, with the poor receiving these gifts on His behalf.

Fr. Gregory

Journey to Reality: Waking Up from the Modern Fog



Many Orthodox Christians quietly assume that the struggle with modernity is mostly a “convert problem,” *Journey to Reality: Sacramental Life in a Secular Age* (Dr. Zachary Porcu, Ancient Faith Publishing) is a bracing reminder that none of us, converts or life-long Orthodox, easily escape the larger cultural milieu we live in. Modernity has trained all of us to see the world as flat, disenchanted, and essentially material.

Porcu shows how this mindset slips into our Christian lives in subtle ways. Even devout Orthodox sometimes describe the Mysteries with language that treats the “spiritual” as symbolic or less real than the physical, an assumption far closer to modern secularism than to the Fathers.

He calls us back to the Church’s ancient vision, where sacramental grace affects a real ontological (or, category) transformation: a change into a deeper mode of existence that science cannot measure but the saints know intimately.

At just 137 pages, the book is accessible yet profound, philosophical yet warmly pastoral. It exposes the hidden habits of thought that shape us far more than we realize; and offers a way to reclaim a fully sacramental imagination.

For anyone who senses that their instincts about the world feel more secular than they ought to, this book is a needed wake-up call. Dr. Porcu’s message is simple yet profound: to awaken from the disenchanted slumber of modernity and fully embrace the layered, luminous, sacramental, and participatory reality of Christ’s Body, the Church.

Dn Theodore

St. Herman's men's night

THURS. DEC. 4TH

6:30 PM

5191 203rd St. Langley

**(in the clubhouse, next
to the playground of
Longlea Estates)**

call or text Sean for more details
778-875-4111

****please park in visitor parking
only or across the street**

bring some fast friendly snacks if you'd like, and
wine/beer is permitted this day of the Nativity
Fast, but more than this bring yourselves!



Notes from the Choir...

First We Anticipate, Then We Celebrate

Remember when you were a little kid and you started getting excited about your birthday, weeks in advance? You made sure everyone knew your birthday was coming. You told your parents what gift you were hoping for and you thought carefully about what kind of cake to have. You put a lot of time and energy into preparing for your big day. This anticipation was a significant part of your birthday - a prelude to the actual celebration.

The Church also follows this pattern of anticipation before celebration. The Church Fathers and hymnographers who wrote, compiled, and ordered the services and the Church calendar, were masters in human psychology (long before psychology was a thing!) They understood that we frail humans need “frontloading” before a significant event.

Our preparation for Our Lord's birthday, properly called the **Holy Nativity of Our Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ**, begins 40 days in advance with the start of our Nativity Fast. Fasting is one important way we get ready for a major Church Feast.

The Church also prepares us through Liturgical hymnography. Six days into the Nativity Fast, we celebrate the **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**.

The troparion (theme song) for this occasion tells us plainly that this Feast is a prelude to the Nativity of Our Lord: Today is the **preview** of the good will of God...The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in **anticipation** proclaiming Christ to all!

During the Vigil on the eve of the Entrance, you may notice that some of the words sound very “Christmas-y”. That is because they actually **are** Christmas hymns! At the end of each Canon Ode, the katavasia (last verse) read or sung is from the Nativity hymns; they function kind of like a movie trailer, letting us know what's coming up. [If you have no idea what a Canon is, but you're curious, feel free to ask Fr. Gregory, or Dn. Theodore, or me.]

On the two Sundays preceding Christmas, we commemorate the Forefathers and Ancestors of Christ. (If you're not at least mildly shocked by the idea of God having ancestors, now would be a good time to ponder the paradox of Christ's Incarnation.)

The last five days before the Nativity, December 20 - 24, form a “Holy Week” that is directly patterned after the Holy Week before Pascha.

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St. Herman of Alaska
ORTHODOX CHURCH • LANGLEY, BC

First We Anticipate, Then We Celebrate Continued...

There are special services and hymns prescribed every day. [In coming years, we hope to celebrate some of these services at St. Herman's.] The Liturgical highlight of this time is the Kontakion of the Prefeast of Nativity:

Today the Virgin comes to a cave where she will bear so wondrously the Eternal Word; let all the earth rejoice! Hearing the glad tidings, let us come with the shepherds and angels, bringing glory to Him! Let us come and worship Him, Who for mankind's sake is revealed: the Eternal God - a little Child!

