ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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October 26, 2025

20th Sunday After Pentecost. 5th Sunday of Luke. Great-Martyr Demetrius.

Schedule

Sat Oct 25, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Oct 26, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Sat Nov 1, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Nov 2, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Sat Nov 8, 9:30am – Hierarchical Liturgy for the Patronal Feast of St Michael's Church, 131 N Willow St, Mount Carmel, PA
Sat Nov 8, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Nov 9, 9am – Divine Liturgy & **St Herman's Harvest Dinner**

November 15 – Nativity Fast Begins

Sat Nov 15, 2–4:30pm – Youth Saturday (topics & project TBD)
Sat Nov 15, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Nov 16, 9am – Divine Liturgy *with demonstration of the Liturgy of Preparation (Proskomedia)*. Inquirers Fellowship after Coffee Hour.

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for Sunday (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.

Troparion for St. Demetrius (Tone 3)

The world has found you to be a great defense against tribulation / and a vanquisher of heathens, O Passion-bearer. / As you bolstered the courage of

Nestor, / who then humbled the arrogance of Lyaios in battle, // Holy Demetrius, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy!

Kontakion for Sunday (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.

Glory ... Kontakion for St. Demetrius (Tone 2)

God, Who has given you invincible might, / has tinged the Church with streams of your blood, Demetrius. / He preserves your city from harm, // for you are its foundation.

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: Galatians 1:11-19 (20th SAP)

Brethren: I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 (5th Luke)

The Lord said: "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in

your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Prayers

For the health of: Archbishop Nathaniel, Archbishop Alexander, Archbishop Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Rebecca Ream, John (Erick) Bohlin. ***For our catechumens:*** Stephanie Selis.

For the repose of: Archpriest Michael Zaparyniuk (9/22). Priest Theodore Gregory (9/29). Mat. Virginia Lecko (10/18). Molly Kramer (9/27). Eleana Silk (10/21).

Announcements

Sunday, Nov. 9 is our annual **Harvest Potluck Dinner** and Basket Raffle, following the Divine Liturgy. *All are welcome including visitors! Invite a friend!*

The Social Hour & Church Cleanup Schedule has been posted downstairs. (Thank you to Marie Drosdak for coordinating these schedules!) *Please note the days of the Nativity Fast as you plan for 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.*

The Faith We Hold

What is salvation, which is so much talked about but can be interpreted in so many different ways? Let us start with the words of the Apostle: *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom 3:23)* Sin, as violation of God's will, separates man from God, from His glory, and thus brings **its own** punishment. God accepts fallen man, however, for he was ransomed not "with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ." *(1 Pet 1:18-19)*

Nevertheless, acceptance and redemption **do not imply a general absolution** granted to all mankind, but rather an **opportunity** given to each person **individually** to ask for mercy and receive forgiveness for his sins. This is in conformity with the **gift of free will** given to man.

The [thief] hanging on the cross repented at the last moment, and what remained unfinished after his conversion was completed by Christ's redemptive death. But in the case of those who remain in this life, repentance must be followed by amendment of their ways. Following his very first sermon, St. Peter's listeners asked, "What shall we do?" "Repent," St. Peter replied, "and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." *(Acts 2:37-38)*

Although sin has corrupted human nature, **man still bears within him the image of God**, albeit **tarnished** by sin. In becoming man, Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." *(Phil 2:5-8)* He became like us in order to make us, in turn, "partakers of the divine nature." *(2 Pet 1:4)* Thus Christ became our Saviour not only because "upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole" *(Isaiah 53:5)* but also because "His divine power granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness." *(2 Pet 1:3)* In other words, Christ does not only offer us the forgiveness of our sins, but He also gives His Divine power for our use and for our development so that we might not be "ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." *(2 Pet 1:8)*

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 21-22.

Attendance

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)
Sun Oct 12 Liturgy: 27 adults, 2 children (Communion: 17 adults, 1 children)
Sun Oct 19 Liturgy: 32 adults, 3 children (Communion: 19 adults, 2 children)