



St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church

5107 Darrow Road
Hudson, OH 44236
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"An Orthodox Presence in Northeastern Summit County"
www.sainthermanchurch.org



Important This Week

FULL LENTEN FASTING CONTINUES

W-F, 04, 06Mar, 6PM, Presanctified Liturgy Saturday, 07Mar, 10AM Divine Liturgy; 6PM, Vespers
Sunday, 08Mar, 10AM Divine Liturgy

01Mar26

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Faith of Our Fathers

Inside of the prayers at Vespers tonight (Sunday evening), we hear the following:

"As the prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the teachers have dogmatized, as the Universe has agreed, as Grace has shown forth, as Truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dissolved, as Wisdom has presented, as Christ Awarded, thus we declare, thus we assert, thus we preach Christ our true God, and honor as Saints in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons, on the one hand worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord, and on the other hand honoring as true servants of the same Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration. This is the Faith of the Apostles. This is the Faith of our Fathers. This is the Faith of the Orthodox. This is the Faith which has established the Universe."

There's a lot to digest here. In part, the expression of Faith is a description of the means by which Holy Orthodoxy is established and revealed throughout Creation. In part, it is a reprimand to those who denigrate Holy Orthodoxy and its inclusion of Iconography as a nec-

essary component of our Faith and worship. In part, it is a refutation of any and all who would minimize Jesus Christ as the Founder, Author, and center of our Faith. In part, it is a link between that which we hold today as Divine Truth (which is immutable) and the Truth that was revealed by and through the Apostles of our Lord, the Truth which established the Faith.

Search out the components of other religions, and you'll find nowhere else the reverence and the bond to the teachings of the Holy Fathers that exists within Orthodoxy. It is a bond that is so revered and sacred to us that the teachings of these Fathers (as revealed through the Seven Councils) have not been modified for more than 12 centuries! Churches within Holy Orthodoxy have excluded and detached from other Orthodox Churches because of believed straying from these centuries-old teachings. This is the regard in which we hold the teachings of the Councils.

There is a book that contains the teachings, the Canons of the various Councils of the Church. It is called, "The Rudder," for as a rudder is used to steer and guide a ship from dangerous waters, so the Canons of

the Church are used to steer the Holy Church from danger.

Sunday night's Vespers service ends with the following:

"Therefore, with brotherly love, we praise these preachers of piety, for the glory and honor of their own pious struggles for the Faith, and we say, 'Eternal be the memory of the champions of Orthodoxy, pious Emperors, most-holy Patriarchs, Hierarchs, Teachers, Martyrs, and Confessors. May their memory be eternal! Let us entreat God that we may be instructed and strengthened by the trials and struggles of these Saints, which they endured for the Faith, even unto death, and by their teachings, entreating them that we may imitate their godly life unto the end. May we be deemed worthy of obtaining our requests through the mercy and grace of the Great and First Archpriest, Christ our God, through the intercessions of our glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, of the divine Angels, and of all the Saints.'"

May our Lord guard and protect our Holy Faith, as He promised, until His Second and Glorious Coming!

This Week's Prayer Requests

For Health—St. Herman's: Met. Joseph, Pat, Sandra, Richard, Sam, Judy, Mitchell, Joe, Christian, Al, Sam, Fr.Dn.Basil, Nikandra, Fr.Jerome, Nora & Bob, Lori, Bill
For the Departed: Patriarchs Maxim and Neofit, Metropolitans Theodosius

and Maximos, Archpriest Stephan, Popadia Marika, Matushka Illaria, Nun Theophania, Matushka Theodora, Stephen, Reader Charles, Betty Lou, Lainey Kay, Katherine, Jeanne, Margaret, Lenni, Deaconessa Nana

Weekly Statistics

Saturday	Vespers	21Feb	06 faithful	17 views
Sunday	Divine Liturgy	22Feb	36 faithful	15 views
Monday	Canon St. Andrew	23Feb	08 faithful	33 views
Tuesday	Canon St. Andrew	24Feb	CANCELLED	
Wednesday	Presanct Liturgy	25Feb	10 faithful	19 views
Thursday	Canon St. Andrew	26Feb	09 faithful	11 views
Friday	Presanct Liturgy	27Feb	13 faithful	08 views

In the News

Videos of services can be found at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAOKICLMmH_-FIDe8SoWOW

Please see the flyer on Page 5 for information about a Lenten retreat to be held at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Akron.

