



St. Alexander Hotovitzky

New Hieromartyr of Russia • Missionary to America

Commemoration Date: December 4th

On February 11, 1872, in the city of Kremenetz, Russia, St. Alexander was born. His father, Alexander, was an archpriest and the rector of the Volhynia Seminary. As a child, his parents taught him the importance of loving everyone and, especially, the Orthodox Church.

After his graduation from St. Petersburg Theological Academy, he began his missionary work in the Diocese of the Aleutians and North America. At that time this was the only diocese which covered all of North America. His first assignment was at St. Nicholas Church in New York City, where he was tonsured a reader.

At the age of twenty-four, following his marriage to Maria Scherbuhina, he was ordained to the diaconate. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 25, 1896 by Bishop Nicholas at the Diocesan Cathedral in San Francisco, California. Only a week after his ordination, he returned to St. Nicholas Church in New York where he accepted the assignment as the parish priest.

St. Alexander was a very successful missionary priest. He loved the people he met while traveling to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and to the many other towns and cities throughout North America. His missionary work was very dangerous. At times he was beaten and jailed because of his love for God, the Church, and for teaching young children religion.

On February 26, 1914, he said good-bye to the Orthodox Churches in North America and traveled to Helsinki, Finland. Three and half years later, he was assigned to Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow, Russia. While in Russia, a revolution occurred and the church was in danger. St. Alexander had to help the poor and save the sacred, religious items that were being taken from the churches and given to the government.

St. Alexander continued to fight for the Orthodox Church and in 1937 he was arrested for the last time because of his belief in God. Since his life ended due to his suffering for Christ, many people consider him a martyr.

He died at the age of 65 on August 19, 1937. The glorification services for Saint Alexander were held on December 4, 1994 in Moscow, Russia.