



Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (1860-1915), bishop: Born in the Ottoman Empire, he was the first bishop of the Church ever consecrated in North America, where he was a missionary to Arab immigrants from Lebanon and Syria, defending them from Protestant proselytism and organizing their church life.

Feast day: February 27.



Saint Tikhon the New Confessor (1865-1925), bishop and confessor: Born in the Russian Empire, he was North America's first archbishop, where he fostered multiethnic orthodox Christian unity and English language missionary outreach, and a bishop in Russia and the Soviet Union, where he died as patriarch of the Church there and a victim of communist religious persecution.

Feast days: April 7 and October 9.

The Church in North America also honors the holy memory of all her saints, known and unknown, collectively on the second Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints of North America Sunday. These saints are the precious heritage of all orthodox Christians on this continent, worthy of our veneration and imitation because they are God's handiwork in our land. Let us draw inspiration from their example and ask them for their intercessions before God in prayer, for the well-being of the Church in North America, the spread of orthodox Christianity among our neighbors and our own spiritual growth in Christ.

God is wondrous in His saints!

All you saints of North America, pray to God for us!

SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

FIRST FRUITS OF GOD'S GRACE IN THE NEW WORLD

In every time and place, God has raised up saints — holy men and women who heeded His call to "be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16) by following the Lord Jesus Christ, keeping the orthodox Christian faith and living the Gospel within the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

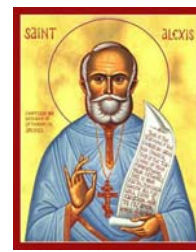
Dead to the world now but ever alive in Christ, the saints are our fellow church members, for the Church is "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" that includes "tens of thousands of angels" (the bodiless heavenly hosts) and "the spirits of righteous people made perfect" (the sainted dead in Christ) as well as us alive on earth (Hebrews 12:22-24). They are role models who inspire us (1 Corinthians 11:1 and Hebrews 12:1-2) and heavenly intercessors who pray with us and for us (Revelation 6:9-10 and 8:3-4).

In the lands of North America, God has revealed the following saints thus far to the Church:



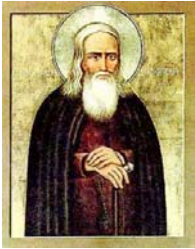
Saint Alexander Khotovitskiy (1872-1937), presbyter and martyr: Born in the Russian Empire, he was a missionary in New York and the northeastern United States and a parish presbyter in Finland, Russia and the Soviet Union, where he died in a concentration camp as a victim of communist religious persecution.

Feast day: December 4.

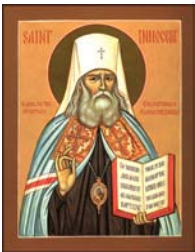


Saint Alexis Toth (1854-1909), presbyter: Born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, he converted from Uniatism (Byzantine Rite Roman Catholicism) in the United States and became a missionary, converting thousands of Carpatho-Rusyn and Ukrainian Uniate immigrants in North America to orthodox Christianity.

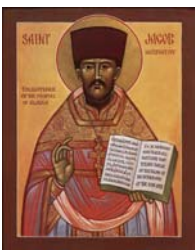
Feast day: May 7.



Saint Herman of Alaska (1755-1837), monk and wonderworker: Born in the Russian Empire, he was a missionary in Alaska, where he lived the rest of his life in asceticism, cared for the local Aleut people and performed many miracles in life and death by the grace of God. He was the first saint of North America. Feast days: August 9 and December 13.



Saint Innocent of Alaska (1797-1879), bishop: Born in the Russian Empire, he was a missionary in Alaska (where he was its first bishop) and Siberia, introducing orthodox Christianity and native language literacy among their indigenous peoples. He ended his life as one of the chief bishops of the Church in Russia. Feast days: March 31 and October 6.



Saint Jacob Netsvetov (1802-1864), presbyter: Born in Alaska, he was a missionary, introducing orthodox Christianity and native language literacy among the Eskimos and Indians of the Yukon River region of North America. He was the first native-born North American presbyter of the Church. Feast day: July 26.



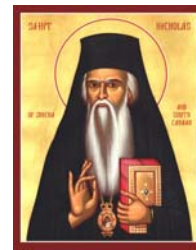
Saint John Kochurov (1871-1917), presbyter and martyr: Born in the Russian Empire, he was a missionary in Chicago and the midwestern United States and a parish presbyter in Estonia and Russia, where he was the first clergyman killed by communist revolutionaries during the fall of the Russian monarchy. Feast day: October 31.



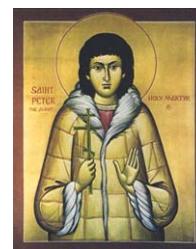
Saint John of San Francisco (1896-1966), bishop and wonderworker: Born in the Russian Empire and educated in Serbia, he was a bishop in Asia, Europe and North America and a missionary to Russian refugees and heterodox Christian converts, performing many miracles in life and death by the grace of God. Feast day: July 2.



Saint Juvenal of Alaska (1761-1796), presbyter-monk and martyr: Born in the Russian Empire, he was a missionary in Alaska, where he was killed as North America's first martyr by indigenous pagans trying to put a stop to the spread of orthodox Christianity among their people. Feast day: September 24.



Saint Nicholas of South Canaan (1880-1956), bishop and confessor: Born in Serbia, he was a gifted preacher and writer, a bishop in Serbia, a victim of religious persecution in a Nazi concentration camp during Germany's invasion of Yugoslavia, and the head of a Pennsylvania seminary in the United States. Feast day: March 18.



Saint Peter the Aleut (?-1815), layman and martyr: Born in Alaska, he was tortured and killed in his youth by Spanish colonists for refusing to convert to Roman Catholicism while his trading party was held hostage in San Francisco, California. He was the first native-born North American saint of the Church. Feast day: September 24.