Tonight's Sunday Evening Vesper service is at
 St. Thomas Orthodox Church
 555 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road
 Fairlawn

Spiritual Food for the Fast

For the washing away of bodily dirtiness, God has given water. And for the washing of spiritual foulness, God has given the grace of the Holy Sacrament of Confession. Everyone who dirties the hands washes them. No one says, 'I will not wash my hands anymore, because I will get them dirty again!' Why is it then that many people say, 'I will not go to Confession because I will sin again tomorrow!' It is clear that the enemy of our salvation is enticing us not to wash our souls so that he can gain power over them. But we must not give in to such satanic suggestions; we should confess frequently because frequent washing produces a taste for cleanliness in us.

-Archimandrite Seraphim Aleksiev of Bulgaria



Suffering is a gift from God!

(Elder Arsenie Papacioc of Romania)

The Real Enemy [Abbot Tryphon]

My heart breaks for what I am witnessing, for as an American of Scandinavian and Scottish ancestry, I am broken hearted at what I see as a mass exodus from Christianity in the land of my birth. That even Christians have allowed themselves to be deceived by the "politically correct" changes that have pressured all of us to conform to this new "enlightened" image coming from the dark powers behind the "Great Reset", plummets my heart to a sadness I've never experienced before.

As we've seen Russia openly restoring the foundations of the Orthodox Christian faith, we in the West have witnessed Christian biblical values vilified. As the abortion rate in Russia has plummeted in recent years, our American abortion rate has soared. As Russia has stood solidly behind standards of moral and spiritual decency historically connected to Christianity, the pressure to cave in to radically liberal ideologies has guilt tripped many otherwise believing Christians into lock-stepping with those who would govern all our thinking, while turning those of us who cling to traditional biblical values as nutcases and white supremacists. Labeling the leader of an Orthodox nation (President Putin), as a fake Christian who is using the Church, is not unlike taking down the statues of George Washington and

Abraham Lincoln because they were racists. War is always evil, but nations, including our own, have often entered into the evils of war in order to protect their borders.

More than 30,000 Orthodox churches have been built or rebuilt in Russia in the past 30 years, making it an average of more than three new churches built every day. Compare this to the United States and Western Europe, where more church buildings are being demolished to make way for the construction of apartment or office buildings, or, even worse, converted for other uses, such as restaurants and bars.

As the world has witnessed Russia openly promoting the Orthodox Christian faith, we in the West have witnessed Christian moral and spiritual values vilified. As we've witnessed the European Union, together with the United States and Canada, demanding change in laws regarding same sex marriages and transgender rights, Russia has held firm to biblical standards for their nation's laws. Meanwhile, those of us in the West who try as best we can to proclaim Christ and our Christian faith are portrayed as backward hate mongers.

Saint Paisios of Athos said, "When an individual sins, God punishes the individual, but when the government

sins, God punishes the whole nation". Let us, as never before, pray for our nation, and for the countries that make up NATO, and look closely at the real enemy behind the war in Ukraine. That two of the most Orthodox nations in the world would be at war with one another is true evidence that the real enemy is Satan himself. It is Satan who desires to divide the Orthodox Church, and it is Satan who has inspired the Western leaders to surround the only nation left that refuses to tow a "politically correct" agenda that has set as its goal the destruction of authentic Christianity. It is His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow that has chosen to stand firm in his resolve to proclaim the truth that is grounded in Christ Himself.

That I have served eight years as a volunteer Orthodox prison chaplain, followed by over twenty years in service as a police and fire chaplain for this island community that I love, to now experience the ire of fellow citizens, breaks my heart. That this essay will bring forth renewed hate mail and threats to my personal safety, saddens me more than I can express. But I must, in the prophetic role set down by centuries of monastics before me, speak the truth. May God save us all.

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy [*stikhonsmopnastery.org*]

In the 8th and 9th century, for more than one hundred years, the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts (those who hated Icons), beginning in the reign of Leo III (d. 741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (d. 842). After Theophilus' death, his widow the Empress St. Theodora, together with the Patriarch St. Methodius, established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast of Great Lent, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them.

Since time immemorial, the Church has venerated and loved the image of Her beloved Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. We see this born out in early Church historical accounts to the present day, for the Icon is a testimony and confirmation that "God was manifest in the flesh...seen of angels, preached on in the world and received up into glory." Indeed, the Icon reveals that it was THIS world that the Lord made His flesh, sanctifying it, restoring it (from the inside out,) filling it with His incorruptible Divinity, and raised to the Throne of the Godhead. This is the dignity which you and I share through (being made in His Image and through) baptism and must enter more deeply into through living our life for Him Who gave His life for us.

