ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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July 27, 2025: 7th Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon (305)

With great sadness but hope in the Resurrection, we announce that Vera (Ressetar) Bortniak, mother of Mat. Stephanie Onofrey, reposed in the Lord this past Monday, July 21.

We extend our deepest condolences to Fr. John and Mat. Stephanie, and their entire family. Please keep Vera in your fervent prayers. May God grant her rest in the mansions of the righteous, and may her memory be eternal!

This Week

Sat July 26, 4:30pm – **No Vespers**.
Sun July 27, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (Fr Edward Hughes)

> *Funeral services for Vera Bortniak will be held **this Wednesday July 30** at St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, 980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA.*
> 9–11 am – Visitation
> 11:00 am – Funeral

The Dormition Fast begins on Friday, August 1.

Sat Aug 2, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Aug 3, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

> *Wednesday August 6 is the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.*
> Tues Aug 5, 6:00pm – Festal Great Vespers w/ Litya
> Wed Aug 6, 9:00am – Festal Divine Liturgy

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. / O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Troparion for the Great-martyr Panteleimon (Tone 3)

Holy Passion-bearer and healer Panteleimon, / entreat the ^ merciful God, // to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

Kontakion for the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion for the Great-martyr Panteleimon (Tone 5)

You emulated the Merciful One, / receiving from Him the grace of healing, / O Passion-bearer and healer Panteleimon; / by your prayers, heal our spiritual diseases / and continually drive away the temptations of the Enemy // from those who cry out in faith: "Save us, O Lord!"

For the Mother of God (Tone 6)

Steadfast protectress of Christians, / constant advocate before the Creator; / despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, / but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. / Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, // for you always protect those who honor you!

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Brethren: We who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no

one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Prayers

For health of: Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, Archbishop Alexander Golitzin, Archbishop Benjamin, Mat. Myra Kovalak, Marcia Lutz, Bernard Kusior, Julia Jay, Nina Fatula. *Especially remember in prayer Rebecca Ream, who is acutely ill, together with her family (Dave, Jesika, and Justin).*

The newly-departed: Apr. Jason Kappanadze (6/14). Apr. Paul Kucynda (7/9). Vera (Ressetar) Bortniak (7/21). Zophia Kowalczyk (6/13). Jeffrey Moeller (6/14). All those departed in the attacks in Damascus, Syria, and all victims of natural disasters.

Attendance

Sun Jun 1 Liturgy: 30 adults, 4 children (Communion: 25 adults, 4 children)
Sun Jun 8 Liturgy: 24, 0 children (Communion: 17)
Sun Jun 29 Liturgy: 21 adults, 2 children (Communion: 12 adults, 2 children)
Sun Jul 6 Liturgy: 27 adults, 2 children (Communion: 23 adults, 2 children)
Sun Jul 13 Liturgy: 22 adults, 2 children (Communion: 16 adults, 2 children)
Sun Jul 20 Liturgy: 23 adults, 2 children (Communion: 17 adults, 1 children)

Welcome to all visitors who have prayed and celebrated the Divine Liturgy with us this morning! We invite all of you downstairs for fellowship after the conclusion of the Liturgy. If you have any questions at all, please reach out to Fr. John at any time. *We hope to see you again!*

Please note: In the Orthodox Church, the receiving of Holy Communion is the sign of one's full participation in the mystery of the Faith, and all Orthodox Christians should receive it frequently.

For this reason, Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive it (through prayer, fasting, and confession) and are at peace with each other. Those who partake of the Eucharist normally fast from food and drink in the morning before the Divine Liturgy, if they are able.

Announcements

Last week and next week, my family and I have been mostly out of the area, finishing our move-out of our prior home in the Scranton area (and the week prior to that, in Arizona at the All-American Council). I ask your forgiveness if I have been unavailable to anyone, or have been slow in responding to any inquiries during this time. We hope to be finished with our final move-in by August 3rd or 4th. Thank you so much for your patience. -FrJB

Does the Orthodox Church of today in fact correspond to the picture we get of the congregation of the Apostolic Age when we read the New Testament and the writings of the Apostolic Fathers? It does – as much as a grown-up person corresponds to a picture taken of him as a child. Although the Church has developed, **it is the same in essence and spirit in the twentieth century as it has been from the beginning**.

The coming of Christ when the time was "fulfilled" [1] was an appointed event; indeed, our calendar begins there. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in fulfilment of the "promise of the Father" [2] was also an appointed, unique historical event. For the Church it meant "power from on high" and "the Spirit of truth" [3]. On the strength of this we believe that although the grace of the Holy Spirit is at work in the later churches and communities according to their faith, the plenitude of grace once given to the Church in the historical outpouring of the Holy Spirit will not be given again. In a hymn for Pentecost the Church sings:

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of man, glory to Thee!

"When the Spirit of truth comes He will guide you into all the truth," Christ promised.[4] After this promise had been fulfilled, the Apostle indeed gave to the "Church of the living God" the name "pillar and bulwark of the truth".[5]

The promised gift of "all the truth" came to the Church in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but it took centuries, the whole Patristic Age, to define it using man's limited concepts. And although the Fathers were learned men, profound thinkers, and pure in their lives, this alone is not enough to guarantee the absolute character of the truth inherited from the time of the Fathers. Therefore we need the power of the Holy Spirit, which was given to the Church, to guide it to the truth and to protect it.

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 15-16.

[1] Mk 1:15 [2] Acts 1:4 [3] Lk 24:49, Jn 16:13 [4] Jn 16:13 [5] 1 Tim 3:15