ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 8, 2026
Sunday of the Prodigal Son *(the 2nd Pre-Lenten Sunday)*
Sunday After the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Schedule

Sun Feb 8, 9am – Divine Liturgy. *Sunday of the Prodigal Son.*
Annual Meeting (rescheduled from 1/18 & 1/25). **3rd Announcement.**

On the Saturday before Meatfare Sunday, the Church prays for ***all departed*** *throughout the world, especially those unnamed or forgotten.*
Fri Feb 13, 6pm – Small Vespers & Panikhida
Sat Feb 14, 9am – Memorial Saturday Liturgy

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

Sat Feb 21, 2-4pm – "Know your faith" catechism *(aka Orthodoxy 101)*
Sat Feb 21, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Feb 22, 9am – Divine Liturgy. *Forgiveness Sunday, a.k.a. Cheesefare Sunday, remembering the Expulsion of Adam from Paradise. Liturgy followed immediately by Forgiveness Vespers then coffee hour. Inquirers' Fellowship after coffee hour.*

THE BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT

1st Week of Lent: Services every day, mostly at 6pm. Full schedule next week.

Hymns of the Day

For the Resurrection (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!"

Meeting of the Lord (Tone 1)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! / From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness. / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, / you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, // Who grants us the Resurrection!

***Glory** ... (Kontakion) Prodigal Son (Tone 3)*

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou hadst given me. / Therefore I cry to Thee like the Prodigal: / "I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; // receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!"

***Now & ever** ... Meeting of the Lord (Tone 1)*

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb / and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. / Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. // Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

Instead of "It is truly meet"

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, // protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you! /// We the faithful saw the figure in the shadow of the Law and the scriptures: / every male child that opened the womb was holy to God. / Therefore we also magnify the first begotten Son of the Unoriginate Father, // the firstborn Son of the unwedded Mother!

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren: All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Lord spoke this parable: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the

younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, *"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."*' And he arose and came to his father.

"But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

Prayers

For the repose of: *The newly-departed* Archbishop Seraphim (Sigrist) (2/7). 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 health of: Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Abp. Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Gloria Spitko.
For our Catechumens: Bradley Bosch, Brian Craig.

House Blessings

There is a **calendar** on the desk in the back of the Church to 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.

Announcements

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, visitors, along with a few 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.

Attendance

Sun Jan 11 Liturgy: 25 adults, 1 children (Communion: 15 adults, 1 children)
Sat Jan 31 Vespers: 1
Sun Feb 1 Liturgy: 20, 0 children (Communion: 13)
Mon Feb 2 Feastday Liturgy: 1