This hymn is our official invitation to the Great Feast of Christ's Incarnation. Our final preparation is the service of the **Royal Hours of Nativity**, which we will celebrate at St. Herman's at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, directly before we start celebrating the actual Feast, the Nativity of Our Lord, with the Great Vigil.

Hearing the glad tidings...

Let us come and worship Him!

Andrea Rajan, Lead Choir Director



Children's Ministry



Happenings



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
AFTER LITURGY**

SPECIAL VISIT FROM *St. Nicholas*



"The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves"

ST. NICHOLAS PRAY FOR US

O Come All Ye Faithful



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
after liturgy**

NATIVITY SKIT PERFORMANCE

Presented by the Children & youth



Families with children wishing to perform in the skit:
please speak with "Miss Kristy"

Practices will be Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14 & Dec 21 at 9:30 am
During Sunday School



QUESTIONS:

KRISTYDURAN2@YAHOO.COM



UPCOMING

Youth Night

SATURDAY

5:30-7:30

DECEMBER 6



Activity in the Spirit of Charity

Feast of St. Nicholas

"Those who love God
must extend their hands in charity,
for we are mere stewards of what we hold."

- St Nicholas of Myra

"White Elephant" Gift exchange

bring a wrapped gift or approved home item
-value \$10 or Under



**Attire Theme : Cozy Pajamas Or
Obnoxious Christmas Sweater**

Hot Chocolate
& Snacks



Location: St. Herman's Fellowship Hall
Grades 7-12. Invite a friend!



St. Herman's Christmas Bake Sale

Baking Spirits Bright!

The St. Herman's Christmas Bake Sale was held this past Sunday. There was a palpable buzz of excitement, and the lunch hall was filled with joy! The delicious aroma of freshly made waffles filled the air and the fruit sauces (made from berries donated by the Gerbrandt family) were the perfect 'berry' on top! Thanks to Matushka Ana and Samantha Ryder for preparing these!

The generosity of time and talent was evident throughout the room. Alex Goncharov had an array of his Orthodox children's education toys, as well as icons for sale. Kim Tully created her beautiful hand embroidered quilted bags. The parish's church school children had ornaments available, as well as flower babies made by Christina Rak. There were donated Orthodox cards for purchase. The Christmas photo scene by Kristy Duran was a special highlight, allowing many to get their portraits taken!

Of course, we cannot forget about all the delicious baked goods that were baked with love by many parish members! Thank you to all who offered your time and talent for this Christmas event!

It was a beautiful thing to see our parish come together as a family to enjoy this fun and festive event! This day couldn't have been possible without the help of many hands! A special thanks to Matushka Ana and Melanie Mare for their support and commitment in organizing the event. And many thanks to all involved: Kristy Duran, Alex Goncharov, Kim Tully, Christina Rak, the Gerbrandt family, Isabel and Melania Duran, Genevieve Duran, Pearl Sonier, Jason and Sara Tischer, Anna Maria Molina, Jordy and Maria Tyson, along with their children, Logan and Penelope. Big thanks to everyone who participated as well! Forgive me if I have missed anyone!

