

## Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. During a persecution under Decius, the youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon. Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two dignitaries placed a sealed container in the cave containing two metal plaques with the names of the saints and what they had suffered. The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the sealed cave, and had it opened. They awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. When Saint Iamblicus paid for the bread, he gave the merchant coins with the image of the emperor Decius on it. They took him to the city administrator, who also happened to be the Bishop of Ephesus. At the entrance to the cave the bishop found the sealed container and opened it. He read the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave. Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

### St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

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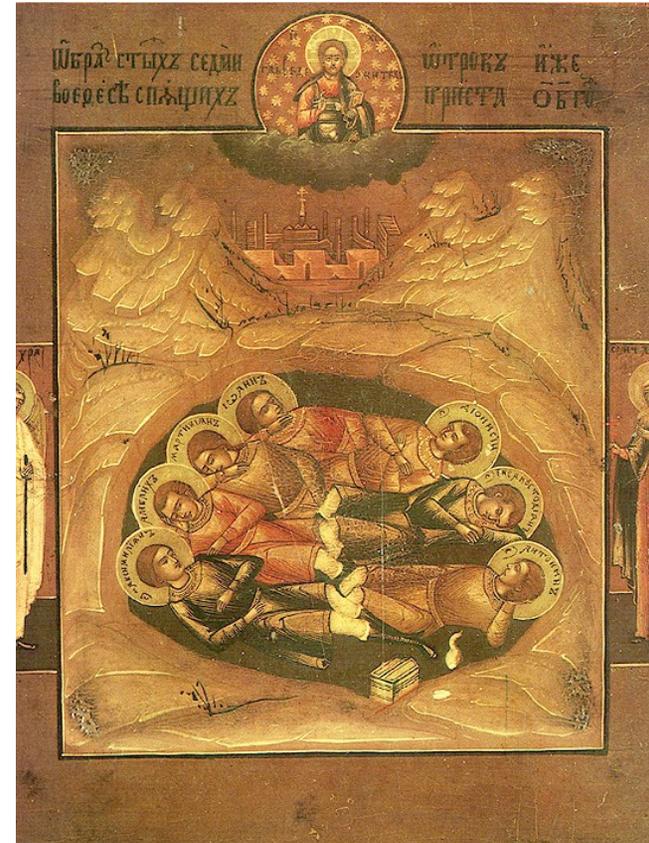
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# St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus*

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

