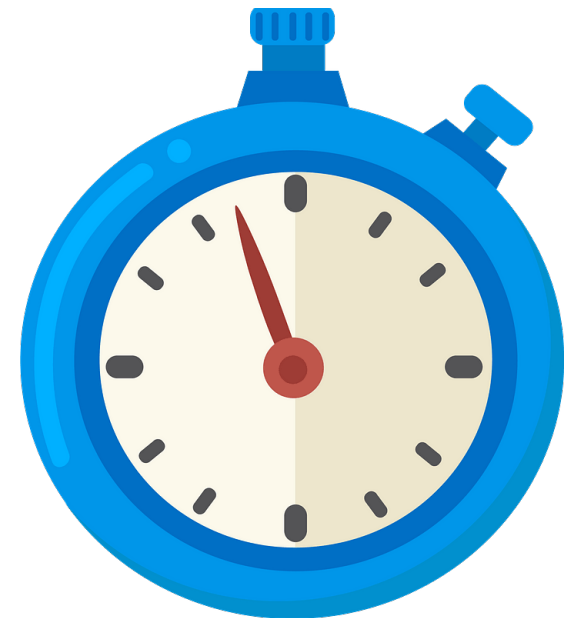


BUILDING AN ORTHODOX LIFE

Catechism series

Father Mark Hagan



Building an Orthodox Life



Day 1 -Session I

- Introduction
- Our Mission Churches
- The Criteria to be empowered
- Who is missing (please raise your hand)
- **Take a break.....**

Day 1 -Session-II

- Why is the generation missing
- how to be the **Chosen of God**

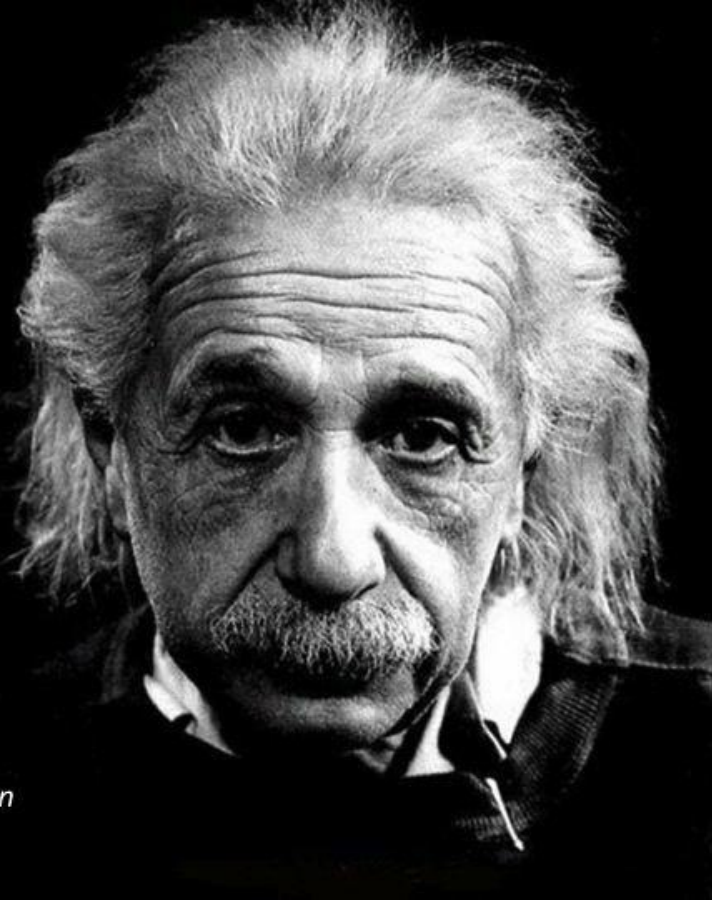
Day-2

The second day is titled ***“Simple solutions to complex problems”***

- Soup, Prayer, and Mysteries
- Good habits to practice

"If I had an hour to solve a problem and my life depended on the solution, I would spend the first 55 minutes determining the proper question to ask, for once I know the proper question, I could solve the problem in less than 5 minutes."

