# ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

**sthermanshillington.org**

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*Welcome Home! We are glad you are with us today.*
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**November 2, 2025**

*21st Sunday After Pentecost. 6th Sunday of Luke.*
*Martyrs Acindynus, Pegasius, Elpidephorus, Aphthonius, and Anempodistus; of Persia*

## Schedule

Sat Nov 1, 4:30pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Nov 2, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. Discussion of charitable work during the holiday season and winter months.

Sat Nov 8, 9:30am – Hierarchical Liturgy for the Patronal Feast of St Michael's Church, 131 North 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.

***November 21 is the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple.***
Thurs Nov 20, 4:30pm – Festal Great Vespers
Fri Nov 21, 9am – Festal Divine Liturgy

Sun Nov 23 – Prosphora Project following Coffee Hour

## Hymns of the Day

*Troparion for Sunday (Tone 4)*

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel / the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / "Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

*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 the Martyrs (Tone 2)*

Blessed is the earth that received your blood, passion-bearers of the Lord, / and holy is the dwelling place which received your spirits. / You triumphed over the enemy in the stadium, / and you preached Christ with boldness. // Since He is good, we pray that you beseech Him to save our souls.

*Glory ... Kontakion for Sunday (Tone 4)*

My Savior and Redeemer as God / rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

*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 2:16-20 (21st SAP)*

*Brethren:* Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

*Gospel: Luke 8:26-39 (6th Luke)*

*At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes,* there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was

feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

## 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!*

Our next **Youth Project Saturday** is Nov. 15, 2pm until Vespers. All children and teens, including from neighboring parishes, are invited.

**Prayer Requests for loved ones**, both Living and Departed, may be offered at any Divine Liturgy, using the **commemoration sheets in the Narthex**. Please fold and place these sheets in the "Prayer Request" basket, not in the donation bin. A small *prosphoron* (bread of offering), if available, will be returned to the ones who offered the prayers.

At every Divine Liturgy, **during the Augmented Litany** (after the Gospel and Homily), someone should bring **all donations to the foot of the Altar**. At the end of that Litany during the petition *"Again we pray for those who bring offerings ..."*, those donations will be blessed. This can be a different person each time; it does not need to be someone on council. Children are especially welcome to help with this.

Good company, good conversation, and good coffee flowed at our first **Inquirers' and Visitors Fellowship** at the Rectory this October. We spent some of our inaugural session getting to know each other and sharing stories of faith and our personal journeys toward the Orthodox Church. We also talked about prayer in our daily lives, what the process of joining the Church might be like, and a preview of next month's discussion of the Fall and Repentance. Everyone is always welcome at these gatherings, whether you are just "checking out" Orthodox Christianity, or just visiting, or a Catechumen, or even a current parishioner or long-time Orthodox Christian. Our next gathering is Sunday, November 16 after coffee hour.

*Attendance*

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)
Sun Oct 26 Liturgy: 34 adults, 5 children (Communion: 24 adults, 3 children)

*Martyrs Acindynus, Pegasius, Aphthonius, Elpidephorus, Anempodistus, and 7,000 with them, of Persia*

Saint Acindynus suffered martyrdom in Persia along with Saints Pegasias, Aphthonius, Elpidephorus, Anempodistus, and 7,000 other Christians at the time of King Sapor II (310-381). They were Sapor's courtiers and were secret Christians. Summoned to Sapor's presence for trial, they fearlessly confessed their faith in the Holy Trinity. The king ordered them to be beaten with whips, and told the people that that saints' heads would be cut off, and that the Christians were not permitted to bury their bodies.

A crowd accompanied the saints as they were led outside the city walls for execution, glorifying Christ. Soldiers massacred all the Christians in the procession (about 7,000), including Saint Elpidephorus. Acindynus, Pegasias, and Anempodistus were burned on the following day with the mother of the emperor. Christians came secretly by night to the place of execution, found the bodies of the holy martyrs unharmed by the fire, and they buried them with reverence.

***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.*