

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, August 9, 2020 | 9th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Afterfeast of the Transfiguration

Glorification of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1970)
Apostle Matthias (ca. 63).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Reader – Mark Klus

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: August 11 – Bible Study at **6:30PM** in the church basement.
Social Distancing guidelines will be followed!

Friday: August 14 – Great Vespers at **6:30PM** for the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos! [Eve of the Parish Feast Day!]
[\[Please bring flowers \(herbal plants\) to be blessed after the service\]](#)

Saturday: August 15 - Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos! [Parish Feast Day!]
[\[Please bring flowers \(herbal plants\) to be blessed after the service\]](#)

Saturday: August 15 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: August 16 – Afterfeast of the Dormition
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (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 (Tone 7 – Afterfeast of Transfiguration)

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, / revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. / Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, / through the prayers of the Theotokos! // O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

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 8)

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

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 as 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 7 – Afterfeast of Transfiguration)

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God, / and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; / so that when they should behold Thee crucified, / they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, / and would proclaim to the world // that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Another Prokeimenon (Saint Herman) (Tone 7)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light / and thy judgement as the noon-day. [Tone 4]

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

For 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. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments
Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 6]
- v. Thy law is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my paths. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-34

And Immediately 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.

Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing in Tone 4:

Magnify, O my soul, / the Lord was transfigured on Mount Tabor! / Thy childbearing was without corruption; / God came forth from thy body clothed in flesh, and appeared on earth and dwelt among men. // Therefore we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings!
He turned the desert into pools of water, and a waterless land into streams of water. Alleluia (3x's)

[Note: Today's readings for Saint Herman of Alaska are as follows:

Epistle – Galatians 5:22-6:2 and Gospel – Luke 6:17-23

Epistle – 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 and Gospel – Matthew 10:23-31]

Announcements

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

Announcements

Now that the Fourth of July has passed, it is time for the next great American event...

“Getting ready to go Back to School” - Backpack Program (let’s hope so)

With this in mind, the parish is looking to put together ten backpacks this year. The parish **has already received donations of the ten backpacks themselves**. It is the school supplies that we are looking for donations.

Here is a list of school supply items we would like to include in the backpacks for those who wish to donate to this annual parish project:

- * Pencils * Colored Pencils * Pencil Cases * Erasers * Folders
- * Binders * Rulers * Notebooks * Index Cards (3 1/2 x 5)

The Deadline for donating supplies is Next Sunday, August 16! We then need to put together the backpack supplies and forward them to the educational group in a timely manner so that the school children receive the backpacks by the start of the school year. For more information, please see one of the Parish Council members or Matushka Janine McCartney. Thank You!

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Wool Donations:

The Parish is now accepting either actual donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool to knit blankets and hats. Please see Dr. Janine McCartney for more details on this project!

The Annual Dining Out in Delaware has been cancelled for this year due to the Covid19 restrictions on bars and restaurants along with the social distancing guidelines. Hopefully we can all gather together next year and celebrate is annual social outing event for the parish!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Jane Holefelder offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Albert Kavalkovich and Mary Popelak offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

Michael and Mary Popelak offered by SMSGT Andrew & Tracy Devito

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 7/26/20:

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed servant of God Albert Kavalkovich
(Tuesday, July 7). May His Memory Be Eternal

+ Newly Departed handmaiden of God Mary Popelak
(Saturday, July 4). May Her Memory Be Eternal

+ Newly Departed Donald (Tish Berchtold's father) (July 14), the Brown Family; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Heather Parsells and her unborn child; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Announcements (cont.)

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

*******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 (July/August)

Week of Sun Jul 26 to Sat Aug 1

July Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	45	37 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,358.08	\$12,962.01
Funds Out:	\$ 1,500.00	\$79,205.67
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 858.08	(\$66,243.66)
<i>[Roof Repair expenditures for July totaled around \$74,700]</i>		

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich 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.

Calendar of Events

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2nd Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
- 2nd Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3rd Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4th Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (Aug 9)	Next Week (Aug 16)
3rd Hour :	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	John Spack
6th Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	David Albrecht
Epistle:	Mark Klus & Simon Herbert	Subdeacon Daniel K & Lena Helen

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Aug 9): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn
(Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Barbara Andrews, Sheba Patton).

Next Week (Aug 16): Saint Herman of Alaska
(Heather & Peter Parsells, Dr Gale Rutan & Joseph Francis)

(NOTE: The parish has now resumed the Fellowship Coffee Hour in its normal fashion and is continuing with the Team cycle).