- Albert Einstein



Knowledge vs. Wisdom

Knowledge is knowing the right answers

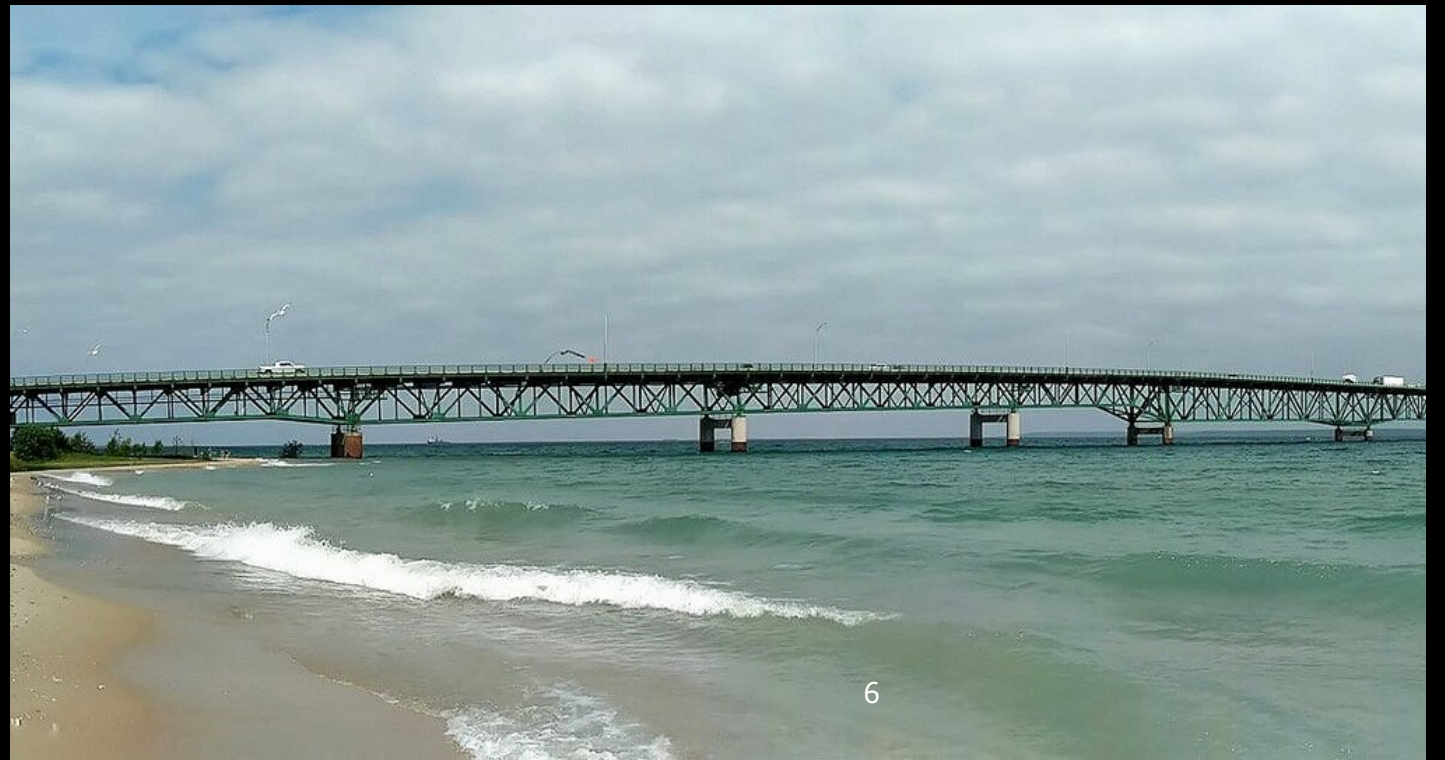
WISDOM is asking the right questions!

