ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA

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Welcome Home! We are glad you are with us today.
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July 5, 2026 – 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Sat July 4, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun July 5, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship
Tues July 7, 3:15pm – **Helping Harvest** Food Distribution at Ss C&H

Sat July 11, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun July 12, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship. ***Prosphora Workshop*** *at the end of Coffee Hour.*
Tues July 14, 6pm – (SsC&H) Vesperal (Evening) Liturgy for Ss Julitta & Cyricus *at Ss. Constantine & Helen (Fr John serving)*

Sat July 18, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun July 19, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship. Knoebel's Picnic, *sponsored by the Harrisburg Chapter of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.*

Sat July 25, 4pm – **No Vespers**
Sun July 26, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship (Fr Edward Hughes)

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel / the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / "Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting 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) Kontakion for the Resurrection (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer as God / rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

(Now & ever) To 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: Romans 10:1–10

Brethren: My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 8:28–9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Announcements

Mary's Shelter is seeking donations of gently-worn shoes (or even new shoes), for any age. Shoes can be dropped off at Mary's Shelter, 615 Kenhorst Blvd, Reading.

Reading Hospital is seeking daytime volunteers for its "No One Dies Alone" program to remain at bedside with patients at end-of-life. "Volunteers receive comprehensive training and are asked only to offer their time and presence by sitting quietly with patients, reading to them, or simply offering a hand to hold." Volunteers must be 18 and submit to a background check. Please let Fr John know if you are interested.

Prayers

The newly-departed: John Frimenko (5/6).

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

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.

Attendance

Sun 5/ 24 Liturgy: 44 (37 A, 7 C)
Sun 5/31 Liturgy: 32 (27 A, 5 C)
Sun 6/7 Liturgy: 28
Sat 6/13 Vespers: 9
Sun 6/14 Liturgy: 29 (28 A, 1 C)
Sat 6/20 Vespers: 7
Tues 6/23 Vespers: 5
Wed 6/24 Liturgy: 6
Sun 6/28 Liturgy: 39
Mon 6/29 Liturgy: 5

Social Hour & Church Cleanup Schedule

	Social Hour	**Church Clean-up**
July 5	Tina Gurnavage & Marcia Lutz	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
July 12	Peggy Hay & Traci Weinstein	Tina Gurnavage & Stephanie Drosdak
July 19	Kathy Wanenchak & Stephanie Selis	John Lorchak & Phyllis Kawood
July 26	Elaine Dougherty & Karin Holm	Marie Drosdak & Traci Weinstein

Aug 1 - 14: Dormition Fast

Aug 2	Haven Black & Brad Bosch	Russ & Peggy Hay
Aug 9	Vicky McDonnell & Phyllis Kawood	Kyle & Daria Teter
Aug 16	Marie Drosdak & Stephanie Drosdak	Eugene & Kathy Wanenchak
Aug 23	Karen Sichak & Becky Kauffman	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
Aug 30	Daria Teter & Marina Long	Brad & Becky Kauffman

The parish that receives converts must be willing to examine whether it is actually a community. It cannot merely be a congregation of people doing parallel individual piety in the same building. It cannot be an ethnic country club with icons. If there is no coffee, no shared meals, no events, no openness, no genuine mutual knowledge among parishioners (or only among some and not others) — if there is nothing the Liturgy can spill into — then the convert who was promised a village will find only a beautiful service and a parking lot. Converts who arrive with energy and longing to belong cannot be left standing idle at the edge of parish life, watching from a distance while an established inner circle does everything. Somewhere a trashcan needs emptying. A dish to wash. An elderly person to give a ride to. A task that is genuinely theirs. Not busywork and not a test of commitment. Real physical participation is how belonging is built, and belonging cannot be built in a vacuum.

This means longstanding parishioners need to think concretely and deliberately on how to integrate new converts. Doing coffee hour? Invite that new convert couple to bring the napkins and silverware. Parish work day? Say something to that newly chrismated guy with a truck... These are not administrative details. They are the architecture of community. They are the slots into which a new person or family can step in and, in stepping, become someone the parish knows and needs. A convert who has been given a job, however small, has been given a place. A convert left without one will eventually stop coming, quietly, and no one will quite know why.

– Martin Myers, "On Orthodox Formation & Convert Burnout", *Fractology*, June 1, 2026.

The Church is like a ship. One person is sleeping, while another is just hanging around. The ship proceeds on its course. Another person is struggling, fighting above with the waves. All together they move forward. It is enough that you are within the Church. For this reason see that you are at the services. Do not be absent.

- St Paisios of Mount Athos

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.*