St. John of Damascus tells us that "in times past, God, without body and form, could in no way be represented (Hence, the prohibition of the OT of Images.) But now, since God has appeared in the flesh and lived among men, I can depict that which is visible of God...[for Christ is "the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15.)] He continues in saying: "I do not venerate the matter but I venerate the Creator of matter, Who became matter for me, Who condescended to live in matter, and Who, through matter accomplished my salvation; I do not cease to respect the matter through which my salvation is accomplished." (PG 94:1245AB.) In Christ we find the fullest affirmation of the innate goodness of matter which now can be the medium of Divine Energy and Grace.

Icons of Christ, of the Saints, and of the Mother of God are a pledge of the coming victory of a redeemed cosmos over a fallen one and show forth a restoration of the world back to its original purpose which is to glorify its Creator. In the Icon we see a concrete example of matter restored through Grace in the life of the Church to its original harmony and beauty, now serving as a vessel of the Grace of the All Holy Spirit.

As we commemorate the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we are not merely remembering an event of ages past but rather we are professing the triumph of Truth over heresy which the Icon proclaims. Theological, what is heresy but a distortion of the true and correct Vision of God which is salvation? And what is dogma, but the Words that describe that Vision of Who God is and what He is really like? Again, for the Orthodox, salvation is this Vision of God. Many of the Saints of our Church, from St. Paul to St. Silouan saw Christ in Glory and were completely altered down to the very fabric of their existence, being saved through it.

We represent in image Christ our God and Lord not only so that the incarnation is shown forth as real and true and not a phantasm or ghost, but even more so, to show forth the Face of God which reveals the pledge of this Vision of God which is salvation; We hear in the Canons of the Council of 867 we hear "If one does not venerate the Icon of Christ the Savior, let him not see His Face at the Second Coming." The veneration of the Image of Christ is the pledge and our beginning to our own personal experience of the Vision of the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my brethren let us venerate the Icon of the Savior, of the Saints, and of the Mother of God and thereby proclaim the inherent goodness of the entire Creation and of its redemption, restoration, and transfiguration through the incarnation of Christ. It is now our turn to offer our own personal world as a Eucharistic sacrifice, redeeming and transfiguring the material world which we inhabit through our prayer, our fasting, and our thanksgiving to our Creator Who sustains us, enlightens us, and saves us through the incalculable Treasury of our Orthodox Faith which we have been given and which we celebrate today. The Triumph of Orthodoxy happens in my personal life when Christ becomes incarnate through my keeping of the commandments. Orthodoxy triumphs when I become an Icon of Christ through my love and kindness to all those whom I encounter, being a vessel of His Presence. Orthodoxy triumphs when the falsehood of my passions is denounced and demolished and Christ is enthroned as King and God in my heart. Today is the first day of the rest of Great Lent. Let us fortify ourselves by abstaining from meat, from sin, and from devouring our neighbor with our criticism. Let us glorify God in the short time we have remaining in our life by doing works of charity, alms, and prayer. Let us build up the Church and one another, placing our time and talents into those things which will benefit us eternally and let us give thanks to God Who has brought us here today, given us the Treasury of the Orthodox Faith, of that Gift of the Undistorted Vision of God which is salvation for the world. The Triumph of Orthodoxy is the Triumph of the Only True and Living Way which leads the entire race of Mankind to salvation. Let us enter more deeply into it, embrace it, confess it, and fervently live our Orthodoxy through the grace and mercy of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to Whom belongs all glory, now and forever, world without end. Amen.

We welcome you to our humble church, and we pray that your experience here will be spiritually rewarding, calling you back to pray with us at our next scheduled service.

St. Herman of Alaska Eastern Orthodox Church is established with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH of New York, and is one of approximately 30 parishes or missions that are all part of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada and Australia, Bulgarian Patriarchate.

Our worship is exclusively in English, and we use “contemporary” English translations of liturgical texts wherever possible. Singing is congregational. The Divine Liturgy is literally “the work of the people”, and as such your presence and participation in the service are essential parts of our worship. The worship of others here present is diminished when you are absent or unable to participate.

Participation in the Eucharist is important to us, and as such we ask you to recognize that it is limited to Orthodox Christians who have prepared for receiving the very Body and Blood of our Lord. Preparation includes fasting from the previous evening and recent confession. If you are not known to our priest, please let him know as you approach that you are Orthodox and prepared to receive! Please do not be offended if the priest so questions your approach—this is important, truly “our Life”!

