ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 31, 2025: 12th Sunday After Pentecost
Placing of the Sash of the Most-holy Theotokos

This Week

Sat Aug 30, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Aug 31, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Sat Sept 6 – No Vespers *(Fr John is in Frackville)*
Sun Sept 7, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. *Parish Council meeting.*

Sept 8 is the Nativity of the Mother of God.

> Sun Sept 7, 6:00om – Great Vespers
> Mon Sept 8, 9:00am – Festal Divine Liturgy

***Sat Sept 13**, 2:00 – 4:30 pm – **Church School Kickoff**: All school-age children, teens and parents (see below).*
4:30pm – **Great Vespers for the Exaltation of the Cross**
Sun Sept 14, 9am – Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted the world great mercy.

For the Mother of God (Tone 8)

Ever Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind, / you have given your people a powerful legacy: / the robe and sash of your most honored body which remained incorrupt throughout your seedless childbearing; / for through you time and nature are renewed. // Therefore we implore you: "Grant peace to your people and to our souls great mercy!"

(Glory...) Kontakion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)

On this day, Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day, Adam exults as Eve rejoices. / With the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

(Now & ever...) To the Mother of God (Tone 6)

Today your flock celebrates the enshrinement of your precious sash, and it earnestly cries out to you: // "Rejoice, O Virgin, boast of all Christians!"

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren: I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came and said to Jesus, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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, aggression, & violence; especially in Minneapolis, and throughout the world.*

Announcements

Church School & Youth Activities – This year, we will meet **monthly** for church school and youth fellowship, one Saturday each month, beginning approx. **2:00pm and ending with Vespers**. We will try to keep to the **2nd Saturday of each month**, although this may sometimes shift one week due to Mat. Alexandra's work schedule. We hope to use the time not only for instruction but for activities and fellowship. All children and teens are invited, even from neighboring parishes. This is the same "Super Saturday" model that has been successful in other parishes in North America, especially those where people commute from greater distances.

THANK YOU to Fr Emmanuel Maginas, who on short notice was able to sub for Fr John this past week for the Vespers of St John the Baptist. We are so grateful for our fellow Orthodox clergy and laity in the Reading area!

Fr. Kirill Zawatski and the parishioners of **Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Frackville, PA**, joyfully invite you to join us in celebrating their **110th Anniversary on Saturday, September 6th!** The celebration will begin with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM.

"You could offer good counsel to others only after you grew in its fulfillment, so the measure of your perfection (which you were raised to, by practicing what was commanded to you) may radiate forth to others. If you instruct others on what you were thought too early, you'd lunge its importance, as it might not be proper for their current state, then you'll risk not to be understood by others.

"You'll be able to enlighten others with your word, when you grew in its fulfillment; this will transcend from the measure of your perfection after you had been practicing what it was commanded to you. But only after they too were raised at the measure to accomplish that teaching.

"Thus Christ could preach powerful words, but forbade others to further teach before they could live the word."

– Fr. Dumitru Stăniloae, *Commentary at St. Varsanufius and St. John' spiritual letters*

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.

The Placing of the Sash of the Mother of God

The holy relic of the *Sash (Belt)* of the Theotokos had been entrusted to the Apostle Thomas by the Mother of God Herself, and was kept by pious Christians at Jerusalem after Her Dormition. In the 5th century, the Sash was buried in a church of Constantinople's *Chalcoprateia* district.

During the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife Zoe was afllicted with an unclean spirit, and he prayed that God would heal her. The empress had a vision that she would be healed of her infirmity if the Belt of the Mother of God were placed upon her. The emperor then asked the Patriarch to open the coffer. The Patriarch removed the seal and opened the coffer in which the relic was kept, and the Belt of the Mother of God appeared completely whole and undamaged by time. The Patriarch placed the Belt on the sick empress, and immediately she was freed from her infirmity. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, then they placed the venerable Belt back into the coffer and resealed it.

In commemoration of the miraculous occurrence and the twofold Placing of the venerable Belt, this feast day was established. Parts of the holy Belt are in the Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos, in Trier monastery, and in Georgia.

Attendance

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)
Sun Aug 24 Liturgy: 25 adults, 1 children (Communion: 13 adults, 1 children)
Sat Aug 29 (St John the Baptist) Liturgy: 6 adults, 1 children