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 30, 2026 – 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Afterfeast of the Beheading of St John the Baptist

Sat Aug 29, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Aug 30, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship. *Prayers for the beginning of the school year. After coffee hour: Akathist to St Luke of Simferopol.*

Tues Sept 1, 3:15pm – Helping Harvest Food Distribution at Ss C&H

Sat Sept 5, 4pm – Great Vespers & confessions
Sun Sept 6, 9am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship

September 8 is the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God.
Mon Sept 7, 6pm – Festal Great Vespers
Tues Sept 8, 9am – Festal Divine Liturgy

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 John the Baptist (Tone 2)

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise. / As for you, O Baptist, the Lord's witness is enough. / Indeed, you were greater than the Prophets, / since you baptized in the waters the One they could only announce. / You have fought for the sake of truth and proclaimed to those in hades / that the God Who appeared in the flesh has taken away the sin of the world, // and has given to us great mercy.

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!

(Glory) Kontakion for the Beheading of St John (Tone 5)

The beheading of the Baptist was an act of divine providence, / The occasion for him to announce the coming of the Savior to the souls in Hades. / Let Herodias lament and weep, / for she has asked for murder, // preferring this earthly life to eternal life and the law of God.

(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 16:13-24

Brethren: Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the first-fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: *'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'* ?"

Prayers

The newly-departed: Fr. John Charest (8/11). Robert Eckert (7/21) and Robert Lewen (7/30). ***Anniversaries:*** Abp. Dimitri of Dallas & the South (8/28/2011). Fr. Sergei Glagolev (9/1/2021). Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky (9/2/1990).

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, Christina Monarek.

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

Social Hour & Church Cleanup Schedule

(Subject to change)

	Social Hour	**Church Clean-up**
Sept 6	Tina Gurnavage & Marcia Lutz	Marie Drosdak & Traci Weinstein
Sept 13	Kathy Wanenchak & Stephanie Selis	Tina Gurnavage & Stephanie Drosdak
Sept 20	Elaine Dougherty & Karin Holm	John Lorchak & Phyllis Kawood
Sept 27	Christina Monarek & Natalya Borobina	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
Oct 4	Peggy Hay & Traci Weinstein	Kyle & Daria Teter
Oct 11	Vicky McDonnell & Phyllis Kawood	Eugene & Kathy Wanenchak
Oct 18	Marie Drosdak & Stephanie Drosdak	Marie Drosdak & John Waselus
Oct 25	Karen Sichak & Becky Kauffman	Russ & Peggy Hay
Nov 1	Daria Teter & Marina Long	Brad & Becky Kauffman

"There is a temptation to reduce Orthodoxy, especially among young male converts, to a rational system of doctrines and dogmas, canons and rituals. We get all excited about the new things we are learning, and about how far superior they are to the Catholic and Protestant systems of Christian thought, or to secular and non-Christian philosophy. But because we are not mature in the Faith, we are off balance.

All these things, doctrines, dogmas, canons and so forth, are there in order to support one primary purpose: the transformation of our souls in theosis, in short, salvation. Just because you have the right doctrine, pure dogmas and strict observance of the canons does not mean that you are deified. In fact, the great spiritual fathers all say that knowledge puffs up, inflates our ego, and inflames our passions. These things will not save you. They are the *context* for the spiritual struggle but are not its *content*.

If we judge others, condemn others, criticize others and generally exalt ourselves, we are simply the new Pharisees. You can have perfect obedience to all the rules, and if you do not love your neighbor, they condemn you. You can fast perfectly, and if you judge and criticize your neighbor, you condemn yourself.

If you judge and criticize the Roman Catholics or the Protestants and their faith, and decide they are all going to hell, you have condemned yourself. It is not for us to judge anyone else's faith or salvation. We need to worry about ourselves, and our own salvation. We must not only mercilessly persecute hypocrisy within ourselves, but any kind of arrogance, selfishness, self-centeredness, and egotism. Otherwise, we make the truth into a lie, because we take what is good and holy, and use it to not only destroy others, but inflate our own egos. If you don't have love, St Paul says, you are a sounding gong or clanging cymbal.

The Fathers tell us, over and over, that until we have achieved a substantial degree of purification from the passions, we must not touch theology. In the early Church, the three-year period of catechesis was primarily devoted to moral teaching from the Old Testament. You have to live Orthodox to understand the Faith."

– Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen)

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.*