

ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

MARCH 2026

Vol. 2 issue 3



News and Announcements

March Services

Please note that services will be held in the parish hall while construction on the addition is taking place. While the fellowship hall is not as comfortable or beautiful as the Temple, we look forward with joy to celebrating the Divine Liturgy very soon in an expanded space. As Met. Jonah has called it, this is our “tabernacle in the wilderness season”—let’s embrace it and joyfully support each other as we worship together in the parish hall. ***Please note that on Saturday, March 7 there will be no vigil or confessions.***

New Youth Catechism Class

Sundays after liturgy, students ages 16 and up are invited to attend a catechism class geared for the needs of young people. Please order the book *Catechism* by Met. Hilarion Alfeyev from the Monastery. There will be weekly readings in the New Testament and the Catechism books to aid students along the way.

Orthodox Coffee Signal Group

Looking for a place to field questions without getting into debates with unknown entities online? For Orthodox catechumens and inquirers ages 16 and up, and anyone else who wishes to join the discussion, See John Atkins at church, or shoot him an email to learn how to get involved. - john.atkins@john3v16.net

Read the Scriptures with Us!

Our Orthodox Study Bible reading group covers the entire Old Testament in 92 days, and the New Testament in 46 days! Currently 14 are striving together to read the Scriptures but would love for you to join! To join the Signal group, email John at john.atkins@john3v16.net.



GREAT LENT 2026

February 22	Sunday Vespers: Rite of Mutual Forgiveness Beginning of Great Lent
February 23	Clean Monday
March 1	First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy
March 8	Second Sunday of Great Lent: St. Gregory Palamas
March 15	Third Sunday of Great Lent: Ven. Precious Cross
March 22	Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: St. John Climacus
March 29	Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

Lenten Opportunity to Serve the Poor: March 28

Lent is the perfect opportunity to give alms and serve the poor. St. Herman’s has been working at the [Brisben Center](#) in Fredericksburg by serving a monthly breakfast on the last Saturday of the month. You are invited to serve with us and mark your calendars for the upcoming months, as you are able. (4.25, 5.23, 6.27, 7.25, and 8.29)

Thanks to all who Participated!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Chili cook-off and youth bake-off! We could not have done it without everyone who brought food or judged or enjoyed the fare! Let’s do it again next year!

Construction has Begun, Funds are Needed



The long-awaited expansion of St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church is finally underway! The foundation of the new Narthex and wings are down, and soon the walls and roof will be in place. Each week there will be new surprises for us, as progress will happen quickly.

Please pray for our Amish contractors (pictured above, with their permission). No doubt you are already, but please pray for our parish as we “tabernacle in the wilderness” by holding liturgy in the parish hall.

However, it is too soon to celebrate. While several generous donations have come for which we are most grateful, we are only 50% of the way to our goal of raising \$227,000, the full amount that will be needed to complete all the work. So far, we have raised \$111,000 from nine families in our parish. If you have been waiting to see what remained to be donated, now is your time to give.

Parishioners that have worked on, or who are monetarily donating to the expansion, will have the option to have their name placed on a plaque in the altar area next to the Proskomedia table so that they can be prayerfully commemorated as a founder, builder, or benefactor at every Liturgy. In addition, parishioners who are donating \$25,000 or more will have a plaque to commemorate “In Memory of” loved ones and we will dedicate an icon of a Saint of your choosing to be displayed in our church.

Remember to ***please prayerfully consider your finances before donating and remember your expansion donation should be in addition to what you regularly tithe as we still have to pay the priests and utilities.***

Mary April Washington is our fundraiser for the expansion effort, and you can contact her by email at orangeslice127@gmail.com for details on how you can donate.

You're getting warmer...

Mary April has set up this graphic reminder for us of how far we've come in raising funds but how far we still have to go. How fun will it be to reach the 100% mark? It will take all of us to make it to the top!



A Little Light Housekeeping

TLDR: ***Keep kids away from the construction site.***

No children are to be permitted at any time to play on or near the construction materials and equipment. No climbing, no king of the pile, no hide and seek. The construction site, materials and equipment is definitely LAVA.



O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Grant victory to the Orthodox Christians over their enemies.

Amen

St. Herman's Prayer Corner

Please send Met. Jonah the full name and general reason for intercessory prayer (such as health or illness, unemployment, family issues, military deployments, etc.) for his pastoral care. Only the names of the living and recently deceased will be included in the prayer list in the weekly bulletin. He also requests that the faithful who have requested intercessory prayers for various persons let him know when there is no longer a specific need for prayer, so that we may keep the list current.

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

Oh Lord and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of sloth, lust of power and idle talk.
prostration

Give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to thy servant.
prostration

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother: for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages.
prostration

Grant O Lord, Health and all things needful for the salvation of thy servants:

Metropolitan Paul and the brothers of the Kyiv Caves Lavra and the suffering, persecuted church in Ukraine. The persecuted Church and those suffering in the Holy Land, Archpriest Alexander, Abbot Tryphon, Hieroschemamonk Mefodii, Hieromonk Phillip, Priest Andrew, Priest Mark, Priest Alexander, Hieromonk Silouan, Reader Moses, Monk Alexei, Servants of God Benedict, Samuel, George, Brian, Anthony, Adam, Samuel, Nicholas, Handmaids of God Isadora, Sarah, Zacharoula, Photini, Maria, Maria, Stavroula, Svetlana, Koula, Joanna, Helen, Rebecca, Esther, Anna, Mary, Sophia, Macarius, Gabrielle

O Lord our God who dwellest in the heavens, and lookest down upon all thy works, look down upon thy servants, the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before thee and grant them a light yoke. Make them honorable members of thy Holy Church, and vouchsafe unto them the laver of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins, and the robe of incorruption, unto the knowledge of thee our True God.

Caleb, Luke, Krista, Allison, Riley, Nicholas, Ansley, Rebecca, Logan, Tiffany, Jonathan, Michael, Manuel, Sivili, John, Sarah, John, Madeline, Justin, Ian, Jack, Tasha, Jackson, Aaron, Corey, Landon, Ken, Zhaleh, Katherine

Grant, O Lord, forgiveness and eternal joy to thy servants who have fallen asleep, for whom we cry to thee in supplication: Jesus, all-merciful judge, vouchsafe thy servants the sweetness of paradise.

Contact Information

Website: www.sthermanorthodox.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1295 Stafford, VA 22555 Location:
60 Clifton Chapel Lane, Stafford, VA 22555
Rector Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen)
[email: metjonah@gmail.com](mailto:metjonah@gmail.com) phone: (214) 991.0867
Priest Alexander Laymon: anevsky54@gmail.com,
Priest Mark Grant: frmarkgrant@gmail.com
Archpriest Alexander Webster (retired):
chaplain.webster@gmail.com,
Hierodeacon Mark Sanford: hdn.mark@icloud.com
Treasurer Sue Diaz: treasurer@sthermanorthodox.org
Bulletin Announcements: Mary (Kelly) Mine
ckmine1969@gmail.com

Service Times during Lent

Sundays

9:30 am Hours and Divine Liturgy

Wednesdays

4pm Confession

5:30pm 9th Hour

6pm Presanctified Liturgy

Saturdays (except 3.8)

3pm Instruction of Inquirers and Catechumens

4pm Confession

5pm Vigil

