ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Welcome Home! We are glad you are with us today.
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February 1, 2026
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
(The first Pre-Lenten Sunday & the Beginning of the Lenten Triodion)
Pre-feast (Eve) of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Schedule

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

This week is a Fast-Free Week.

Sat Feb 7, **4:30**pm – Great Vespers at Holy Trinity Pottstown, 1236 Juniper St, *followed by their Dinner Dance fundraiser (a paid / ticketed event)*
Sun Feb 8, 9am – Divine Liturgy. *Sunday of the Prodigal Son.*
Annual Meeting (rescheduled from 1/18 & 1/25).

Sat Feb 14, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Feb 15, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. *Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday).*

Sunday Feb 22 is Forgiveness Sunday, followed by the beginning of Great Lent.

Hymns of the Day

For the Resurrection (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!"

Eve of the Meeting of the Lord (Tone 1)

The celestial choir of heavenly Angels / bends down to the earth / and sees the First-born of all creation being carried into the Temple as a Babe / by a Mother who has not known man, / and in amazement they sing along with us // a hymn of the Forefeast.

***Glory** … (Kontakion) Publican & the Pharisee (Tone 4)*

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! / Let us cry to our Savior: / "Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!"

***Now & ever** … Eve of the Meeting of the Lord (Tone 6)*

The Word unseen with the Father, / now is seen in the flesh, ineffably born of the Virgin, / and is given into the arms of the priest and Elder. // Let us worship Him, our True God.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

My son Timothy: You have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Prayers

For the repose of: *The newly-departed* Archpriest Andrew Moulton (1/9), Apr. Stephen Plumlee (1/14), Apr. John Pawelchak (1/17), 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, Gloria Spitko.

As we approach the Meeting of the Lord tomorrow (the 40th Day of the Nativity), we thank you all again for your donations for the **Christmas Poinsettias** and for your prayers for all the names and intentions offered with them. We apologize that the following names were omitted. Please add these to your prayer list. ***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 always pray also for ***our catechumens:*** Bradley Bosch, Brian Craig.

House Blessings

House Blessings are finally beginning! (Let us all pray for milder weather for these!) There is a calendar on the wall in the Narthex to help organize days/times. Or if you prefer, just talk to me or call/email/text. -Fr John

How to prepare the home: Place the following on a clean table (with tablecloth) in a central room of the house.

-- A bowl filled with holy water (or an empty bowl to be filled). *If you only have a little bit of Holy Water, you can fill the bowl mostly with tap water and add a small amount of Holy Water to it.*

-- Cross, Icon(s), Bible. A lit candle or vigil lamp.

-- Names of those you wish to remember in prayer: The living (everyone living in the house and any living family), and the departed.

-- A list of the patron saint(s) of those who live in the house

Open doors and turn on lights in every room so everyone can move freely from room to room. Turn off TVs, music, cell phones, and other screens.

Announcements

Our **Annual Parish Meeting** was rescheduled to **next week, Sunday, February 8.** This is the 2nd announcement of the new date.

This coming **Saturday, Feb 7**, our parish has been invited to **Holy Trinity Pottstown** for Vespers (at 4:30) and a **Dinner Dance** (5:30-9pm). Dinner is $25/person or $40/couple. All proceeds go to supporting seminarians, diaconal candidates, natural disaster relief for some parishes, local shelters, and many other charities. **TODAY, Feb 1, is their deadline for tickets** (we're sorry, the weather prevented announcing this earlier).

Our 2026 **Proportional Giving Guide** was distributed a few weeks ago. 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 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.*

Education & Catechism

We are reorganizing some of our education offerings to better fit our own schedules and the needs and schedules of those who have been attending.

- **One Saturday per month**, from 2pm until Vespers, we will offer a "**Know Your Faith**" class, geared towards Catechumens & Inquirers and also anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of the Orthodox Faith. These will be specific foundational topics. **Next class Feb 21**.
- Our monthly **Inquirers' Fellowship** will continue **one Sunday per month** after Coffee Hour, at the Rectory. These are more informal, and an opportunity for inquirers, catechumens, and visitors (and any parishioners) to enjoy fellowship and support each other on their journey of faith. The **next one is Feb 22**. (This one may run later than usual, due to Forgiveness Vespers at the end of Liturgy.)
- We are also looking into other opportunities, maybe one Coffee Hour per month for open topics, and/or online studies during the week. Our Spring schedule is still in flux so it may be a couple of weeks until we know what is possible.

Social Hour & Church Cleanup Schedule

	Social Hour	**Church Clean-up**
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

*"Of all that we have, children are the most precious. Our Lord Jesus Christ blessed children, hugged them, and had them stand **in the midst, in front of everyone**, to show that they should get the most attention and care."*

– Anba Macarius of Al Menia and Abu Koras

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.*