ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA

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May 24, 2026 – Sunday After the Ascension of Our Lord
and the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Schedule

Sat May 23, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun May 24, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship

Fri-Mon, May 22-25 – Memorial Day Pilgrimage at St Tikhon's Monastery
(See next page for schedule information)

Wed May 27, Noon-3pm – Visitation of the Miraculous "Iveron" Icon to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 1236 Juniper St, Pottstown, PA
(Arrival 12:00 noon; Akathist service 3pm)

GREAT AND HOLY PENTECOST: THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sat May 30, 4pm – Festal "Small Vigil"
Sun May 31, 9am – Festal Divine Liturgy, *followed immediately by the Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost*

Sat June 6, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun June 7, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship. *Sunday of All Saints.*

June 8 - 28 – Apostles' Fast
June 14 – Parish Council meeting

Hymns of the Day

For the Resurrection (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell / not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

For the Ascension (Tone 4)

O Christ God, Thou hast ascended in glory, / granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing, they were assured / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world.

For the Fathers of the 1st Council (Tone 8)

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! Through them, Thou hast guided us to the true faith! // O greatly-compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Glory ... Kontakion for the Fathers (Tone 8)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy.

Now & ever ... Kontakion for the Ascension (Tone 6)

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, / and unite earth to heaven, / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: // "I am with you, and no one will be against you!"

Instead of "It is truly meet"

Magnify, O my soul, / Christ the Giver of Life, // Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify the Mother of God, / who, beyond reason and understanding, gave birth in time // to the Timeless One.

Today's Scripture

These scriptures are given in the bulletin for anyone who has difficulty hearing during the service (and so we can read them again at home).

If you are able to hear in church, it is better to set the bulletin down and "hear with the ears" instead, so that the Scriptures may penetrate more deeply into our hearts.

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them:

"You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you.... Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you

yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel: John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

Prayers

The newly-departed: Fr Joseph Gallick (4/4). Stephanie Hojnicki (4/15). Vera Eckert (4/25).

For health of: Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Abp. Benjamin, Pani Anna Marie Slovesko, Mat. Elizabeth Meyer, Mat. Mary Reynolds, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Gloria Spitko, Jessica (Philothea) Sullivan & infant Lucas, Richard Kawood.

For our Catechumens: Bradley Bosch, Brian Craig, Zaden Mershon.

For our diocese's seminarians and families: Subdeacon Jacob & Mariana Kurtz (Luka, Noah, & Magdalena), Reader Alexander Koropsak, Nicholas & Abigail Sheridan.

And for all who are seeking the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fullness of the Orthodox Faith.

Announcements

This Wednesday, the **wonder-working Iveron Icon of the Mother of God** will visit our sister parish, Holy Trinity, in Pottstown. The icon is scheduled to arrive at noon, and depart after an Akathist (small service of praise) from 3-3:30. All are welcome. This Icon is from the 9th century and has worked many miracles throughout its history. For more information, see **sthermanshillington.org/iveron** .

When writing checks for donations or other purposes, the check must be written to "Orthodox Church of St Herman", not "St Herman's Orthodox Church". This is causing some checks to be rejected by the bank. We're sorry for this inconvenience, but we are limited by the bank's policies.

This summer, free lunches are available to all children and teens 18 and under in the Shillington area, through the Governor Mifflin School District's Food Service department. The program runs from Tues 5/26 through Fri 8/14 (except for Friday July 3), from 11:30-1:00, at Mifflin Park Elementary (598 Governor Drive, Shillington). Children do not need to be Governor Mifflin students, but meals must be consumed on-site.

Our Diocesan Seminarians

We are blessed to have 3 seminarians from our sister parishes living and studying at our seminaries. It is a difficult life; spiritually, logistically, and financially. Seminarians usually do not have outside employment due to the intensity of their studies and other responsibilities, and many seminarian families struggle to make ends meet. We can help them with monetary gifts or gift cards sent directly to them. Even if you are unable, please add them to your daily prayers. *May God grant them good strength and many blessed years!*

Sdn. Jacob and Mariana Kurtz
St. Tikhon's Seminary
P.O. Box 130
South Canaan, PA 18459

Children: Luka, Noah, & Magdalena
Home Parish: Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg

Nicholas and Abigail Sheridan
St. Vladimir's Seminary
575 Scarsdale Rd
Yonkers, NY 10707

Home Parish: St Herman's, Gradyville

Rdr. Alexander Koropsak
St. Vladimir's Seminary
575 Scarsdale Rd
Yonkers, NY 10707

