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 14, 2025
2nd Sunday Before the Nativity (Sunday of the Forefathers).
27th Sunday After Pentecost.

There are 10 days remaining in the Nativity Fast.
It is time to renew our efforts 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, taking an honest self-inventory and seeking repentance & guidance in the Sacrament of Confession. *The best time for confessions is following an evening service. Please do not wait until Christmas Eve.*

Schedule

Sat Dec 13, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Dec 14, 9am – Divine Liturgy. *Inquirer's Fellowship TBD(?)*

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 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst

raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Troparion for the Forefathers (Tone 2)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Glory, Now & ever ... for the Three Holy Youths (Tone 6)

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / you were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: / "Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren: When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

*The Lord spoke this parable: "*A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

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

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.

Attendance

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
Sun Dec 7 Liturgy: 28 adults, 2 children (Communion: 16 adults, 1 children)
St Herman's Day: Vespers 11, Liturgy 29, Communion 24

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.*