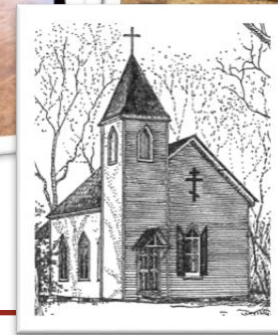


ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

JUNE 2026

Vol. 2 issue 4



News and Announcements

Working Together: An Expression of Community

As we close in on the final weeks of completing the main project of building the expansion of our chapel, this newsletter is dedicated to the message delivered by Met. Jonah on May 31 in which he poignantly expressed that ***the efforts made by our parish to build the chapel have been a beautiful expression of community. Together***, we raised the building and rebuilt the foundation and floor joists to support the growing number of members we have. ***Together***, we came together to help with the construction of the pavilion, which was conceived as an Eagle Scout project by one of our students and is dedicated to the loving memory of Andrew Geracoulis, a young parishioner whose loss is felt deeply by many in our parish. Finally, the current project has been attended to so faithfully ***TOGETHER***—by our current members and friends, parish council, and brotherhood. The donations have been many and generous. What remains in the upcoming weeks is to finish the interior floors and drywall, the exterior and interior painting, and to finalize the ADA compliant ramp, which proved to be more expensive than we originally planned for. The painting, floors, and drywall are dependent upon the labor of the brotherhood to complete, which is in itself a huge donation, and a considerable money saver. We are so grateful for all you have contributed through time and labor, and to George and Ramius for overseeing it all.

Vladyka has indicated that roughly another \$20,000 remains to be raised toward the initial sum of \$200,000 for the main project. Following that, there will be additional funds needed for the finish work, beautification of the interior, and grounds reclamation for additional parking and landscaping. These are things that will be works in progress, but will need to be funded, over and above the normal operating budget that keeps the priests paid and the lights on. ***“Now is the time to ‘dig deep’” were his words to us.***

We are a church who genuinely believes it is in the best interest of the parish to stay out of debt and to build what we need without members making longstanding financial commitments in order to fund a mortgage. This allows us to grow naturally and to avoid artificial programs intended to fundraise for a facility that we will grow into with time. This expansion is badly needed, and no doubt we will shortly outgrow it.

What digging deep means is that we may have to exercise some creativity to find the means to fund this last bit, whether that be a temporary reprioritizing of spending or maybe putting off a big purchase that is more of a want than a need. It may mean artists and artisans helping to raise funds in exciting ways by sharing their products to help raise money. It may mean a raffle and a barn dance, things that will not only raise funds, but will also strengthen our community by coming **together** for work and leisure. Truly, this project is a labor of love, and our St. Herman community is growing in both number and in the love of Christ. All of this is an expression of our love for our church, our clergy, and each other.

Please prayerfully consider the role you may play in helping St. Herman's to finish our expansion project. If you have already given once, twice or more, thank you so much. If you have been waiting to see how it goes, now is the time to act and give. If you are able to dig a little deeper and are willing, we are so grateful. If you are able to drive nails, paint, feed workers or otherwise contribute labor, we appreciate the gift of yourself. It takes all of us, and soon we will worship **TOGETHER** in the expanded temple!

Services and Events

Sundays 930am - Hours and liturgy followed by fellowship meal.

Wednesdays (except June 3 and 6)

530pm - Confessions

630pm - Vespers

Saturdays - 3pm Catechumen class, 530pm Great Vespers

Sunday confessions are not intended for pastoral counseling. Please consider the line behind you and keep your confessions brief. Please schedule individual time with a priest for counseling or longer confessions as your needs require.

A Note about Donations

If you are planning to make a donation to the building fund, remember that this is separate from regular giving. Regular tithes are necessary for paying the utilities and the priests' salaries. Please write "Building Fund" in the memo line of your check when you donate.

A Little Light Housekeeping

TLDR: Do not enter the construction site without an escort.

