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 15, 2026
Sunday of the Last Judgment *(the 3rd Pre-Lenten Sunday)*

Sat Feb 14, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Feb 15, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

After today, the Church fasts from meat products until Pascha.

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

Mon Feb 23, 7pm – Great Canon of Repentance
Tues Feb 24, 7pm – Great Canon of Repentance
Wed Feb 25, 6:00pm – Presanctified Divine Liturgy
Thurs Feb 26, 7pm – Great Canon of Repentance
Fri Feb 27, 7pm – *Akathist* to the Mother of God (part 1)
Sat Feb 28, 9am – Divine Liturgy for the Miracle of St Theodore

Sat Feb 28, 4pm – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sun Feb 29, 9am – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship. *1st Sunday of Great Lent (Triumph of Orthodoxy & Restoration of Icons)*

Sun March 1, 4pm – Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1607 West Union Blvd, Bethlehem, PA. *Guest Homilist: Fr Andrew Stephen Damick*

Looking ahead:

- Wed Feb 4, Presanctified Liturgy (expect guests from other parishes)

- Sun Feb 8, Archpastoral Visit; Inquirer's Fellowship with Abp. Mark.

A full Lent/Pascha Calendar will be posted within a few days.

Hymns of the Day

For the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted the world // great mercy.

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.

Glory ... Now & ever ... For the Last Judgment (Tone 1)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Brethren: Food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as

a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Prayers

For the repose of: *The newly-departed* Archbishop Seraphim (Sigrist) (2/7). Apr. Andrew Moulton (1/9). Apr. Stephen Plumlee (1/14). Apr. John Pawelchak (1/17). Mat. Julia Romanchak (1/11). John Susko (2/14).

For health of: Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Abp. Benjamin, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Gloria Spitko, Jessica Sullivan and her infant Lucas, Richard Kawood. ***On hospice:*** Vera Eckert (mother of Kathy Wanenchak) & Olga Oscavich (a parishioner of Bethlehem who is confined to a facility here in Shillington). Please also pray fervently for Jessica Sullivan, a friend of the parish, who is battling illness; and for her new infant Lucas.

For our Catechumens: Bradley Bosch, Brian Craig.

Attendance

Sun Jan 11 Liturgy: 25 adults, 1 children (Communion: 15 adults, 1 children)
Sun Feb 1 Liturgy: 20, 0 children (Communion: 13)
Mon Feb 2 Feastday Liturgy: 1
Sun Feb 8 Liturgy: 24 adults, 2 children (Communion: 11 adults, 1 children)
Sat Feb 14 Vespers: 4

You who are in the monastery, when you approach your brother; you who are married, when you approach your spouse; you who are a father or a mother, when you approach your child: *"Let words of consolation leap forward before the rest of your speech"* (St Basil the Great).

Whatever you say, whatever you think of saying, say it only after you've said a word or two which will give the others joy, consolation, a breath of life. Make them say "I feel relief, I feel joy." Make others proud of you, love you, dance for joy when they see you. Because everybody in their life, in their home, in their body, and in their soul, has pain, illness, difficulties, torments, and everybody hides them within the secret purse of his heart and home, so that others won't know about it. I don't know what sort pain you're in, and you don't know what pain I'm in. I may laugh, shout, and appear happy, but deep down I'm in pain, and I laugh to cover up by sorrow. And so before anything else, greet the other person with a smile.

... In this way there can be a meeting, a true social relation, of monks and married people, of all people, saints and sinners, giving us all the right and the ability to pray. And when we say: "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me," everybody is included: my husband, my wife, my brothers and sisters, my children, the whole world. When God sees such love, when he sees the paradise in my heart, that my heart has room in it for everybody, then it will be impossible for him not to find room in his paradise for me and for you.

– Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, *The Church at Prayer* (Sebastian Press, 2012), 88.

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.*