What we will be doing in this session is
.....asking questions

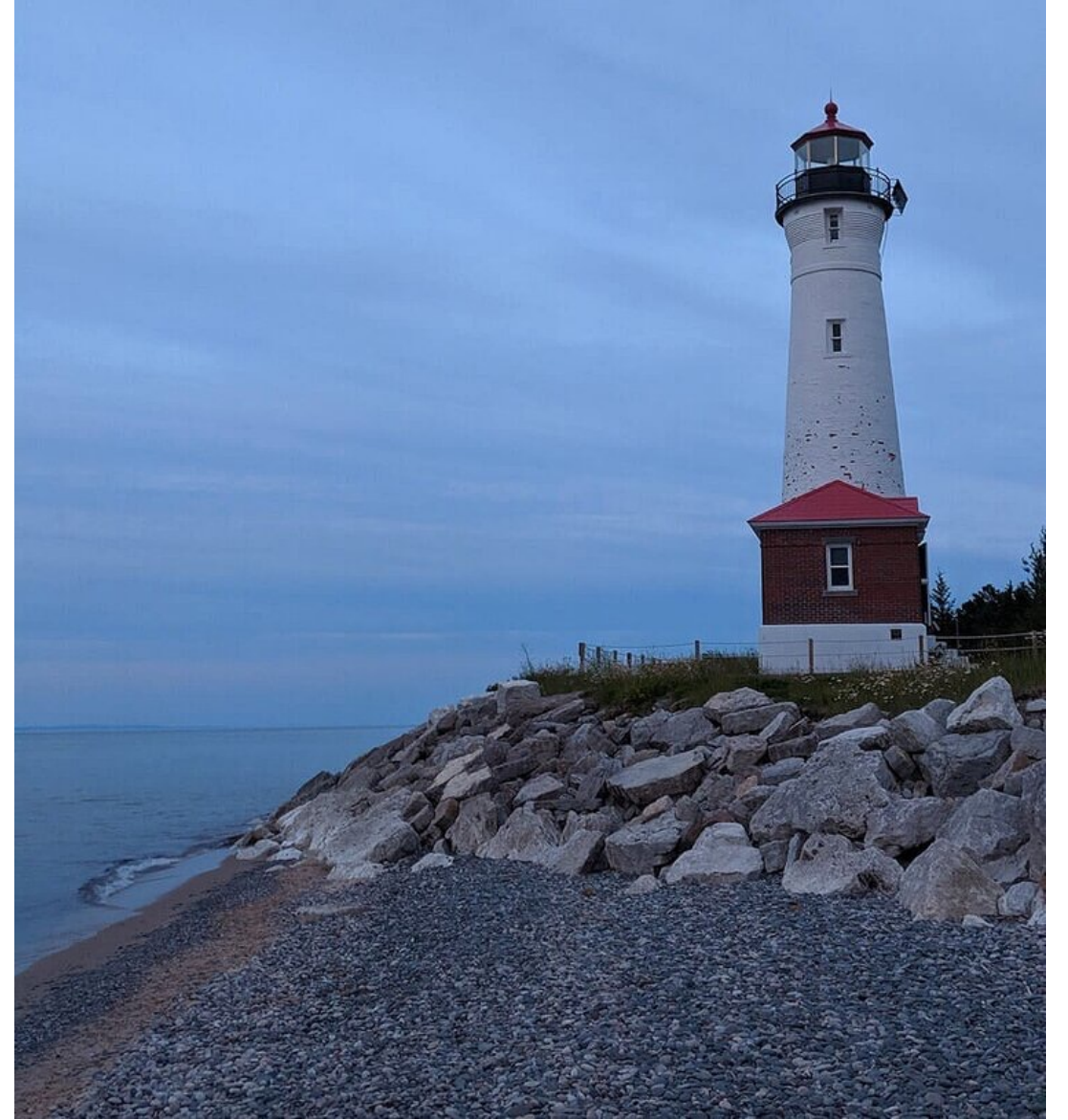


Michigan State Map





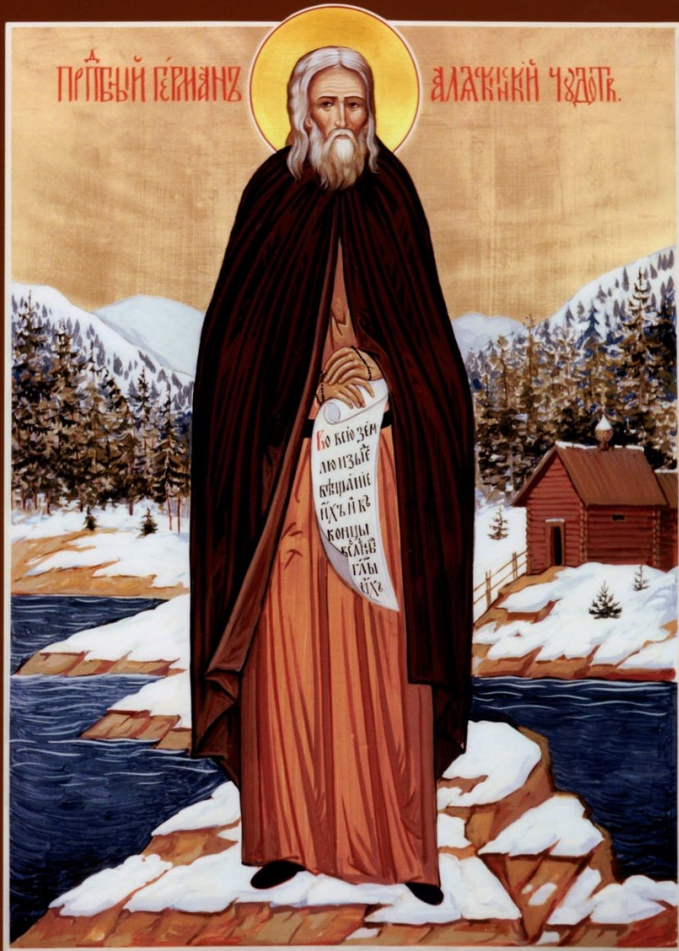












- St Herman & St Innocent
1790s-early 1800s

Came to care for Russian Fur traders and their families
Booming commerce
New frontier for Russia



Saints of America

- St Alexis of Wilkes Barre
- St John of Chicago
- St Alexander of New York
- St Jacob of Alaska
- St John of San Francisco
- St Mardary of Libertyville
- St Barnabas of Indiana
- St Innocent of Alaska
- St Tikhon of New York
- St Sebastian of Jackson
- St Juvenaly of Alaska
- St Peter the Aleut
- St Herman of Alaska
- St Raphael of Brooklyn ~1900

Honorable Mention

- Fr Nichola Yanney (Carney, NB)



Lake Superior

Minnesota

Ontario

Upper Peninsula

St Simon ~ est. 1910

St Mary's ~ est. 1940s

Wisconsin

Lower Peninsula

Lake Michigan









Bishop
Anthony's
Home



Question:

How many of you have ever
been to a missionary Church
established by a Saint?

Trick Question: Every Orthodox Church is a missionary Church
established and sustained by the Saints

Question:

How many of you see your church as a missionary Church established by the Saints?

Trick Question: Every Orthodox Church is a missionary Church established and **sustained** by the Saints

Question:

When did Your mission Church start?

Question: Is your Church part of the SAME mission or a different mission?



Question: Who are the missionaries?

The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



Question:What happened at Pentecost?

The grace of the Holy Spirit came down and filled the disciples with the power necessary to fulfill the mission of the Church.

Question:WHO received this power?

Critical Question:

What was the criteria for receiving the power of God

3 things.....

Desire

Being present

Take responsibility and do what is set before you



Question:What happened at Pentecost?

The grace of the Holy Spirit came down and filled the disciples with the power necessary to fulfill the mission of the Church.

Question:Does God discriminate by age

He may actually prefer youth

Examples:

King David, 3 Holy Youths, Apostle John, St Panteleimon, Martyrs, Confessors

KEY: at some point all believers must transition from being an observer..... to being a participant



EVERY BELIEVER CAN BEEMPOWERED TO
FULFILL THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Throughout History, the Church
has been filled with both
.....the young and the old!

Both are critical!
Both are necessary

Question:

Which Group is most under-represented
in the Church?

- 0-18 year olds
- 18-30 year olds
- 30-40 year olds
- 40 years +

Question:

WHY?



