ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

shermanshillington.org
Fr. John Black, rector johnmblack@gmail.com

Welcome Home! We are glad to have you with us today.
Find a parish close to you: orthodoxyinamerica.org
Interested in the Orthodox Faith? orthodoxintro.org

October 5, 2025
17th Sunday After Pentecost. Tone 8. 2nd Sunday of Luke.
Venerable Chariton the Confessor.
Today we also honor all Church Musicians (1st Sunday in October).

Schedule

Sat Oct 4 – *No Vespers*
Sun Oct 5, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

Sat Oct 11, 2:00 pm – Children & Youth "Super Saturday" *(youth project, fellowship, education)*
Sat Oct 11, 4:30 pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Oct 12, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Looking ahead:
Fri-Sun, Oct 17-19 – Ss. Constantine & Helen Festival
Sat Oct 18, 10am-3pm – Fall Retreat @ Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg
Sun Nov 9, following Liturgy – St Herman's Harvest Dinner
November 15 – Nativity Fast Begins

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for Sunday (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion for St. Herman (Tone 4, Valaam melody)

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.

Troparion for St. Charitina (Tone 4)

Thy lamb Charitina calls out to Thee, O Jesus, in a loud voice: / "I love Thee, my Bridegroom, and in seeking Thee I endure suffering. / In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in Thee, / and I died so that I might live with Thee. / Accept me as a pure sacrifice, / for I have offered myself in love." // Through her prayers save our souls, since Thou art merciful!

Glory ... Kontakion for Sunday (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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

Protection of Christians never failing, / Mediatress before the Creator, ever constant. / Do not despise the voice of prayer of sinners, / but in your goodness come to help us who faithfully call upon you. / Hasten to entreat, hurry to pray, O Theotokos, // interceding always for those who honor you.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Brethren: You are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

The Lord said: "As you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

Prayers

For the health of: Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, Archbishop Alexander Golitzin, Archbishop Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Rebecca Ream. ***For our catechumens:*** Stephanie Selis.

For the repose of: Archpriest Michael Zaparyniuk (9/22). Priest Theodore Gregory (9/29). Molly Kramer (9/27).

Announcements

On the First Sunday of October each year, the Orthodox Church in America honors all Church Musicians – Singers, choir directors, readers, composers & arrangers of texts and music, educators, and all who work to build up the liturigcal singing of our faith. THANK YOU to all of you at St Herman's who lend your efforts to these ministries. Our worship of the Living God is made even more beautiful through the love you bring to it.

Youth Saturday is **NEXT SATURDAY Oct 11**, **2:00pm through Vespers**. All children and teens are invited, including from neighboring parishes.

All are welcome at a Retreat at our sister parish of **Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg, on Sat Oct 18**: *"Am I praying right? Good vs. Bad Prayer"* with Fr. Paul Trubenbach. A few of our parish family are planning on going, so you may wish to coordinate with each other for rides. *There may be major construction or closures that weekend at the Rte 30/222 bridge in Lancaster, in case you would be driving from that area.* The retreat is free, but please register at `ctshbg.org/trubenbach-retreat` .

Our annual **Harvest Potluck Dinner** and Basket Raffle is on **Sunday, Nov. 9**, following the Divine Liturgy. *All are welcome including visitors! Invite a friend!* If you have ideas for a basket raffle or are willing to put one together, please see Marie Drosdak during Coffee Hour.

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, please reach out to Fr. John at any time. *We love you and 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 are ***prepared*** *to receive it (through* ***prayer***, ***fasting***, *and a recent* ***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 24 Liturgy: 25 adults, 1 children (Communion: 13 adults, 1 children)
Sat Aug 29 (St John the Baptist) Liturgy: 6 adults, 1 children
Sun Aug 31 Liturgy: 29 adults, 3 children (Communion: 18 adults, 3 children)
Sun Sep 7 Liturgy: 24 adults, 2 children (Communion: 14 adults, 2 children)

Many sinful people were saved, just because they did not criticize others and were aware of their own sinfulness. – St Paisios

Continual Confession

We all fail to fulfill our destiny to be "perfect as God," the bearers of His Presence which is Love. In some sense our failure is understandable not justifiable, but understandable.

It is understandable to the extent that such a task is never fully achieved. In this sense, **the Christian life, the life of every man as Christ has revealed it, is not a "state" but a "movement"**. No one is a "real" Christian—or even a real man—until he is fully filled with God's love. And this is an *eternal life*.

Our failure, however, is not merely that we have not achieved what is in fact eternal, for that is certainly not sinful! Our failure is that as baptized, chrismated Christians who have the Holy Spirit and Holy Communion with God in the Church, we hardly even realize our task! We hardly pay attention to it! We hardly desire it! We hardly work at it!

This is our sin. Not only that our life is not the constant and continual growth to perfection which St. Paul called the movement to "mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4: 13) But **our sin is that we are not really aware of our "high calling" and we constantly and continually offend against it by thoughts, words and actions which are in fact movements in exactly the opposite direction.** This "movement in the opposite direction" is the definition of sin. It calls us to repent, which means literally to *change ourselves*. It demands that we confess our sins.

Our life in the Church, therefore—the icon of what all human life must be—must be **continual change towards God**. This means continual confession and repentance. This is the fundamental realization which alone can make the practice of confession meaningful to us. This is what Christ has revealed, and His revelation is always before us whenever we gather as the Church for the Divine Liturgy where we hear His Word, beg His Mercy, and receive His Body and Blood always and forever "for the remission of sins and unto life everlasting."

– Fr Thomas Hopko, *If We Confess Our Sins*, 1975, 9-11.