

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, December 13, 2015 | 28th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Sunday of the Forefathers. Repose of Venerable
Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1837)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual St Herman's Advent Lecture hosted by St Stephen Cathedral located at 8598 Verree Road in Philadelphia, PA. Time: 4:00PM!
[See Calendar of Events in this bulletin for details]

Wednesday: December 16 – Christmas church decorating and Christmas tree trimming! Time: 10AM to 2PM. Please see either Matt Andrews or Debbie Kavalkovich today for decorating details!

Saturday: December 19 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: December 20 – Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ.
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ.
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (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 firstborn of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 2 – Forefathers)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Troparion (Tone 7 – Saint Herman)

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, / guiding all men to the heavenly Kingdom; / teacher and apostle of the True Faith; / intercessor and defender of the oppressed; / adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: / Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, / pray to our Lord Jesus Christ // for the salvation of our souls!

Kontakion (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.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Herman)

The eternal light of Christ our Savior / guided thee, O blessed Father Herman, / on thine evangelical journey to America / to proclaim the Gospel of peace. / Now thou standest before the throne of glory; / intercede for thy land and its people: // peace for the world and salvation for our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Forefathers)

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / you were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: / “Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Songs of our Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever! v. For Thou are just in all that Thou has done for us!

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new

man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)

v. They called to the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper." "

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

Biography of the Very Reverend Mark W Koczak. The resume and biography of our parish priest, Archpriest Mark, are posted on the bulletin boards in the back of the church and in the church basement. This same information is also posted on the parish website under the section "About Us", then scroll down to the "Administration" area. Please take a moment and read about Father Mark's experiences and accomplishments.

Thank You ALL!!! The parish wishes to "Thank" all of those who spent some of their time yesterday cleaning the inside of the Church. The Church and basement look beautiful. May God Grant You All Many Blessed Years!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshipping with us today. A warm welcome to all of our visitors and guest who have joined us today in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Nativity Lent Season:

The next 40 Days for Life has begun for the 40 days of Lent (Nativity). Meanwhile the killing continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can't speak for themselves.

Information:

- * Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- * Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- * Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>

- * Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- * Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
- * Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
- * It's the belly of the beast! There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. They offer support to mothers and fathers who would like an alternative to abortion but do not know where to turn. They encourage healing for families who have chosen abortion and have a deep feeling of sadness and regret. Their message is one of compassion and love for all people as well as hope for an end to this "culture of death" which we have embraced in our world.

Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers! We are continuing to collect for Christmas flowers throughout the month of December. There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Christmas flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or to a member of the parish council for your offering. Thank you for your support!

Holiday Basket Brigade! The parish has begun accepting donations for the Holiday Basket Brigade. We are now collecting for Christmas items. The parish is providing at least one (1) basket to a family in the community at this time. We will have a list available of those items to be donated and the list will be attached to the care box. The Christmas Basket will be delivered on next Sunday, December 20th after Divine Liturgy!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

John Spack, Michael Spack Jr, Simon Herbert, Mary Herbert, Daniel Herbert, Benjamin Bava, offered by M/M Herbert

Daria LeRoy offered by sister Nina Patterson

Albrecht Family offered by Emelie Albrecht

Family and Friends offered by M/M Rick LeRoy

Danielle Bartholf offered by Anastasia Kavalkovich

Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich and Family

Marc Ferguson offered by sister Debbie Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Stephen Slivka, John O'Shura, Julia Mohnach, John Slivka, Mary Slivka, Helen Varonko offered by M/M Herbert

John Pellack, Mary Koran and Paul Koran offered by Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Albert Kavalkovich, Anastasia Kavalkovich; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Robert Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; Father John Udics; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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BULLETIN INFO:

If you did not pick up a bulletin because there was none left on the Tetrapod, don't worry...a copy can be made. Please inform Dan Herbert or one of the parish council members that you would like that week's bulletin and a copy will be made for you. We also keep any extra bulletins back in the vestibule from the past three (3) months. They are located on the shelf where the prosfora is placed.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, bulletins since June 2009 are posted on the parish website for your convenience. Thank you!

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. The sheets have been pretty bare over the past few weeks. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Youth Fund
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (November/December)

	<u>Week of Nov 30 to Dec 6</u>	<u>November Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	36	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$1,826.00	\$11,237.55
Funds Out:	\$4,400.04	\$ 5,646.80
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$2,574.04)	\$5,590.75

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

*[Note: Today's readings for Saint Herman are as follows:
Epistle – Galatians 5:22–6:2 and Gospel – Luke 6:17-23]*

Calendar of Events

TODAY (December 13th): Annual Saint Herman's Advent Lecture hosted by Saint Stephen's Cathedral beginning at 4:00PM.