Home Parish: Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg

Christ's Ministry and the Father

Christ's ministry ... [is] humble; it is always in relationship to the One who sent him, that is, the Father. When Jesus Christ acts, it is God the Father who acts, and **who is revealed in that act**. *"I can do nothing on my own authority; ... I seek not my own will, but the will of him who sent me"* (Jn 5:30) are the words of Christ himself. These follow the declaration that *"as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself"* (Jn 5:26). He therefore is the Son of this Father, and **his ministry is reflected as one of humility before the Father**: *"the Father is greater than I"* (Jn 14:28); he has not come of himself, but the Father has sent him (Jn 8:42). And even if it seems that he "honors" himself, that is "nothing" in light of this humility before the Father:

> *If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing; it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is your God. (Jn 8:54)*

Because this **oneness** between Christ and the Father is present, St John's gospel tells us that he speaks what he has heard from the Father (8:26). What the Father has commanded him, he does (14:31). He does what "pleases" the Father (8:29). He declares the "name" of the Father in which he speaks (17:26). All this means that **Christ's ministry is the Father's ministry, the Father working through Christ** (114:10). Finally, however, we receive the ultimate word regarding this: "I and the Father are one" (Jn 10:30). Thus, in terms of ministry, "He who believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me" (Jn 12:44). It is this which Christ makes clear to Philip, who not yet understanding these words, seeks to "see" the Father:

> *Philip said to him, "Lord show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you yet do not know me? He who has seen me has seen the Father, Philip." (Jn 14:9)*

If it is true, then, that Christ and the Father are one, we can even say, in this sense, that **the ministry of Christ begins from before his appearance in Galilee**, i.e. even **before the Incarnation**. *"Before Abraham was, I am"* (Jn 8:57). There was no such "conversion" of Christ (an ancient heresy) in which his ministry begins, even if the fullness of his ministry on earth is revealed in the Incarnation. **He is "from the foundation of the world" with the Father**, i.e. before his fleshly appearance.

We find a clue to this when Jesus is but the twelve-year-old boy who is found "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions" (Lk 2:46). We find there that he must already "be about his Father's business" (Lk 2:49, KJV); this is what his parents could not understand (Lk 2:50). This eternal ministry is also known by St John the Forerunner in the Jordan; the Baptist recognized Christ before the baptism (Mt 3:14) for which reason he did not deem himself worthy to baptize him.

Thus **Christ's ministry**, since it is one with his life (which is eternal), **is before the world and exists beyond the world**. Being one with the Father, his ministry is eternal, and those who minister in this temporal world, also participate in his eternal ministry.

– Fr. Joseph Allen, *The Ministry of the Church: The Image of Pastoral Care* (Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1986).

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, as they are able.*

2026 Memorial Day Pilgrimage at St Tikhon's Monastery

Friday May 22

- 4:00pm Opening of Pilgrimage; Vespers & Matins –Monastery Church
  All pilgrims are invited to dinner in the monastery dining hall.
- 7:00pm Commencement Speaker at the Seminary Convocation Center

Saturday May 23

- 9:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church. *A meal for all pilgrims in the monastery dining hall to follow.*
- 1:00pm 84th Commencement of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary
- 4:00pm Resurrection Vigil – Monastery Church. *Dinner for all pilgrims in the monastery dining hall to follow.*

Sunday May 24

- 9:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy –Monastery Church. *A meal for all pilgrims in the monastery dining hall to follow.*
- 4:30pm Vespers and Matins – Monastery Church

Monday May 25 – Memorial Day

- 7:30am Hours & early Divine Liturgy – All Saints Church
- 10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church
- 2:30pm Healing service to the Mother of God – All Saints Church
- 4:30pm Vespers, Matins, & closing of pilgrimage – Monastery Church
- *Food vendors will be onsite all day Monday in the Bookstore parking lot.*

Social Hour & Church Cleanup Schedule

	Social Hour	**Church Clean-up**
May 3	Peggy Hay & Traci Weinstein	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
May 10	Mat. Alexandra & Haven Black	Tina Gurnavage & Stephanie Drosdak
May 17	Kathy Wanenchak & Stephanie Selis	John Lorchak & Phyllis Kawood
May 24	Elaine Dougherty & Karin Holm	Marie Drosdak & Traci Weinstein
May 31	Tina Gurnavage & Marcia Lutz	Russ & Peggy Hay
June 7	Vicky McDonnell & Phyllis Kawood	Kyle & Daria Teter
	June 8 - 29: Apostles' Fast	
June 14	Marie Drosdak & Stephanie Drosdak	Eugene & Kathy Wanenchak
June 21	Karen Sichak & Becky Kauffman	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
June 28	Daria Teter & Marina Long	Brad & Becky Kauffman