Troparion for the Day: (Tone 5) *Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin, for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.*

Troparion from the Triodion: (Tone 2) *We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: 'You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, for You have come to save the world!'*

Glory to the Father....

Troparion to Saint Herman: *O blessed Father Herman of Alaska, / north-star of Christ's holy Church, / the light of your holy life and great deeds / guides those who follow the Orthodox way. / Together we lift high the Holy Cross / you planted firmly in America. / Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, // singing His holy Resurrection.*

Now and ever....

Kontakion from the Triodion: (Tone 8) *No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to Divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.*

Epistle: Heb 11:24-26,32-12:2

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Monthly Financial Tracker

Dec Total Income	\$14,396
Dec Total Expenses	\$ 1,443
Dec Net Income (Loss)	\$12,953

Web Tracker

Web Searches	590 interacts/28 days
Blog Site Views	113761 Total Views
Web Site Views	19951 Total Views
Facebook Views	2474 views/28 days

**St. Herman of Alaska
Eastern Orthodox Church
VRevFrBasil Rusen, Pastor**

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**CURRENT WEEK
HIGHLIGHTED**

March 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Orthodoxy Sunday 1 Divine Liturgy 10AM St Thomas 5P T5 Heb 11:24-26,32-12:2 John 1:43-51	2	3	4 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 5:16-35;Gn 4:16-26;Prov 5:15-6:3	5 Isa 6:1-12;Gn 5:1-24 Prov 6:3-20	6 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 7:1-15;Gn 5:32-6:8;Prov 6:20-7:1	Soul Saturday 7 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 3:12-16 Mark 1:35-44
St Gregory 8 Divine Liturgy 10AM Presentation 5P T6 Heb 1:10-2:3 Mark 2:1-12	9	10	11 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 10:12-20;Gn7:6-9 Prov 9:12-18	12 Isa 11:10-12;Gn7:11-8:3;Prov 10:1-22	13 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 13:2-13;Gn8:4-22;Prov10:31-11:12	Soul Saturday 14 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 10:32-38 Mark 2:14-17
Cross Veneration 15 Divine Liturgy 10AM St. Elia 5P T7 Heb 4:14-5:6 Mark 8:34-9:1	16	17	18 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 26:21-27:9;Gn 9:19-10:1;Prov12:23-13:11;9: Prov 13:19-14:6	19	20 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 29:13-23;Gn12:1-7;Prov 14:15-26	Soul Saturday 21 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 6:9-12 Mark 7:31-37
St. John Climacus 22 Divine Liturgy 10AM St. George 5P T8 Heb 6:13-20 Mark 9:17-31	23	Forefeast 24 Annunciation Vespertal Liturgy 6PM Isa 40:18-31;Gen 15:1-15;Prov 15:7-19	25 Feast of Annunciation PresanctLiturgy 6PM Heb 2:11-18 Luke 1:24-38	26	27 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 45:11-17;Gn22:1-18;Prov 17:17-18:5	28 Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 9:24-28 Mark 8:27-31
St. Mary of Egypt 29 Divine Liturgy 10AM St.NicholasUnct 5P 10AM Heb 9:11-14 Mark 10:32-45	30	31	APRIL 1 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 58:1-11;Gn43:26-31;Prov 21:23-22:4	2	3 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 66:10-24;Gn49:33-50;26;Prov31:8-31	Lazarus Satrdy 4 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 12:28-13:8 John 11:1-45

Orthodox Christian Women (OCW) invites you to join us for a compelling



LENTEN RETREAT *



With special guest speaker

Father Paul Abernathy



Discovering Your Heart:

Finding Christ in the Broken-Hearted...A Message of Hope

Father Paul is the founding CEO at Neighborhood Resilience Project, Pittsburgh, PA. Pastor of St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church, (Pittsburgh), and author of The Prayer of a Broken Heart, an Orthodox Christian Reflection on African American Spirituality.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 129 S. Union St., Akron, OH 44304

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9:30am- 3:30pm

\$20 includes Continental Breakfast & Lenten Luncheon

Write checks to OCW. Send to: Sue Evanoff, 404-19th St. Massillon, OH 44646

Questions? Contact Annie Fry 330-714-9844 or Nancy Studebaker 330-807-7640

**Third of three spiritually-enriching events open to all in the 2025-2026 season.*