

Orthodox Diocese of Sitka & Alaska

Orthodox Church in America

The Most Blessed Tikhon
Metropolitan & Primate

The Right Reverend Alexei
Bishop of Sitka & Alaska

Official Communiqué of the Orthodox Diocese of Sitka and Alaska
August 9, 2025

The Orthodox Diocese of Sitka and Alaska will hold a week of prayer for peace and for a successful outcome to the planned talks between leaders of the United States and the Russian Federation in Alaska on Friday, August 15. All are welcome to attend.

“In this hour we ask our Lord Jesus Christ to guide these talks with mercy, to calm enmity, and to end the shedding of blood. That they occur in Alaska is meaningful to us: this land has long been a bridge between Russia and America, first formed spiritually by the Orthodox faith planted here by Saint Herman, Saint Innokenty, and Saint Yakov (Netsvetov), a faith kept by Alaska Native peoples to this day,” said Archbishop Alexei of Sitka and Alaska.

Why we are praying

From an Orthodox perspective, praying for leaders is a spiritual duty, not a political act. Scripture calls believers to pray for those in authority so that peace may be granted, and to seek the peace of the place where they live. Although the war is far away, the Church understands suffering anywhere to touch us all. When leaders are present in Alaska, they are our guests, and Christian hospitality includes intercession for wisdom, restraint, and just decisions.

Schedule, August 12 to 15

Tuesday, August 12, 6:00 p.m.

Prayer for peace with hymns at churches throughout Alaska, with special services in Kwethluk before the relics of Saint Olga of Kwethluk.

Wednesday, August 13, 6:00 p.m.

Prayer for peace with hymns at churches throughout Alaska, with special services in Kodiak at Holy Resurrection Cathedral before the relics of Saint Herman of Alaska.

Thursday, August 14, 6:00 p.m.

Prayer for peace with hymns at churches throughout Alaska, with special services in Sitka at Saint Michael's Cathedral before the Sitka Icon of the Mother of God.

Friday, August 15

Day of Prayer for Peace throughout the Diocese. Where feasible, churches will be open for quiet prayer and will ring bells at noon.

Chancery & Offices of the Bishop

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Notes for the public

“Prayer for peace with hymns” refers to a brief intercessory service and a devotional hymn used in Orthodox churches, known as a Moleben and an Akathist. Services generally last 30 to 45 minutes and are open to all.

Contact

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