Topic: Dealing with Despondency: The Letters of St John Chrysostom to St Olympia the Deaconess. Lecturer: Dr. David Ford, PhD., a professor of Church History at St. Tikhon's Seminary. He would like to share with us the wisdom of this famous saint which is contained in the letters of St. John to St. Olympia, which he wrote while in exile. Saint Stephen's Cathedral is located at 8598 Verree Rd. - Philadelphia, PA 19111

Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree - Wednesday, December 16th. Time 10AM to 2PM. Please see either Debbie Kavalkovich or Matthew Andrews today regarding the detail schedule of decorating the church and Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Thursday, December 24th – Time: 3:00PM As discussed at last week's General Parish Meeting, Christmas Eve services of Great Complines and a condensed version of Matins is scheduled for 3:00PM! Please make every effort to attend this service on the eve of Christ's Birth!

The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ Service Friday, December 25th – Hours: 9:40AM and Liturgy: 10:00AM

Summary of General Parish Meeting from Sunday, December 6

A general parish meeting was held last Sunday with 22 parishioners and guest in attendance. Matthew Andrews, Parish President, presented his report summarizing the past year which included 1) parish status and the events over this past summer, 2) parish property and the current conditions of buildings, and 3) tree trimming around church and conditions of all the roofs of all the buildings.

Fr Mark Kozak, who will present his report during the annual parish meeting in January, discussed 1) the Philadelphia Deanery presentation on November 22 regarding Diocese By-Laws and the Diocese transition to proportional giving, and 2) status of icons within the parish.

Two motions were passed with each motion to establish a committee. A Real Estate Property Committee will be established to strategize ways to improve buildings on the church property and potential rental of buildings. An Icon Committee will be established to inventory and identify those icons around the parish and those not visible being mounted along the church walls.

The Annual Parish Meeting is set for Sunday, January 24 after Liturgy!



Rest of the Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America [December 13th]

The August 9, 2015 Sunday Parish Bulletin provided the story of Father Herman's Way of Life to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of His Glorification. Today's bulletin will include The First Mission to America, and The New Valaam – Spruce Island.

The First Mission To America - In the second half of the eighteenth century the borders of Holy Russia expanded to the north. In those years, Russian merchants discovered the Aleutian Islands which formed in the Pacific Ocean a chain from the eastern shores of Kamchatka to the western

shores of North America. With the opening of these islands there was revealed the sacred necessity to illumine with the light of the Gospel the native inhabitants. With the blessing of the Holy Synod, Metropolitan Gabriel gave to the Elder Nazarius the task of selecting capable persons from the brethren of Valaam for this holy endeavor. Ten men were selected, and among them was Father Herman. The chosen men left Valaam for the place of their great appointment in 1793. The members of this historical mission were: Archimandrite Joseph (Bolotoff), Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, Athanasius, Stephen and Nectarius, Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Joasaph, and Herman.

As a result of the holy zeal of the preachers the light of the evangelic sermon quickly poured out among the sons of Russia, and several thousand pagans accepted Christianity. A school for the education of newly-baptized children was organized, and a church was built at the place where the missionaries lived. But by the inscrutable providence of God the general progress of the mission was unsatisfactory. After five years of very productive labor, Archimandrite Joasaph, who had just been elevated to the rank of bishop, was drowned with his party. (This occurred on the Pacific Ocean between Kamchatka and the Aleutian Islands. The ship, Phoenix, one of the first sea-going ships built in Alaska, sailed from Okhotsk carrying the first Bishop for the American Mission and his party. The Phoenix was caught in one of the many storms which periodically sweep the northern Pacific, and the ship and all hands perished together with Bishop Joasaph and his party.) Before this the zealous Hieromonk Juvenal was granted the martyr's crown. The others died one after another until in the end only Father Herman remained. The Lord permitted him to labor longer than any of his brethren in the apostolic task of enlightening the Aleutians.

The New Valaam – Spruce Island - In America Father Herman chose as his place of habitation Spruce Island, which he called New Valaam. This island is separated by a strait about a mile and a quarter wide from Kodiak Island on which had been built a wooden monastery for the residence of the members of the mission, and a wooden church dedicated to the Resurrection of the Savior. (New Valaam was named for Valaam on Lake Ladoga, the monastery from which Father Herman came to America. It is interesting to note that Valaam is also located on an island, although, this island is in a fresh water lake, whereas, Spruce Island is on the Pacific Ocean, although near other islands and the Alaskan mainland.)

Spruce Island is not large, and is almost completely covered by a forest. Almost through its middle a small brook flows to the sea. Herman selected this picturesque island for the location of his hermitage. He dug a cave out of the ground with his own hands, and in it he lived his first full summer. For winter there was built for him a cell near the cave, in which he lived until his death. The cave was converted by him into a place for his burial. A wooden chapel, and a wooden house to be used as a schoolhouse and a guest house were built not too distant from his cell. A garden was laid out in front of his cell. For more than forty years Father Herman lived here.