ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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October 12, 2025
18th Sunday After Pentecost / 3rd Sunday of Luke. Tone 1.
Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Schedule

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

Fri-Sun, Oct 17-19 – Ss. Constantine & Helen Festival
Sat Oct 18, 10am-3pm – **Fall Retreat** @ Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg
Sat Oct 18 – No Vespers *(Fr John returning from Harrisburg)*

Sun Oct 19, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. We begin our monthly Inquirers' & Visitors Fellowship after Coffee Hour -

Looking ahead:
Sun Nov 9, following Liturgy – St Herman's Harvest Dinner
November 15 – Nativity Fast Begins

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for Sunday (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Troparion for the Fathers of the 7th Council (Tone 8)

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith! // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Kontakion for Sunday (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Glory ... Kontakion for the Fathers of the 7th Council (Tone 6)

The Son Who shone forth from the Father / was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman. / Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form, / but depict it piously and revere it faithfully. / Thus, keeping the True Faith, // the Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.

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 9:6-11 (18th SAP)

Brethren: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

"He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever."

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16 (3rd Luke)

At that time, Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

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

THANK YOU to everyone who has expressed interest in our Children & Teens Saturday activities. Really, all ages are welcome, both children and children-at-heart. Each month we will try to learn some foundational things about our faith and work on a project together. Those who come are welcome to give input into future sessions. Bring a friend!

All are welcome at a Retreat at our sister parish of **Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg, THIS SATURDAY 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!* **Basket Raffle sales have begun!** If you have another basket coming soon, please check in with Marie Drosdak ASAP.

Attendance

Sun Sep 7 Liturgy: 24 adults, 2 children (Communion: 14 adults, 2 children)
Sun Sep 21 Liturgy: 35
Sun Sep 28 Liturgy: 26 adults, 2 children (Communion: 13 adults, 1 children)
Sun Oct 5 Liturgy: 30 adults, 2 children (Communion: 16 adults, 2 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, 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.*

On the World as Sacrament

Imagine your marriage as an online relationship. You met online, dated online, and were married in an electronic ceremony. You've never touched each other or seen each other in person. Perhaps, five years into the relationship, you discovered you've been married to an artificial intelligence program. How could you have known? **Communion** (as in a marriage) **cannot exist as an abstraction.**

By the same token, **creation as a sacrament** must be tasted, touched, seen, felt, heard, even digested, absorbed and breathed. St. Paul made this observation concerning the relationship between man and wife:

> …husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church… (Eph. 5:28-29)

This is the proper beginning for understanding and living with creation as sacrament. It is not a "thing," an "object" outside of myself. It is not the stage on which I act or the backdrop of history. **It is not just where I live; it is my life.** And it is **into my life that God is incarnate** and through which He continues to unite Himself to us.... Fr. Alexander [Schmemann] says it well:

> It is only when we give up freely, totally, unconditionally, the self-sufficiency of our life, when we put all its meaning in Christ, that the 'newness of life' – which means a new possession of the world – is given to us. The world then truly becomes the sacrament of Christ's presence, the growth of the Kingdom and of life eternal. (For the Life of the World)

– Fr Stephen Freeman

Social Hour & Church Cleanup Schedule

	Social Hour	**Church Clean-up**
Oct 19	Peggy Hay & Traci Weinstein	Tina Gurnavage & Stephanie Drosdak
Oct 26	Kathy Wanenchak & Stephanie Selis	John Lorchak & Phyllis Kawood
Nov 2	Elaine Dougherty & Karin Holm	Vicky McDonnell & Traci Weinstein
Nov 9	*Harvest Dinner*	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
Nov 16 *Nativity Fast Begins*	Tina Gurnavage & Marcia Lutz	Russ & Peggy Hay
Nov 23	Vicky McDonnell & Phyllis Kawood	Kyle & Daria Teter
Nov 30	Marie Drosdak & Stephanie Drosdak	Eugene & Kathy Wanenchak
Dec 7	Karen Sichak & Becky Kauffman	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
Dec 14	Daria Teter & Marina Long	Brad & Becky Kauffman