



St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

5107 Darrow Road
Hudson, OH 44236

330 608-8896

"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"

www.sainthermanchurch.org



Important This Week

Sunday, 01Nov, **10AM** Divine Liturgy

Thursday, 05Nov, **7PM** Adult Study / Friday, 06Nov, **7PM** Enquirer's Class

Saturday, 07Nov, **6PM** Vespers

01Nov26

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Things Which Are Impossible for Men

What things are impossible for men? Today, we have scientists who preach to us that they understand the very moment of creation, although they deny that "creation" exists, that we're all just a strange and wonderful "accident".

We have scholars who preach that we are descended from single cell living entities that are billions of years old, and yet they fail to be able to explain the path to the complexity that is human life, and more importantly, they deny the gifting to this one particular life form of a soul - that which causes humanity to truly share in the image of God.

We have genetic experts who claim to know how to modify plant life so that it will survive in any climate. We have nations that produce far in excess of their own needs in terms of food crops. And yet almost 700 million people around the world live in hunger.

We have politicians and ambassadors who know that war and conflict solve no problem, and yet today there are 49 countries currently involved in wars or skirmishes around the globe, with nearly 150,000 casualties.

We have doctors who tell us that they can heal the most complex diseases, and we are indeed blessed to have such magnificent capabilities in the world. But these same doctors can't cure the common cold, and cancer still runs rampant in our world, as do heart disease, diabetes, and many other fatal diseases.

We have bankers that preach to us how we need to provide for our security by entering various markets, telling us that we're too inept to know how best to manage our own God-given resources, and that we need to trust them (the bankers) to do this for us, and yet it is these same people who have been bailed out by a

government on the verge of failing itself.

What things are impossible for men?

It is impossible for us to live without sin. And yet one Man managed to do this.

It is impossible for us to achieve salvation based on our own merits. One Man taught us the path to salvation.

It is impossible for us to love others to the depth that our Creator loves us. One Man taught us how to love sacrificially.

It is impossible for us to live and maintain any semblance of true joy in our lives without having the Cross, the Tomb, and the Resurrection as our focal points. One Man showed us the way.

It is impossible to offer sufficient thanks to God for the blessings we have received from Him. Let us not forget to give thanks each and every day!

Prayer Requests

Health: Met Joseph, Pat, Richard, Judy, Sue, Nora, Loftyn, Alexandra, Jase

Departed: Matushka Elizabeth, Fr. Jerome

Weekly Statistics

Saturday	Soul Sat	24Oct	07 faithful	54views
	Vespers	24Oct	04 faithful	67views
Sunday	Liturgy	25Oct	47 faithful	42views
Thursday	AdultStdy	29Oct	CANCELLED	

In the News

Videos of services can be found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH - FIDe8SoWOW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOK1CLMmH-FIDe8SoWOW)

Adult Study and Enquirer's Classes this coming Thursday and Friday!!

Adult Sessions are on Thursdays at 7PM.

Enquirer's meet on Fridays at 7PM.

See y'all then!

2027 Church Calendars are available in the Church Hall!!

Bad Pun??

My boss drove his luxury car into a tree

Now he knows how his Mercedes bends.



Trust that the Lord is always a Provider for those who take refuge in Him.

(St. Macarius the Great)

Situational Ethics [Abbot Tryphon]

Situational ethics has become the norm for our times, having replaced the biblical ethics of past generations. In situational ethics, as long as no one is hurt one can do as one pleases. Taking drugs, watching pornography and aborting the unborn child, all can come under the flag of situational ethics.

Taking drugs is seen as morally neutral by increasing numbers of Americans. We believe no one is hurt by our drug use, while refusing to see the obvious connection between our drug purchases and the mass killings in Mexico by drug cartels that are in business because of the demand for drugs by American users.

Nothing wrong with watching pornography, we tell ourselves, forgetting that the demand for pornography enslaves many poor young women (and men) in a form of prostitution, all for our sexual gratification. Pornography has become one of the major addictions of our time, keeping large numbers of people in bondage, and preventing sound healthy relationships.

Situational ethics has convinced women that since they have the right to make decisions concerning their own bodies, aborting a fetus is allowable if their own lifestyle will be negatively affected by carrying it. Nowhere is there concern about the rights of the unborn, who have no voice whatsoever.

Situational ethics has blurred the image of marriage, with heterosexual couples choosing to live together without the benefit of marriage, or by redefining the eternal definition of marriage. with same sex couples now seeing marriage as their right.

The Fathers knew that even the secret sins committed by people had an effect on the whole of the cosmos. The people who promote situational ethics would have us believe that nothing that is done in private hurts anyone. Biblical ethics tells us quite the opposite.

I do not like to talk about demons much. They are so into themselves that I don't want to cooperate in their narcissism.

Also, I accept completely the Orthodox understanding that sin, death, and the devil (along with the demons) were defeated when Jesus died on the Cross and was resurrected, so it seems a little un-Orthodox to give demons as much credit as some people do. They are not gods. They are not omnipresent, or omniscient, or omnipotent. They are creatures and sad ones at that, best not given a place of prominence because they do not have a place of prominence.

One thing about them does interest me though. That is, one of the signs of their influence is that when they are around and given a place of prominence, they tend to make people crazy. In our Gospel story this morning the demoniac is exorcized and afterward, we are told, he sits before Jesus "clothed and in his right mind."

There seems to be a connection between being in your right mind and being free of demonic influence whether it is from some actual fallen angel or simply demonic in nature and more typical like fear, pride, possessiveness, greed, lust...you know, that kind of stuff. Being in your right mind, I think, is a sign of spiritual health just as not being in your right mind is a sign of spiritual disease.

