

# Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State Newsletter

9/24/2020



## Featured Saint: Martyr Peter the Aleut

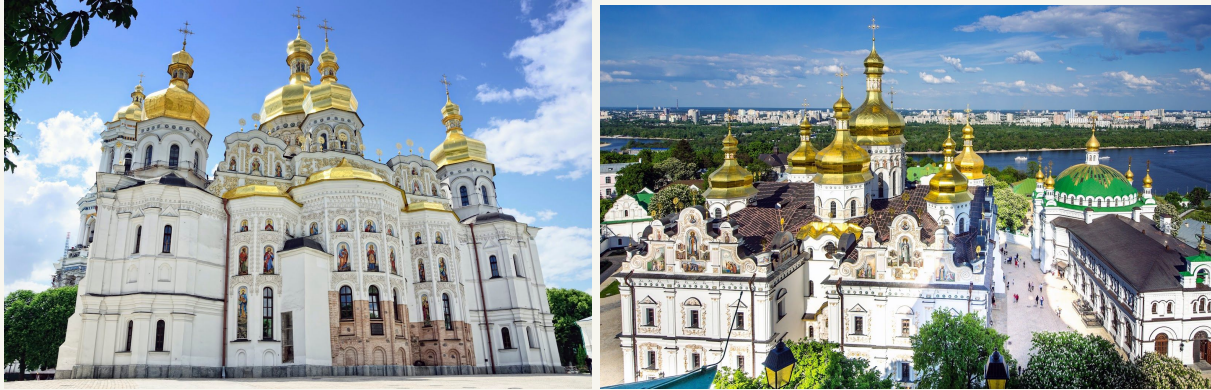


Saint Peter the Aleut is commemorated today, September 24th. Saint Peter was an Aleutian from Kodiak, Alaska, who lived at the same time as Saint Herman of Alaska. Saint Peter was arrested by Spanish Jesuits in California, who tortured and killed him for refusing to convert to Catholicism. Saint Peter and his companion repeatedly stated to the Spaniards during their torture, "We are Christians and we will not change our Faith."

When Saint Peter's companion (who survived the torture) told Saint Herman about the Aleut's torture and martyrdom, Father Herman said, "Holy New Martyr Peter, Pray to God for Us!".

---

Orthodox churches around the world: Kyiv Pechersk Lavra in Kyiv, Ukraine



The Kyiv Pechersk Lavra also known as the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves, is a historic Orthodox Christian monastery located in Kyiv, Ukraine, and is one of the holiest places in the country. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was named one of the Seven Wonders of Ukraine. The monastery is considered a separate national historic-cultural preserve.

The Greek St. Antony founded this monastery in 1051 after Orthodoxy was adopted as Kyivan Rus' official religion. The Dormition Cathedral was built from 1073 to 1089. It was destroyed by the Tatars in 1240 and went through disastrous fires before being mostly rebuilt in the 18th century. Now the upper monastery is run as a museum while the lower monastery contains cave complexes. The sight has now become a tourist and pilgrim site.

---

## Holy Day: The Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

### What is the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos?



Commemorated on October 1st, the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos commemorates the appearance of the Mother of God in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople. During an all-night vigil the Fool for Christ Andrew and several others witnessed the Theotokos descend to the bishop's throne. She prayed for Christians for a period of time, and then took her veil and spread it over the people praying in the church, saying "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let

them go away from my icon unheard."

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we pray: "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

---

-----

## Exclusive: Holy Communion and the Coronavirus: Faith, Fear and Fame in a Pandemic

The coronavirus has incited a great wave of changes throughout the world, and the Church is no exception. While a few people have come to fear transmission of the virus during communion, the church has not decided to stop the sacrament of Holy Communion during liturgical services. We are taught through the church to live not by fear, but by faith.

The church has faced hardships and viruses like this in the past and never chose to change its delivery method of communion and also never stopped serving communion to the faithful. Additionally, the issue of using a communal spoon to delivery communion has also been called into question. However, the Church has chosen not to bow down to the virus but to have faith that God will protect his faithful. While doubt is normal we must learn to overcome our fears and put our trust in God.

To read the entire article, click [here](#).

-----

## Featured Prayers

### Prayer to the Mother of God:

O most glorious Ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ our God, accept our prayers and present them to thy son and our God, that He may, for thy sake, enlighten and save our souls.

-----