ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA

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August 2, 2026 – 9th Sunday After Pentecost

Translation of the Relics of the First-Martyr and Archdeacon, Stephen

The Dormition Fast begins August 1 and ends with the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, on August 15.

Sat Aug 1, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Aug 2, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship
Tues Aug 4, 3:15pm – Helping Harvest Food Distribution at Ss C&H

August 6 is the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.
Wed Aug 5, 6pm – Festal Great Vespers
Thurs Aug 6, 9am – Festal Divine Liturgy.
Blessing of First-Fruits at both Vespers and Liturgy.

August 9 is our "Summer" Altar Feast, for St Herman of Alaska.
Sat Aug 8, 4pm – Festal Vigil
Sun Aug 9, 9am – Festal Divine Liturgy

August 15 is the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God.
Fri Aug 14, 6pm – Festal Great Vespers
Sat Aug 15, 9am – Festal Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Fragrant Herbs and Flowers

Sat Aug 15, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Aug 16, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship

Hymns of the Day

Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

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.

Troparion for St Stephen (Tone 4)

Your relics have risen from the depths of the earth, / like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation. / The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them, / dutifully honors you, O Protomartyr Stephen. // Preserve us from error and heresy by your intercession!

Kontakion for the Resurrection (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

(Glory) Kontakion for St Stephen (Tone 6)

You were the first to be sown on the earth by the Heavenly Husbandman, O all-praised one, / and were the first to shed your blood on the earth for Christ, O blessed one. / You were the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven, // O Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.

(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: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Brethren: We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

At that time Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come."

And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Prayers

The newly-departed: Fr Alexandar Haig (6/25). John Frimenko (5/6). Robert Eckert (7/21) and Robert Lewen (7/30) (who are both Abp. Mark's brothers-in-law).

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, Sheridan Klippel.

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

Announcements

TODAY, August 2, is the last day to donate shoes for Mary's Shelter. The shoes will be taken over this week.

Shillington Memorial Blood Drive – Wed Aug 19, 1pm-7pm, at the Shillington Fire Co., 221 Catherine Street. Must sign up in advance. For more info: sthermanshillington.org/ShillingtonBloodDrive

We enter into communion with God through love, which means love for all around us without exception, and especially our enemies and those who hate us. Until we are ready to love with very love with which God has loved us in Jesus — who is the Son of his love — by the Holy Spirit who has been poured out into our hearts, we will never know God. If you allow God's love to penetrate into the marrow of your bones, you'll get a fire in your bones and then you can love with his love. Pray every day like a baby bird, wide-mouthed begging, full of absolute trust, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. St. Seraphim says that the whole spiritual life is acquiring the Holy Spirit. Ask. Seek. Knock. God can't resist expectant, trusting, persevering faith.

– Fr. Thomas Hopko

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, Christina Monarek	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

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.*