ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 18, 2026
32nd Sunday After Pentecost
St Athanasius the Great (373) & St Cyril (444), Archbishops of Alexandria

Schedule

Sat Jan 17, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Jan 18, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. ANNUAL MEETING.

Sat Jan 24, 4pm – NO VESPERS
Sun Jan 25, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. (Fr Edward Hughes)

Thurs-Fri Jan 29-30 – Annual Diocesan Assembly, Old Forge, PA
Fri-Sun, Jan 30 - Feb 1 – DOEPA Winter Teen Retreat, Stevens, PA

Sat Jan 31, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Feb 1, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship, *followed by Great Vespers for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple*
Mon Feb 2, 9am – Festal Divine Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord

Looking Ahead: 1st Week of Lent, Feb 22-28

Announcements

TODAY, Sunday January 18, is our Annual Parish Meeting.

Our 2026 **Proportional Giving Guide** was distributed last week. Extra copies are in the back of the Church. **Please take the time to read it carefully and prayerfully.** Everything we do here at St Herman's is only possible by the grace of God, working through your efforts, donations, and fervent prayers. **Even if you plan on giving the same as in the past, please fill it out again so we know.** *Thank you so much in advance.*

Christmas Poinsettias were also offered ***in memory of:*** The departed members of the Matsick, Scheese, Poshefko, and Teno families; and Eric Vogerity, Bob Speckoc, and Jack Hager. ***And for the health of:*** The Matsick family, especially Sandy, and the Scheese, Poshefko, & Teno families. *Please add them to your prayer list throughout this season.*

House Blessings can begin this coming week. If you have a specific day in mind, please let me know ASAP. *Please be patient as we are still finishing up much parish business. I hope to have a signup calendar next week -FrJ*

Prayers

For the repose of: *Newly-departed:* Archpriest Andrew Moulton (1/9), Apr. Stephen Plumlee (1/14), Mat. Julia Romanchak (1/11), Diane Hutnyan (12/20/2025), Kyra Kopestonsky (12/23).

For the health of: Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Abp. Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula. ***Our catechumens:*** Bradley Bosch, Brian Craig.

Hymns of the Day

For the Resurrection (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

St Herman of Alaska (Tone 4, Valaam)

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.

Saints Athanasius & Cyril (Tone 3)

You shone forth with works of Orthodoxy and quenched all heresy, / and became victorious trophy-bearers, hierarchs Athanasius and Cyril. / You enriched all things with piety and greatly adorned the Church, / and worthily found Christ God, // Who grants His great mercy to all.

Glory *... (Kontakion) For the Resurrection (Tone 7)*

The dominion of death / can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / "The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

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: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Brethren: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Attendance

Sun Dec 14 Liturgy: 10 adults, 1 children (Communion: 8 adults, 1 children)
Sun Dec 21: (unknown)
Christmas Day Liturgy: 25 adults, 2 children (Communion: 15 & 2)
Sun Dec 28: (unknown)
Sun Jan 4: (unknown)
Sun Jan 11 Liturgy: 25 adults, 1 children (Communion: 15 adults, 1 children)

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.*

Social Hour & Church Cleanup Schedule

	Social Hour	Church Clean-up
Jan 4	Kathy Wanenchak & Stephanie Selis	John Lorchak & Phyllis Kawood
Jan 11	Elaine Dougherty & Karin Holm	Vicky McDonnell & Traci Weinstein
Jan 18	Tina Gurnavage & Marcia Lutz	Russ & Peggy Hay
Jan 25	Vicky McDonnell & Phyllis Kawood	Kyle & Daria Teter
Feb 1	Marie Drosdak & Stephanie Drosdak	Eugene & Kathy Wanenchak
Feb 8	Karen Sichak & Becky Kauffman	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
Feb 15	Daria Teter & Marina Long	Brad & Becky Kauffman

Step 9: Malice (Remembrance of Wrongs)

Remembrance of wrongs comes as the final point of anger. It is a keeper of sins. It hates a just way of life. It is the ruin of virtues, the poison of the soul, a worm in the mind. It is the shame of prayer, a cutting off of supplication, a turning away from love, a nail piercing the soul. It is a pleasureless feeling cherished in the sweetness of bitterness. It is a never-ending sin, an unsleeping wrong, rancor by the hour. A dark and loathsome passion, it comes to be but has no offspring, so that one need not say much about it.

There is nothing more destructive to spiritual life than the remembrance of wrongs. It is, in fact, a complete contradiction to the imitation of God: "If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?" (Ps. 129/130:3). It is the exact opposite of forgiveness. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask, "Forgive us our debts [Gr. *opheilemata*] as we forgive our debtors" (Matt. 6:12), When a debt is cleared, it is erased, as though it never existed. This is how God forgives us. He tore up the record of our sins on the Cross. They were drowned in the water of baptism, and they are washed away in the tears of repentance. If we refuse to forget wrongs, then we have not forgiven as God forgives-we are still "keeping a record" of sins. Our Lord says, "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you" (Matt. 7:2). It is clear, then, that if we go on marking iniquities, God will mark ours too.

– Fr Vassilios Papavassiliou, *Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life* (Ancient Faith Publishing, 2013), 79-80.