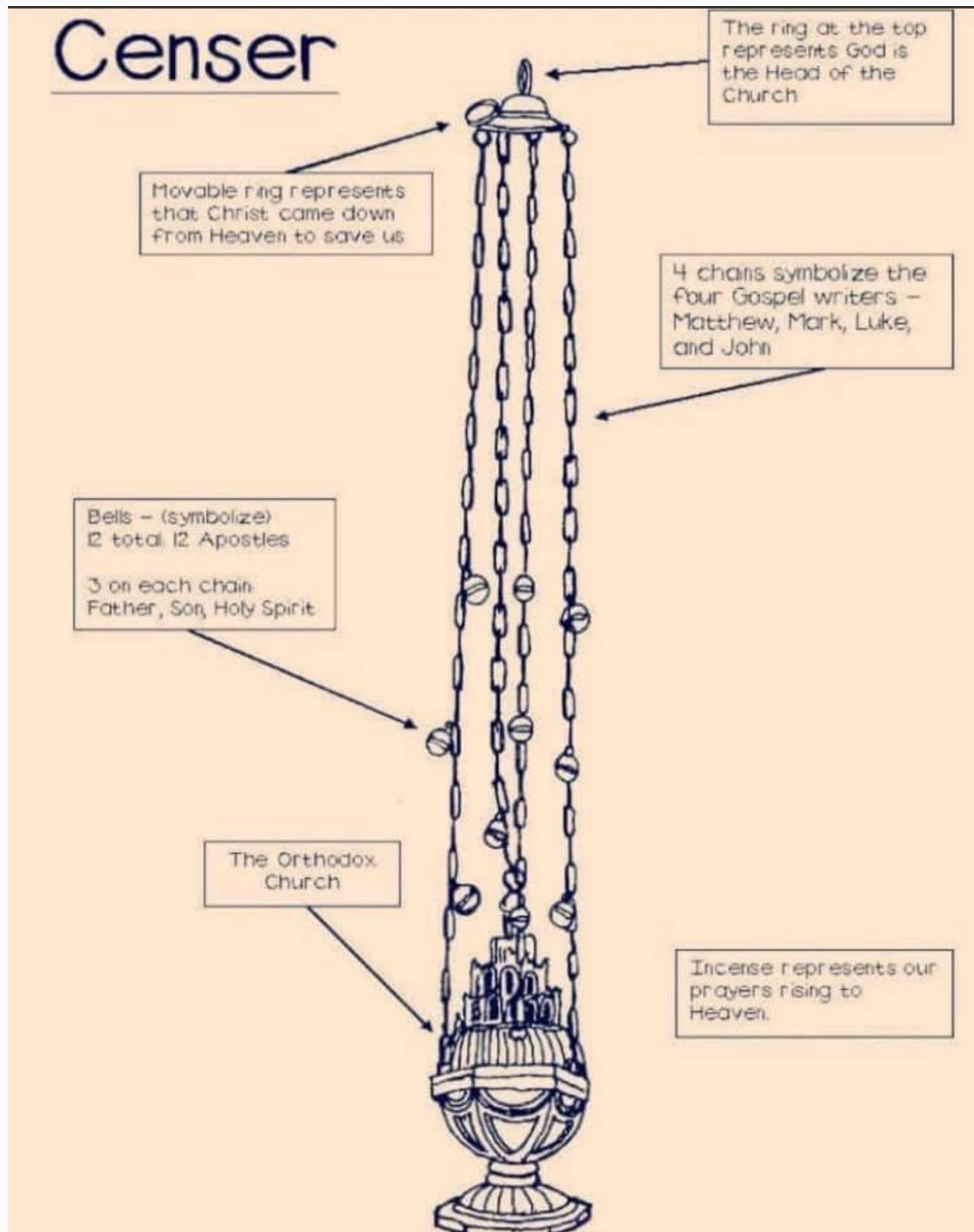
A total of \$3305.65 was raised for St. Herman's through purchases and donations! A fruitful and festive event for all!

Glory to God!

Tiffany Duran



Censer



December 2025

**Father Gregory's day
off is Tuesday
Emergency phone calls ONLY**

**Great Vespers start at 5:30pm
Sunday Matins start at 930am
Divine Liturgy starts at 10am**

Children's Sunday School 930am Sundays (in Church Hall)
Youth Connection - after liturgy during lunch in the youth room/library

Fr. Gregory Wright 604-788-7546 frgregory@saintherman.net

 **Strict Fast** (No meat, fish, wine, oil, dairy, eggs)

 **Fish, oil and wine** (No meat, dairy and eggs)

 **Wine & Oil** (No meat, fish, dairy, and eggs)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 	3 	4  6:30pm Men's Night (details to follow)	5 	6  5:30pm Great Vespers & Confessions YOUTH EVENT!
7  Matins & Liturgy Visit from St. Nicholas	8 	9 	10 	11  6pm -Great Vespers with Litya for St. Herman	12  9am Liturgy 11am Molebin - St. John 5:30pm Great Vespers & Confessions	13  5:30pm Great Vespers & Confessions
14  Matins & Liturgy	15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20  5:30pm Great Vespers & Confessions
21  Matins & Liturgy Children's Christmas Skit	22 	23 	24  3pm Royal Hours 4pm Vigil	25  9AM Liturgy	26	27 5:30pm Great Vespers & Confessions
28 Matins & Liturgy	29	30	31			

- **Nativity Fast Nov. 15 - Dec. 24**
- Please note new time for Great Vespers