

## **DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT**

### **For the 2023 Diocesan Assembly**

#### **Parish Name & Address:**

St. Herman of Alaska (Church)  
133 West Broad Street  
Shillington, PA 19607

St. Herman of Alaska (Office / Rectory)  
122 Church Street Street  
Shillington, PA 19607

#### **Clergy:**

Very Reverend John A. Onofrey  
122 Church Street Street  
Shillington, PA 19607

#### **Committees/Societies:**

**Parish Council**

**The “Our Lady Of Kazan” Sisterhood**

**Member: Reading/Berks County Orthodox Churches**

**Member: The Governor Mifflin Ministerium [local]**

**Member: OCCSCP [Orthodox Council of Churches of South Central PA]**

#### **Highlights (since January 2022):**

Returning and re-establishing the life of the Parish, its full Liturgical Cycle and Divine Worship, and Fellowship programs that were curtailed, limited or temporarily suspended during COVID-19. The increase of Church and parishioner support and participation in established programs within and beyond the Parish. **Maintaining Financial Stability** (despite C-19, Economy, Expense Increases, etc.) through Parishioner Stewardship & Tithing, without any special Fund Raising Projects or outside Financial Support. Starting plans for the Fiftieth [50<sup>th</sup>] Anniversary of Saint Herman’s Church (est. 1973).

#### **Outreach:**

Despite limitations (member participation & financial) experienced and imposed during C-19, St. Herman’s Church was able to continue its spiritual obligation of serving Jesus Christ beyond our doors. We continue to support:

St. Tikhon’s Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Seminary

Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City

IOCC – International Orthodox Christian Charities

OCMC – Orthodox Christian Mission Center

*continued ...*

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## **Outreach (*continued*):**

St. Herman's Church in Shillington was also able to continue its support for MARY'S SHELTER, a shelter that provides housing and support for displaced or homeless families and/or single/pregnant mothers. The parish also participated in the OCA/Diocese of Alaska Support Collection that was held in December. The doors of St. Herman's have always been open to guests, Orthodox as well as non-Orthodox, to attend our Divine Services and various programs. Presently, a few "neighbors" have joined us in worship and the Adult Education program on Sundays.

## **Challenges:**

As previously stated and as expressed in the OCA Survey, C-19 had a profound effect on our Church and Parish Life. Although St. Herman's did not experience any direct C-19 losses, the consequences, both physical and spiritual, of the pandemic were felt by the parish. Although there is a definite lessening of fear, the return to normalcy and positive outlook, 2020-2022, has been a struggle. Like many parishes we had to adapt spiritually and liturgically, carefully and conscientiously maintain our financial stability, and continue to not only exist, but to grow physically and faithfully as a community in and of the Vineyard of Christ.

## **Upcoming Special Events:**

Starting plans for the Fiftieth [50<sup>th</sup>] Anniversary of Saint Herman's Church in Shillington, PA (est. 1973).

**Membership:** Adults - 100 Children (under 18) – 20



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## **Attendance: [Depending on Day / Season (i.e: Lent) / Feastday, etc.]**

Sunday Liturgy: 40-70 (PASCHA 80-90) + Communicants: 20-40 (PASCHA 70)

Weekday Feast Liturgy: 10-15 + Communicants: 5-10

Saturday Vespers: 5-10

Weekday Feast Vespers: 10-20

Catechumens: No "official" Catechumens at this time, however 2-3 observers

## **Sacraments:**

Baptisms/Chrismations: 0

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 3 Deaths, (only 1 Funeral at St. Herman's)

Conversions/Receptions: 0

## **Education Program:**

At the present time, there is no Church School for our Children. After extensive inquiry, preparation and planning, by Fr. Onofrey and the Council, the Parents of our Children would not commit to an Education Program.

Fr. John Onofrey has a weekly Adult Education & Discussion Class on Sundays prior to the Liturgy. The average attendance of this class is 15-20, which sometimes includes some children and teens.

There are plans to re-establish the weekly Bible Study that was suspended during the C-19 period.