That is why I think that perspective is so important. We need to adopt a proper understanding of God, the world, ourselves and our neighbors. The Orthodox Church insists that right belief is essential and I absolutely agree. That is, for most of us, where we must begin to change our minds from being deluded to being, as the Gospel says, "right". "Put on the mind of Christ," Paul writes. So let's do. We can't do it all in one fell swoop, but we can do it, little by little. So let's start with the Orthodox perspective on who we are.

Dan Hakim sent me a most wonderful link to a graduation speech given by George Saunders at Syracuse University. Saunders is a teacher there and an acclaimed writer of essays, short stories, novellas and children's books. It touches on the message I want to give you to take home today.

Saunders tells the students: That luminous part of you that exists beyond personality – your soul, if you will – is as bright and shining as any that has ever been. Bright as Shakespeare's, bright as Gandhi's, bright as Mother Teresa's. Clear away everything that keeps you separate from this secret luminous place. Believe it exists, come to know it better, nurture it, share its fruits tirelessly.

In that little paragraph is the core understanding we Orthodox have about who and what we are. If that perspective is off, then we will not "be in our right minds." The perspective is this: we are made in God's image. The image of God is who and what we are. Nothing can take that away. Nothing can change it. We are mirrors that reflect God's glory. His glory shines in us all the time. The mirror is dirty, but it is there. It needs to be cleaned and polished.

At the core of every human being, writes St. Gregory Nazianzus, is this amazing spark of divinity, created by God, put there by God which nothing, not even sin and death and the devil, can adversely affect. Sin obscures our vision of this truth. Fear distracts us from seeing it. The traumas and pains of life keep us from touching it. All this negative stuff makes us believe wrongly that we are not the image of God, that we are separate from God, that he is far away from us and we are far away from him. But this is not true. It is impossible. The Psalmist tells us that the will of God cannot return to him without accomplishing its purpose, so the image is indefectible. It is like a seed that cannot be destroyed and it is growing and will grow forever until it reaches full fruition over and over again because there is no end to growing.

At the beginning of the spectacular movie *GRAVITY* a phrase pops on the screen. "Life in space is impossible." The movie is ostensibly a space movie, but it takes place in two spaces. Outer space, above our heads, and inner space inside our heads. Life in outer space is impossible, yes. There is no air, or warmth. But life lived mindlessly, without a proper perspective, in "darkness" is also impossible because without a good understanding of who we really are we will drift aimlessly and be lost in a darkness of our own making.

The answer is, as Saunders says, to "Clear away everything that keeps you separate from this secret luminous space. Believe it exists, come to know it better, nurture it, share its fruits tirelessly." I could not give better advice or say it more beautifully than that. Clear it all away through spiritual effort, through love, through compassion, through worship, and sacrament, using every tool available to awaken yourself from the delusion that God is not (right now and always) closer to us than our heartbeat, closer to us than our breath.

The demons represent all those things that support the illusion of separateness. Jesus calls Satan the "father of lies" and the greatest of these lies is that God does not love us, is not in us and around us, caring for us all the time, that there is no luminous core, no image of God in us. To be in our "right minds" means to know He does and is and we are.

November 2026											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
22nd Sunday 6th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM 1Cor 12:27-31, 13:1-8 Luke 8:26-39	1 TS 1Thes 1:1-5 Luke 11:29-33	2 1Thes 1:6-10 Luke 11:34-41	3 1Thes 2:1-8 Luke 11:42-46	4 Adult Study 1Thes 2:9-14 Luke 11:47-12:1	5 7PM Enquirer's Class 1Thes 2:14-19 Luke 12:2-12	6 7PM Vespers/Conf 2Cor 8:1-5 Luke 9:1-6					
23rd Sunday 7th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Heb 2:2-10 Luke 8:41-56	7 T6 1Thes 2:20-3:8 Luke 12:13-15, 22-31	8 1Thes 3:9-13 Luke 12:42-48	9 1Thes 4:1-12 Luke 12:48-59	10 Adult Study 1Thes 5:1-8 Luke 13:11-9	11 7PM St. John Chrysostom Enquirer's Class Heb 7:26-8:2 John 10:9-16	12 7PM Vespers/Conf 2Cor 11:1-6 Luke 9:37-43					
24th Sunday 8th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 2:14-22 Luke 10:25-37	13 Evangelist Matthew 1Cor 4:9-16 Mat 9:9-13	14 2Thes 1:10-2:2 Luke 14:25-35	15 2Thes 2:1-12 Luke 15:1-10	16 Adult Study 2Thes 2:13-3:5 Luke 16:1-9	17 7PM Forefeast Entry of Theotokos Vespers 2Thes 3:6-18 Luke 16:15-18, 17:1-4	18 10AM Entry Theotokos Divine Liturgy Vespers/Conf 2Cor 8:1-5 Luke 9:37-43					
25th Sunday 9th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Gal 4:1-7 Luke 12:16-21	22 T8 1Tim 1:1-7 Luke 17:20-25	23 Gr Martyr Catherine Eph 6:10-17 Luke 21:12-19	24 1Tim 1:18-20, 2:8-15 Luke 18:15-17, 26-30	25 THANKSGIVING! 1Tim 3:1-13 Luke 18:31-34	26 7PM 1Tim 4:4-8, 16 Luke 19:12-28	27 6PM Vigil/Conf Gal 3:8-12 Luke 10:19-21					
26th Sunday 10th Luke Divine Liturgy 10AM Eph 5:8-19 Luke 12:10, 17	29 Apostle Andrew 1Cor 4:9-16 Luke 4:35-41	30									