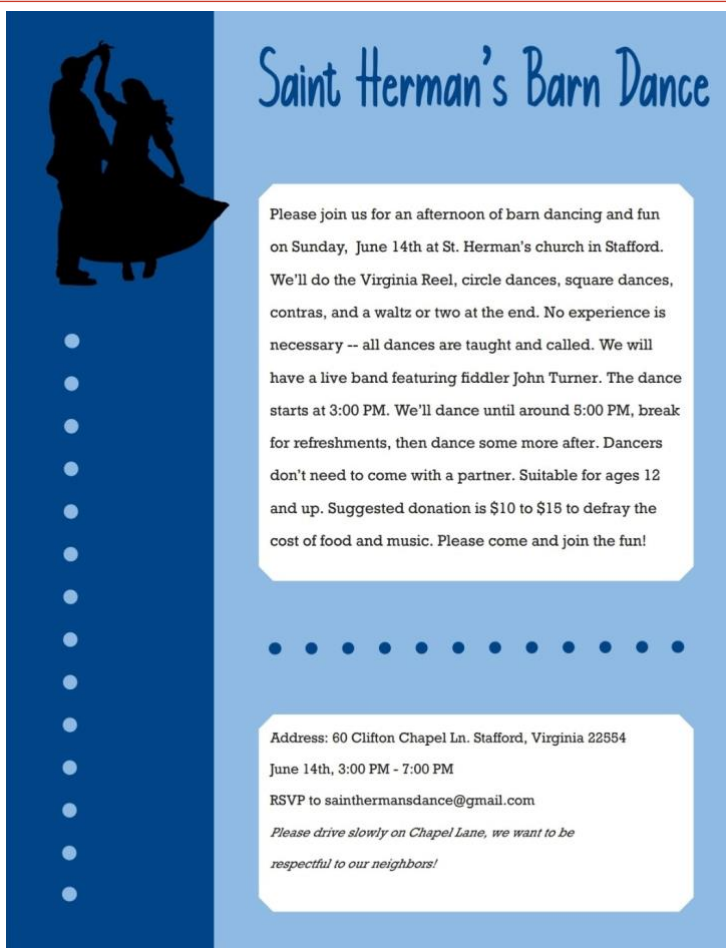
Please curb your curiosity and refrain from entering the chapel without a member who is familiar with the site, both for your safety and to prevent damage to unfinished work. If you must go in, please find Ramius, George, Fr. Dcn. Mark, or David to be escorted into the building. You may direct your questions about the project to them, as well.

TLDR: Take a trash bag home, please.

Don't forget that St. Herman's does not have a trash removal service. The trash bags by the door are to be taken home (don't leave in your car!) and disposed of in your home bins if you are able. Please help us out!

TLDR: Gold Star for our Kiddos!

A gold star is hereby awarded to all the children of the parish who are resisting the temptation to visit the playground before the end of services! You're doing great and you deserve high fives all around!



The poster features a blue background with a silhouette of a man and a woman dancing on the left. The title "Saint Herman's Barn Dance" is written in a blue, cursive font at the top. Below the title is a white box containing the event details. At the bottom, there is another white box with the address, date, time, and RSVP information. A decorative line of white dots separates the two text boxes.

Saint Herman's Barn Dance

Please join us for an afternoon of barn dancing and fun on Sunday, June 14th at St. Herman's church in Stafford. We'll do the Virginia Reel, circle dances, square dances, contras, and a waltz or two at the end. No experience is necessary -- all dances are taught and called. We will have a live band featuring fiddler John Turner. The dance starts at 3:00 PM. We'll dance until around 5:00 PM, break for refreshments, then dance some more after. Dancers don't need to come with a partner. Suitable for ages 12 and up. Suggested donation is \$10 to \$15 to defray the cost of food and music. Please come and join the fun!

Address: 60 Clifton Chapel Ln. Stafford, Virginia 22554
June 14th, 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
RSVP to sainthermansdance@gmail.com
Please drive slowly on Chapel Lane, we want to be respectful to our neighbors!

Regular Adult Catechism, Youth Catechism

Saturdays at 3pm in the fellowship hall basement and simultaneously on Zoom for legitimate absences. See John Atkins or Vladyka to be added to the list or connect via zoom. It is preferred that catechumens attend in person unless absolutely necessary.

Sundays after liturgy students ages 16 through young adult are invited to attend a catechism class geared for the needs of young people.

Tuesday Night Zoom Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 730pm via zoom. Please email Peter at dr.cloud@gmail.com to receive the link and pw and to be added to the list of participants. Our current discussion is a close examination of the Divine Liturgy, its text and context, meaning and importance. Recommended reading: *For the Life of the World* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

Orthodox Coffee Signal Group

Looking for a place to field questions with our clergy and established members? For Orthodox Christians, catechumens, and inquirers ages 16 and up, and anyone else who wishes to join the discussion, See John Atkins at church, or send 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

A Raffle? A Raffle!

A 50 / 50 Raffle to support the building fund will kick off on Sunday. Enter from June 7 - July 12!

\$10 - 1 ticket

\$50 - 7 tickets

\$100 - 20 tickets

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.

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.

Luke, Krista, Allison, Riley, Rebecca, Logan, Tiffany, Jonathan, Michael, Manuel, Sivili, Ian, Jack, Tasha, Jackson, Corey, Landon, Ken, Zhaleh, Brendan, Ryan, Samuil, Wayne, Hayden, Danielle, Arya, Lauren, Theodore, Tristan, Austin, Austyn, Cole, Shiloh

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 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



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

June 1-7 Fast Free

June 8 - July 11 Apostles Fast

June 27 Serving Brisben Center Breakfast

July 4 Serving Brisben Center Dinner

