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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August 23, 2026 – 12th Sunday After Pentecost
Leave-taking of the Dormition of the Mother of God

Sat Aug 22: 125th Anniversary of St Mary's Orthodox Church in Saint Clair, PA
Sat Aug 22, 4pm – NO VESPERS
Sun Aug 23, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship

August 29 is the Solemn Feast of the Beheading of St John the Baptist.
Fri Aug 28, 6pm – Great Vespers
Sat Aug 29, 9am – Divine Liturgy

Saturday August 29 is a strict fast day (see announcements)

Sat Aug 29, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Aug 30, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship

Hymns of the Day

Troparion 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 Dormition (Tone 1)

In giving birth you preserved your virginity. / In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / You were translated to life O Mother of Life, // and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

(Glory) Kontakion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)

On this day, Thou didst rise from the tomb, / O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day, Adam exults as Eve rejoices. // With the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

(Now & ever) for Dormition (Tone 2)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, // she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Instead of "It is truly meet"

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, / were struck with wonder, // seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in you, / O Pure Virgin: / for birthgiving remains virginal, / and life is united to death; / a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, // you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

Today's Scripture

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren: I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came and said to Jesus, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Prayers

The newly-departed: Fr. John Charest (8/11). 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, Mat. Alexandra Black, Bernard Kusior, Nina Fatula, Gloria Spitko, Jessica (Philothea) Sullivan & infant Lucas, Richard Kawood, Peggy Hay, Christopher Mershon.

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

In honor and memory of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John, a very strict fast is observed all day on August 29 (Saturday), the memorial of his beheading and martyrdom. On this day, in addition to observing a Lent-like fast, we also do not eat from or serve food on platters. *However, as always, our fasting is not a cause for division, boasting, or scorn.*

Attendance

Sun Jul 19 Liturgy: 33	Sat Aug 8 Vigil: 20
Sun Jul 19 Liturgy: 33	Sun Aug 9 Liturgy: 32
Sun Aug 2 Liturgy: 33	Sun Aug 16 Liturgy: 34

"A person often runs away from themselves because they are afraid of what they will find in their depths. But if we look deeper, we will find God there, patiently waiting for us to surrender our wounds and pain to Him. Do not be afraid of the inner struggle. Your wounds and traumas may seem like insurmountable obstacles, but every struggle is an opportunity for God's grace to work in you. Every time you face your fear, God is there with you."
– St Ephrem the Syrian

Freely Thou hast given me Thy Body for my food, O Thou who art a fire consuming the unworthy. Consume me not, O my Creator, but instead enter into my members, my veins, my heart. Consume the thorns of my transgressions. Cleanse my soul and sanctify my reasonings. Make firm my knees and body. Illumine my five senses. Nail me to the fear of Thee. Always protect, guard, and keep me from soul-destroying words and deeds. Cleanse me, purify me, and adorn me. Give me understanding and illumination. Show me to be a temple of Thy One Spirit, and not the home of many sins. May every evil thing, every carnal passion, flee from me as from a fire as I become Thy tabernacle through communion. I offer Thee as intercessors all the saints: the leaders of the bodiless hosts, Thy Forerunner, the wise apostles, and Thy pure and blameless Mother. Accept their prayers in Thy love, O my Christ, and make me, Thy servant, a child of light. For Thou art the only Sanctification and Light of our souls, O Good One, and to Thee, our Master and God, we ascribe glory day by day.

– a Prayer After Communion, of St. Simeon Metaphrastes

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!*

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.*