.....Let's take a 5-minute break!



We will spend 10-15 minutes on:

Why is the age group missing

Spend 10-15 minutes on:

How to be the "Chosen of God"

In case we need to be reminded

Questions:

Can God be known? Does God desire to be known?

- God's great desire is for us to know Him and for Him to know us!
- He delights in being know by people

What is the goal of existence:

- To love and be loved
- To know and be known (Core of salvation and the very purpose of life)

To be ignorant of God..... is DEATH !

- Utter misery
- Destruction

What is the difference between mind knowledge and heart knowledge?

- How do you get heart knowledge (Prayer)
- The tragedy of the fall of man

God does not take pleasure in all the fallen concepts of men about His existence.

- He is not simply a part of creation
- Some people think He is an impersonal force
- Some people think He is **various and multiple** (*polytheists*)
- He is a Father, He has a Son, and a Holy Spirit that proceeds from the Father

.....False truths are not just sad, they are tragic.

Those who believe falsehood will likely not come to know the true God but will settle for a god in their imagination. They will have a false god in their heads, made in their own image.

Certainly not the true revealed God.



I once knew a physician who told me...

"If you ask a patient what's wrong with them, they can usually tell you, especially if you ask the right questions."

He went on to say:

"Young physicians are all about the lab values, I'm about asking the patient. They are right more often than not."

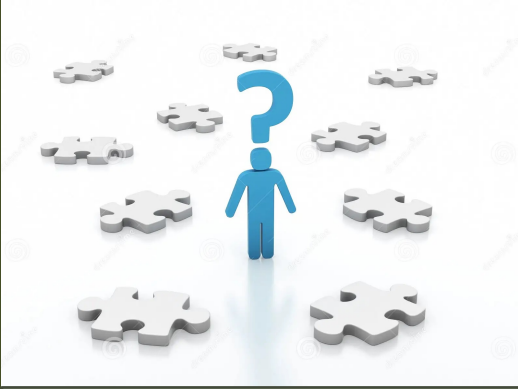
"I've had people tell me correctly that they had brain tumors, rare diseases, etc. You have to learn to listen closely without too much of an agenda"

Why is the age group missing?

It's a complex problem

- Whole Archdiocese are trying to figure this out
- What do we need to do
- Vast Resources

So..... since I was here with you today, I thought that I would have this discussion, and get your insight.



Why are the youth gone?

Failure of formation

- infrequent attending family
- not brought enough as a kid?
- No "connections"
- Forced to come as a kid

Outdated

Not taught the Bible

Language problems

(Not taught in clear language)

Cultural problems

Tired of ethnicities

Waste of time

Lack of support

It's boring

It's an old folks club

College issues

Friends

Work

Sports

Guilt

Busy

Immature

Lack Fellowship

Covid-19

Takes up too much time

Questions:

Which Disciple, Apostle, Martyr, or Monk was unnecessary?

Which Disciple, Apostle, Martyr, or Monk was not needed by the Church?

Which Disciple, Apostle, Martyr, or Monk did God ignore?

Prayer

Perhaps we should answer the questions :

- ❖Does my prayer matter
- ❖ Is my prayer critical to the Church?
- ❖ Does God answer my prayers?
- ❖ Am I optional?

Let's do a disciple checkup

(each question is scored 1 point) Don't need a show of hands



How many of you believe you are needed, **actually needed** by the Church? By God?

WHY?

Are you treated like you are? How?

How many of you believe you are known and beloved of God?

How many of you are given responsibility in the Church? What?

How many of you believe you have a critical role to play, now?

How many of you believe your **prayers** are powerful?

How many of you believe your **prayers** are **critical** to the Church?

How many of you are ready to be an example for future generations of a young person in Christ?

How many of you believe you are replaceable or optional?

How many of you simply don't know what to believe?

If so,We have failed you

What we have is an identity crisis, you don't know or believe who you are!
It's hard to be what you don't know to be!

KEY: At some point all believers must transition from being an observer..... to being a participant.

How does one become the “Chosen of God”?
The choice is YOURS!

Thank you! God Bless

