

St. Juvenaly

Hieromartyr of Iliamna • Proto martyr of America
Commemoration Dates: December 12 and September 24.

John Feodorovich Hovorukhin was born in Nerchinsk, Siberia in 1761. John worked as an engineer in the mines.

After his wife died in 1791, he entered the monastery at St. Petersburg. He was tonsured a monk and given the name Juvenaly.

Later, he was ordained to the diaconate and then to the priesthood. Three years later he traveled to Alaska as a missionary.

On September 24, 1794, after traveling 8,000 miles across Asia, Siberia, and the northern Pacific Ocean, Juvenaly's missionary group, including St. Herman, arrived on Kodiak Island, Alaska. When they arrived, there were no supplies or food. The missionaries worked tirelessly. Within two years, the missionary group converted more than 12,000 Alaskans to Orthodox Christianity.

Hieromonk Juvenaly continued to travel throughout Alaska in boats made of various types of animal skins. He helped more Alaskan Natives than all of the other missionaries that traveled through Alaska. He baptized over 700 people at Nushek.

One day as he was traveling by boat, he came to the mouth of a river. Some native Eskimo hunters, who were not Christians, saw him. They did not understand his gestures in making the sign of the cross. They killed him by arrows and spears.

He became the first Orthodox Christian in America to receive the Cross of Martyrdom.

St. Peter the Aleut

Holy Martyr of San Francisco
Commemoration Date: September 24th

A native of Kodiak Island in Alaska, the child Tchounagnak was given the name Peter at his baptism into the Orthodox Faith by the monks from St. Herman's missionary party.

Peter was a fur-hunter. In 1815, fourteen Aleuts, including Peter, were near the California shore on a ship.

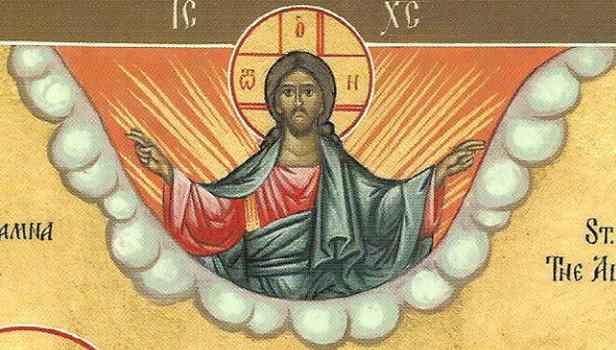
Back in 1812, the Russian American Trading Company had built Fort Ross, about 50 miles north of San Francisco. They wanted this to be a trading post and a place to raise crops and cattle to help support the villages in Alaska.

Spain owned California at that time and they were afraid the Orthodox Russians might try to take over San Francisco. When Peter and the young hunters came near Fort Ross, they were captured by Spanish sailors and taken to San Francisco for a mock trial. Peter was asked to give up the Orthodox Faith. He refused! As a result, his toes and hands were cut off. When the Spaniards were ready to start torturing the next Aleut they received word to stop the trial.

At the age of fifteen, Peter became a martyr for the Orthodox Faith in America. The story of Peter's martyrdom was told by the other Aleut hunters who were released. When St. Herman, who was still on Kodiak Island, was told of Peter's death, he turned to his icon and crossed himself and said, "Holy New Martyr Peter, Pray to God for Us!"

In 1980, Peter the Aleut was glorified as a saint.

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ST. JUVENALY OF ILIAMNA
HIEROMARTYR

ST. PETER
THE ALEUT-MARTYR

