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Alexei Krindatch, editor, is a research coordinator for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. The *Atlas of American Orthodox Christian Monasteries* is a sequel to the *Atlas of American Orthodox Christian Churches* (2011).

For more data and information about Orthodox Christian Churches in America visit:

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Blessing of the Grapes Ceremony. St. John of San Francisco Monastery, Manton, California.



Whether used as a scholarly introduction into Eastern Christian monasticism or researcher's directory or a travel guide, Alexei Krindatch brings together a fascinating collection of articles, facts, and statistics to comprehensively describe Orthodox Christian Monasteries in the United States. With enticing verbal and photographic renderings, twenty-three Orthodox monastic communities scattered throughout the United States are brought to life for the reader. This is an essential book for anyone seeking to sample, explore or just better understand Orthodox Christian monastic life.

Scott Thumma, Ph.D., Director
Hartford Institute for Religion Research

A truly delightful insight into Orthodox monasticism in the United States. The chapters on the history and tradition of Orthodox monasticism are carefully written to provide the reader with a solid theological understanding. They are then followed by a very human and personal description of the individual US Orthodox monasteries. A good resource for scholars, but also an excellent 'tour guide' for those seeking a more personal and intimate experience of monasticism.

Thomas Gaunt, S.J., Ph.D., Executive Director
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)

This is a fascinating and comprehensive guide to a small but important sector of American religious life. Whether you want to know about the history and theology of Orthodox monasticism or you just want to know what to expect if you visit, the stories, maps, and directories here are invaluable.

Nancy T. Ammerman, Ph.D., Prof. of Sociology of Religion
Boston University

The *Atlas of American Orthodox Christian Monasteries* contributes in a significant way to making Orthodox monasticism accessible to the wide—Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike—American public. This book is worthy of every American Christian's personal library.

Fr. Tryphon (Parsons), Abbot
All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, Washington



HOLY CROSS
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Atlas of American Orthodox Christian Monasteries



Edited by
Alexei Krindatch

Drawing on extensive research, as well as fascinating stories and “insider” anecdotes, the ***Atlas of American Orthodox Christian Monasteries*** offers to readers:

- A **scholarly introduction** into traditions of Orthodox Christian monasticism and a history of Orthodox monasteries in America,
- A **full and comprehensive directory** of American Orthodox Christian monasteries,
- An **enticing travel guide** for those seeking to visit American monasteries and to “sample” monastic life.

In addition, twenty-three selected monasteries share their “personal stories” and offer a glimpse in the surprising spiritual appeal of monastic life in 21st century America.

The 150 pages of text are accompanied by four sets of color maps and more than one hundred photographs depicting everyday lives of US Orthodox monasteries. The album size is 9" by 11".

Available from the publisher and on Amazon.com.

Some Facts about Orthodox Christian Monasteries in the United States

- There are seventy-seven Orthodox Christian monasteries in America. This includes 39 monastic communities for men and 38 monastic communities for women. Out of seventy-seven monasteries, forty-four use English as the primary language of worship. Nine monasteries use English and some other language equally in their worship services.
- Out of seventy-seven American Orthodox Christian monasteries, fifty-six offer overnight accommodations for visitors. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox are welcome to visit.
- The largest monastery is St. Anthony’s Greek Orthodox Monastery for men in Florence, Arizona. It has forty-nine monks and novices.
- Most people hardly think about the monastic life as something that would attract young persons. But even if this is true as a whole, there are remarkable exceptions. The “youngest” of the American Orthodox monasteries is St. John the Forerunner Monastery for women in Goldendale, Washington. The average age of the twenty-two nuns and novices is only thirty-three years old.

- St. Nilus Skete for women on Nelson Island in Alaska can be qualified as the “most remote” monastery. There is no other settlement on this tiny islet. When bad weather arrives, St. Nilus is entirely disconnected from the “rest of the world” for days or even weeks.
- Many American Orthodox monasteries are known for their religious arts (icon writing and fresco painting, sewing clerical vestments, etc.) and production of various religious items. And yet some of them have developed unique “industries” that are not related to the Orthodox Church or worship services. The Monks of New Skete in Cambridge, New York, are famous for their dog training programs. Holy Archangels Monastery in Kendalia, Texas, produces award-winning wines. The goat milk soaps and cosmetic products handcrafted by the Hermitage of the Holy Cross in Wayne, West Virginia, are sought after both domestically and internationally. The Atlas tells readers what is unique about each monastery.

Smoking Fish and Making “Salmon Candy.” St. Nilus Skete, St. Nilus Island, Alaska.



Holy Archangels Monastery, Kendalia, Texas.

