

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, December 13, 2020 | 27th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2– Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1837)

Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes (4th c.)

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

Today: The Deacon's Advent Project – “Coats for the Needy”!
[The Final Day that Coat Donations will be accepted]

Saturday: December 19 – Saturday Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**

Saturday: December 19 – “Mini” indoor parish cleaning after Liturgy

Saturday: December 19 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: December 20 – Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Thursday: December 24 – Vespers with the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great at **9:30AM.**

Thursday: December 24 – Great Complines & Matins at **5:00PM.**

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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 - Forefathers)

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – Saint Herman)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

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)
v. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. [TONE 6]
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)

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

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

As a result of the new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials, the following changes will occur at the parish until at least the end of December 2020:

- * NO coffee hour after services;
- * NO Sunday school in church basement (ZOOM classes to be held instead); and
- * Father will serve a Saturday Divine Liturgy for those who wish to attend Liturgy in a smaller gathering. Now, if the Saturday Divine Liturgy attendance reaches levels near the maximum restriction amount, the parish may...repeat may, split the parishioners into two grouping with one group attending on Saturday and the other attending on Sunday.

ALSO, due to the Saturday Divine Liturgy being held in December, the parish will have its Final “mini” church cleaning days in the afternoon on Sat. the 19 & Sun. 20.

New Community Advent Project: Deacon’s Advent Project - Coats for the Homeless and Needy – December 2020! FINAL DAY to bring in coats to Deacon Michael & Matushka Janine is TODAY!

Holy Assumption will be collecting used coats in good condition for Adults who are homeless and needy families. The coats will be going to Touch NJ Food Pantry and the St. Paul’s Soup and Song Food Pantry for the Homeless.

If you are able to donate any coats, the adult coats for the Homeless should be Adult sizes, women and men. The coats for the needy families should be Men and Women Adult sizes and coats for children should be children and toddler sizes. Please ensure that the coats are in good condition. We thank you for your generosity in advance. We will be distributing the coats to Mother Catherine on **TODAY**. Deacon Michael would like you to donate used coats that you have in your closet and are not using anymore for this project. The giving action is to give any extra you have to the poor, needy and homeless. Thank you once again!

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!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Frank B offered by David Pellack
Family members offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Benjamin and Olga Macalush offered by M/M Herbert
Sophie Herbert, Joseph Herbert, John O'Shura offered by M/M Herbert
John Wanenchak offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/6/20:

Two Small Votive Crosses – Memory of parents John & Margaret Pellack
offered by the Pellack and Walker Families

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ His Eminence Archbishop David (Mahaffey) who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, November 27. May His Memory Be Eternal! Vetchnaya Pamyat!

Debbie Kavalkovich and the Ferguson Family on the falling asleep of her brother Marc; Sharon Wanenchak Orr, her husband James, and for Michael, Eugene, Robert, and Timothy Wanenchak on the falling asleep of her father and their brother John; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Darcy Stafford and her unborn child; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of December 6):

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 (November/December)

Week of Sun Nov 29 to Sat Dec 5

November Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	32	34 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 1,510.00	\$25,651.17
Funds Out:	\$ 1,508.27	\$34,799.56
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1.73	(\$ 9,148.39)

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:

	<u>Today (Dec 13)</u>	<u>Next Week (Dec 20)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Michael Wanenchak	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Lena Helen
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Reader Mark Klus	David Albrecht

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

As a result of new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials on Monday, November 16 which went into effect on Friday, November 20, the formal coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy has been suspended until further notice.

Once city officials ease restrictions relating to Covid, coffee hour will then resume.

When the coffee hour resumes (currently not until at least January 2021), a new coffee schedule with new team parishioners will be in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1.

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

Saturdays in December 2020 – Divine Liturgy @ 10:00AM

Today – Repose of Saint Herman of Alaska

Today – The Deacon’s Advent Project – “Coats for the Needy”!
(The Final Day Coat Donations will be accepted)

Saturday, December 19 – “Mini” Indoor Parish Cleaning & Decorating

Thursday, December 24 – Eve of Nativity Service - Vespers with Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great at **9:30AM**

Thursday, December 24 – Eve of Nativity Service - Great Complines and Matins at **5:00PM**



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

The August 9, 2020 Sunday Parish Bulletin provided the story of Father Herman's Way of Life to commemorate the 50th 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.