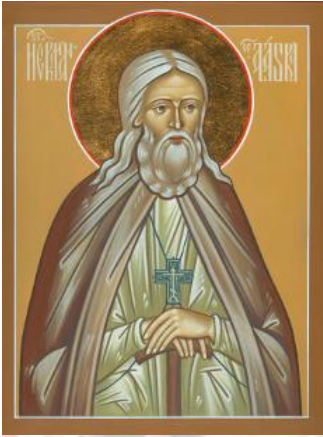
Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in August.

Tuesday, August 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement.

Friday, August 14 – Great Vespers with Litya at 6:30PM for the Dormition of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos!

Saturday, August 15 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for the Dormition of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos! [Parish Feast Day!]

Sunday, August 30 – Quarterly Property Committee Meeting!



Glorification of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America [August 9th]

Today, the Church celebrates the *50th Anniversary* of the Glorification of the venerable Herman of Alaska. Due to the length and space provided in the bulletin, the following is an excerpt of the life of Saint Herman.

Father Herman's Way of Life

Father Herman himself spaded the garden, planted potatoes and cabbage and various vegetables in it. For winter, he preserved mushrooms, salting or drying them. The salt was obtained by him from ocean water. It is said that a wicker basket in which the Elder carried seaweed from the shore, was so large that it was difficult for one person to carry.

The seaweed was used for fertilizing the soil. But to the astonishment of all, Father Herman carried a basket filled with seaweed for a long distance without any help at all. By chance his disciple, Gerasim, saw him one winter night carrying a large log which normally would be carried by four men; and he was bare footed. Thus worked the Elder, and everything that he acquired as a result of his immeasurable labors was used for the feeding and clothing of orphans and also for books for his students.

His clothes were the same for winter as for summer. He did not wear a shirt; instead he wore a smock of deer skin, which he did not take off for several years at a time, nor did he change it, so that the fur in it was completely worn away, and the leather became glossy. Then there were his boots or shoes, cassock (podrasnik), an ancient and faded out cassock (riasa) full of patchwork, and his headdress (klobuk). He went everywhere in these clothes, and at all times; in the rain, in snowstorms, and during the coldest freezing weather. In this, Father Herman followed the example of many Eastern Ascetic Fathers and Monks who showed the greatest concern for the welfare and needs of others. Yet, they themselves wore the oldest possible clothes to show their great humility before God, and their detachment from worldly things.

A small bench covered with a time-worn deerskin served as Father Herman's bed. He used two bricks for a pillow; these were hidden from visitors by a skin or a shirt. There was no blanket. Instead, he covered himself with a wooden board which lay on the stove. This board Father Herman himself called his blanket, and he willed that it be used to cover his remains; it was as long as he was tall. "During my stay in the cell of Father Herman," writes the creole Constantine Larionov, "I, a sinner, sat on his 'blanket'-and I consider this the acme of my fortune!" ('creole' is the name by which the Russians referred to the children of mixed marriages of native Indians of Alaska, Eskimo and Aleuts with Russians.)

On the occasions when Father Herman was the guest of administrators of the American Company and in the course of their soul-saving talks he sat up with them until midnight. He never spent the night with them, but regardless of the weather he always returned to his hermitage. If for some extraordinary reason it was necessary for him to spend the night away from his cell, then in the morning the bed which had been prepared for him would be found untouched; the Elder not having slept at all. The same was true in his hermitage where having spent the night in talks, he never rested.

The Elder ate very little. As a guest, he scarcely tasted the food, and remained without dinner. In his cell his dinner consisted of a very small portion of a small fish or some vegetables. His body, emaciated as a result of his labors, his vigils, and fasting, was crushed by chains which weighed about sixteen pounds. These chains are kept to this day in the chapel. Telling of these deeds of Father Herman, his disciple, the Aleut Ignaty Aligyaga, added, "Yes, Apa led a very hard life, and no one can imitate his life!" (The Aleutian word "Apa" means Elder or grandfather, and it is a name indicative of the great affection in which he was held).

Our writing of the incidents in the life of the Elder deal, so to speak, with the external aspects of his labor. "His most important works," says the Bishop Peter, "were his exercises in spiritual endeavor in his isolated cell where no one saw him, but outside the cell they heard him singing and celebrating services to God according to the monastic rule." This witness of the Bishop is supported by the following answers of Father Herman, himself: "How do you manage to live alone in the forest, Father Herman? Don't you ever become lonesome?" He answered, "No I am not there alone! God is here, as God is everywhere. The Holy Angels are there. With whom is it better to talk, with people, or with Angels? Most certainly with Angels."