ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 3, 2025: 8th Sunday After Pentecost

This Week

The Dormition Fast continues until Friday, August 15.

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

August 6 is the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.
Please note the change in schedule:

Tues Aug 5, **6:30pm** – Great Vespers at Transfiguration Orthodox Church
(26 Copperfield Cir, Lititz, PA)
Wed Aug 6, 9:00am – Festal Divine Liturgy (here at St Herman's)

August 9 is our Summer Patronal Feast,
the Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska.
We welcome all the faithful of area parishes.

Fri Aug 8, **6:00pm** – Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sat Aug 9, 9:00am – Festal Divine Liturgy

Sat Aug 9, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Aug 10, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion for St Herman (Tone 4)

O blessed Father Herman of Alaska, / North Star of Christ's holy Church, / the light of your holy life and great deeds / guides those who follow the Orthodox way. / Together we lift high the Holy Cross / you planted firmly in America. / Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, // singing His holy Resurrection.

Kontakion for the Resurrection (Tone 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / "The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

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: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Brethren: I plead with you, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

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. Paul Kucynda (7/9). Vera (Ressetar) Bortniak (7/21). All those departed in the attacks in Syria, and all victims of natural disasters.

Announcements

With great sadness but hope in the Resurrection, we announce that Vera (Ressetar) Bortniak, mother of Mat. Stephanie Onofrey, reposed in the Lord on 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!

How do we read "The Bible"?
How do we know exactly what any of it means?

A Christian does not come to read the Scriptures **alone and isolated**, left to his or her own devices to try to come to the right conclusions that will allow him or her to do what is needed to find salvation. A Christian comes to the Scriptures **with the aid and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit**. But merely asserting the presence of the Holy Spirit is still a nebulous thing. **Anyone can make any interpretation and claim to have been guided by the Spirit**. Multiple readers can come to contradictory interpretations, yet all make that same claim. **The Holy Spirit, however**, not only indwells and guides individual human persons. He also **lives in and guides the Church as a whole** through the centuries of her **shared life**. As St. Paul says, the Spirit is not a Spirit of division, but of good order (1 Cor. 14:33). The Church is our best, and, in truth, an infallible guide to following the way through this world that leads to salvation in Christ, including the reading, understanding, and application of the Holy Scriptures.

– Stephen De Young, *The Whole Counsel of God: An Introduction to Your Bible* (Ancient Faith Publishing, 2022), 114.

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)
Sun Jul 27 Liturgy: 20, 0 children (Communion: 15)

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.