ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Welcome Home! We are glad you are with us today.
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November 30, 2025
25th Sunday After Pentecost. 10th Sunday of Luke.
Holy Apostle Andrew, the "First-Called"

Schedule

Sat Nov 29, 4:00pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Nov 30, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. *Apostle Andrew.*

> *December 6: St Nicholas, the Wonderworker of Myra*
>
> Fri Dec 5, 6pm – Great Vespers & Litya
> Sat Dec 6, 8:30am – Matins & Divine Liturgy @ Ss Constantine & Helen.
> *Ordination of Cornelius Grandberry to the Holy Priesthood.*

Sat Dec 6, 4:00pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Dec 7, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship.

> ***December 13: Repose of St Herman of Alaska, our Parish Feast Day.***
> *All area clergy & parishioners are invited.*
>
> Fri Dec 12, 6pm – Small Vigil
> Sat Dec 13, 9:00am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Sat Dec 13, 4:00pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Dec 14, 9am – Divine Liturgy. *Inquirer's Fellowship after Coffee Hour.*

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 Andrew (Tone 4)

Andrew, first-called of the Apostles, / and brother of the foremost disciple, / entreat the Master of all / to grant peace to the world, // and to our souls great mercy!

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!

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

Let us praise Andrew, the herald of God, / the namesake of courage, / the first-called of the Savior's disciples / and the brother of Peter! / As he once called to his brother, / he now cries out to us: // "Come, for we have found the One Whom the world desires!"

Now & ever ... To 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: Ephesians 4:1-6 (25th SAP)

Brethren: I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 (10th Luke)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Prayers

For the repose of: Mat. Virginia Lecko (10/18). Eleana Silk (10/21). Rebecca Ream (11/3).

For the health of: Archbishop Nathaniel, Archbishop Alexander, Archbishop Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, John (Erick) Bohlin.

For those who are grieving: *(For Rebecca)* Pani Anna Marie Slovesko, David Ream, Jesika & Justin Wilhelm, Justin & Danielle Ream.

For our catechumens: Stephanie Selis, Bradley Bosch.

"What is lacking in modern man is the sense of holiness, sacredness, not information which he can take from any simple catechism book. God is not an intellectual acquisition."

– Fr. Roman Braga

Announcements

Volunteers Needed! **This Tuesday, Dec 2nd,** is the monthly **Helping Harvest Food Pantry** at Ss. Constantine & Helen in West Reading. All of us at St Herman's have been invited to assist with this monthly food drive, held on the **first Tuesday of each month**. Volunteers are needed no later than 3:30pm. This month, the food pantry will include their annual *food pantry Christmas Dinner* for those in need. Volunteers are needed to assist with both the drive-up distribution and the dinner.

We will also begin to **collect food donations** year-round for Helping Harvest. Their most-needed items are shelf-stable cereals, PB, grains & pasta, canned goods, and fruit juices. *Please no glass jars.*

Our **Advent Collection** for International Orthodox Christian Charities has begun. The collection basket for IOCC will remain on the center table throughout the Nativity Fast.

Do you wish to honour the body of Christ? Do not ignore him when he is naked. Do not pay him homage in the temple adorned in silk, only then to neglect him outside where he is cold and lacking clothing.

He who said: *"**This is my body**"* is the same who said: *"**You saw me hungry and you gave me no food**"*, and *"**Whatever you did to the least of my brothers you did also to me**"* ...

What good is it if the Eucharistic table is overloaded with golden chalices when your brother is dying of hunger? Start by satisfying his hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well.

– St John Chrysostom

Attendance

Sun Nov 9 Liturgy: 32 adults, 7 children (Communion: 27 adults, 5 children)
Sun Nov 16 Liturgy: 23 adults, 3 children (Communion: 15 adults, 2 children)
Feast of the Entry, Nov 21:
Vespers: 8, Liturgy: 9, Communion: 7
Sat Nov 22 Vespers: 8
Sun Nov 23 Liturgy: 23 adults, 2 children (Communion: 14 adults, 1 children)

About the Fear of Confessing our Sins

"When I went to my first confession," a friend told me, "tears took the place of the sins I meant to utter. The priest simply told me ... that it was just vanity to suppose that our personal sins are worse than everyone else's. Which, by the way, was something of a relief, since it wasn't possible for me to remember all the sins of my first thirty-odd years of life. It made me think of the way the father received his prodigal son—he didn't even let his son finish his carefully rehearsed speech. It's truly amazing."

The very word *confession* makes us nervous, touching as it does all that is hidden in ourselves: lies told, injuries caused, things stolen, friends deceived, people betrayed, promises broken, faith denied—these plus all the smaller actions that reveal the beginnings of sins. Confession is painful, **yet a Christian life without confession is impossible**.

... Confession is a major theme of the Gospels. Even before Christ began His public ministry ... John [the Baptist] required confession of those who came to him for baptism in the River Jordan for a symbolic act of washing away their sins ... The Gospel author John [the Theologian] warns us not to deceive ourselves: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" *(1 John 1:8,9)*.

– Jim Forest, *Confession: The Healing Sacrament* (Ancient Faith Publishing, 2002), 1-2.

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.*