ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 24, 2025: 11th Sunday After Pentecost

This Week

Sat Aug 23, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Aug 24, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

August 29 is the Feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist (Strict Fast)

Thurs Aug 28, 6:00om – Great Vespers w/ Litya
Fri Aug 29, 9:00am –Divine Liturgy

Sat Aug 30, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Aug 31, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship *with prayers for the Liturgical New Year.*

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Venerable Herman of Alaska (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.

(Glory...) Kontakion for the Resurrection (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

(Now & ever...) To 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 9:2-12

Brethren: You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

"But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

"So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was

due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Prayers

For health of: Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, Archbishop Alexander Golitzin, Archbishop Benjamin, Mat. Myra Kovalak, Marcia Lutz, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Rebecca Ream. ***Those who grieve for the departed:*** Fr John & Mat. Stephanie Onofrey; Erick & Tiffany Derouanna.

The newly-departed: Archpriest Dimitri Oselinsky (8/9). Matushka Elizabeth Petorak (8/1). Vera (Ressetar) Bortniak (7/21). William John Derouanna (8/9). All victims of war and aggression, and all victims of natural disasters.

Announcements

Church School & Youth Program Signups – Please see the downstairs bulletin board. We need names & ages of ALL the children of the parish, even if only able to attend sometimes, so that we can plan age-appropriate curriculum. **This includes pre-teens and teens!** We might try to participate in a **Reading-Area Pan-Orthodox Youth Group** depending on interest.

110th Anniversary of Frackville Parish

Fr. Kirill and the parishioners of **Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Frackville, PA**, joyfully invite you to join us in celebrating our **110th Anniversary on Saturday, September 6th!** The celebration will begin with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM, followed by a festive banquet nearby at Capriotti's Catering in McAdoo.

Banquet reservations are $40/person, which includes a full meal and an evening of fellowship, music, and dancing with live entertainment by one of the nation's top polka bands from New York! Cocktail hour will begin at 1:00pm. To reserve a spot at the banquet, please call John Malinchok at (570) 590-2669. Please be sure to RSVP no later than Tuesday, August 26th.

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.

Attendance

Sun Aug 3 Liturgy: 28 adults, 2 children (Communion: 15 adults, 2 children)
Wed Aug 6 Transfiguration Liturgy: 11 adults, 1 children
Fri Aug 8 St Herman Vespers: 6 adults, 1 children
Sat Aug 9 St Herman Liturgy: 17 adults, 4 children
Sun Aug 10 Liturgy: 27 adults, 1 children (Communion: 17 adults, 1 children)
Sun Aug 17 Liturgy: 25 adults, 2 children (Communion: 18 adults, 2 children)

The Faith We Hold

The fifteenth chapter of Acts tells of **a meeting held by the Apostles**, who announced their decision by saying: “It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us ...” **Similar gatherings** of the Apostles' successors, all the bishops of the Church, **were held from time to time during the first millennium**. At these meetings articles of faith were formulated and decisions made on contemporary problems arising in the life of the Church. **Seven such ecclesiastical councils have been recognized** by the Church as general or ecumenical and their decisions thus recognized as binding upon the whole Church. The first of these synods or councils was held at Nicaea in the year 325 and the seventh in Constantinople in 787.

... History shows that in the past, meetings which had the authority of Ecumenical Councils have always been called together in the face of a threat to the unity and truth of the Church. Among such threats, for instance, were the Christological heresies concerning the nature of Christ.

... In Orthodoxy it is emphasized that **doctrine and life are two sides of the same thing**. Future general councils of the Church will not be concerned with any new doctrines beyond what "the Fathers have decided," but rather with adapting accepted principles of the Church to changing circumstances. This task presupposes a unity of love and peace among the representatives of the Orthodox Churches, who at the Ecumenical Councils included all the bishops of all the Churches, in order that unanimous decisions may be confirmed with the apostolic seal: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us.”

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 18-19.