ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Welcome Home! We are glad you are with us today.
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December 7, 2025

26th Sunday After Pentecost. 11th Sunday of Luke. *St Ambrose of Milan.*

Schedule

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 parishioners are invited.

Fri Dec 12, 6pm – Small Vigil
Sat Dec 13, 9:00am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

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

Sat Dec 20, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Dec 21, 9am – Divine Liturgy *with the Chrismation of Stephanie Selis.*
Parish Council during Coffee Hour.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tues Dec 23, 4pm – Vespers & Prefeast Canon @ Ss Constantine & Helen
Wed Dec 24, 9am – Royal Hours of the Nativity
Wed Dec 24, 6pm – NATIVITY VIGIL
Thurs Dec 25, 9am – Divine Liturgy of the Nativity
Sat Dec 27, 10am – Divine Liturgy for the First-martyr Stephen, at St Stephen's Cathedral, 8598 Verree Road, Philadelphia

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 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 Ambrose (Tone 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / your humility exalted you; / your poverty enriched you. / Hierarch Father Ambrose, / entreat Christ our God // that our souls may be saved!

Glory ... 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!"

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 5:9-19 (26th SAP)

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19 (transferred from the 12th Sunday of Luke)

At that time, as Jesus entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet,

giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Prayers

For the repose of: Archpriest Paul Pyrch (12/2). Rebecca Ream (11/3). ***For the health of:*** Archbishop Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Abp. Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, John 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.

Announcements

We are in the midst of the Nativity Fast. This an opportunity to "re-calibrate" our spiritual compass. If you have not done so already, please make a renewed effort this year to fast not only from meat, dairy, and luxurious foods; but also from anger, greed, indulgence, laziness, talkativeness, and resentment; so that we may approach the Nativity of Our Lord with a pure heart. We also use this time to examine ourselves to see where our spiritual stumblings are; taking an honest self-inventory and seeking repentance and guidance in the Sacrament of Confession.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Please consider offering a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one, or with prayers for health or thanksgiving. Suggested donation $10-15. *Please write "Christmas Flowers" on any blank envelope, and write whom the prayer is for. Thank you!*

We are now **collecting 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** basket for **International Orthodox Christian Charities** will remain on the center table throughout the Nativity Fast.

Congratulations to Fr. Cornelius Grandberry, ordained to the Holy Priesthood yesterday at Ss. Constantine & Helen. Please keep him and Presbytera Sophia in your prayers! May God bless and protect them, guiding them in every good work. *Many years! Axios!*

Attendance

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
Sun Nov 23 Liturgy: 23 adults, 2 children (Communion: 14 adults, 1 children)
Sun Nov 30 Liturgy: 19 adults, 1 children (Communion: 10 adults, 1 children)
St Nicholas (Eve), Dec 5 Vespers: 6

An Orthodox parish has only one God-given reason for being. It exists to be the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ. Whatever the original reasons and conditions for its founding, whatever other services and activities it may provide, whatever other desires and needs it may fulfill for its members, a community of Orthodox Christians must be Christ's one holy Church. **If it is not**, then it is neither Christian nor Orthodox, whatever else it may be and do.

A parish must be *the* Church of Christ, and not simply *a* church, because, according to the Orthodox faith, every local community of Orthodox Christians with a priest must be, and theologically understood actually is, **the one Church of Christ**. Theologically speaking, there are not *many* Orthodox Churches; there is only *one*. An Orthodox parish is this one Church, or it is not an Orthodox church at all. Each parish, therefore, must be the one and only Church of Christ.

Everything in the parish, and everything about it, **must be holy** because God and Christ are holy. There can be no part of a parish that is not sanctified by the holiness of God and His Son Jesus Christ, "the holy One of God." There can be no aspect of a parish not inspired and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God and of Christ. Everything in and about a parish—its organization, structure, administration, finances and properties, as well as its theological and moral teachings and practices, and its liturgical and sacramental rites and services—must be of God. They must be determined by God, inspired by God and submitted to God for His glory and the good of His people.

– Fr Thomas Hopko, "The Orthodox Parish in North America", *Thirteenth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America*, Orlando, 2002.

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.*