

**ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**VT Route 12 (Mailing: P.O. Box 353)**

**Northfield Falls, Vermont 05664**

**802.485.9121; www.stjacobofalaska.org**

**December 30, 2007**

+ + +

+ + +

+ + +

Fr. Caleb Abetti, Priest (603.219.1711)

Susanna Toolan, President

Fr. Dn. John Konkle, Deacon (603.738.4635)

Rebecca Kotula, Choir Director

Sunday, December 30. **31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Sunday After the Nativity. Holy**

**Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord.**

**Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday Before the Theophany.** Virgin Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica (285-305). Martyr Zoticus, Keeper of Orphans (4th c.). Apostle of the Seventy, Timon the Deacon (1st c.). Martyr Philoterus of Nicomedia (311). Ven. Theodora of Caesarea in Cappadocia (8th c.). Ven. Theodora of Constantinople (10th c.). Monk Martyr Gideon of Karakallou (Mt. Athos—1818). St. Makáry, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1563).

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom , 9:30am.

*Epistle: Gal 1:11-19 Gospel: Mt: 2:13-23.*

Wednesday, January 2. Forefeast of the Theophany. Repose of Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov (1833).

Reader's Daily Vespers, 5:30pm, followed by a light meal and Study on the Lord's Prayer.

Friday, January 4. Forefeast of the Theophany.

Royal Hours, 6pm.

Saturday, January 5.

Vigil with Litya, 5pm.

Sunday, January 6. **32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.** Ven. Macarius of Mt. Athos (1431).

3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours, 9:10am.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil , 9:30am.

*Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Gospel: Mt: 3:13-17.*

Great Blessing of Waters

---

**January 1: The Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior**

The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

...

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt. 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

*From the OCA Website.*

---

**Study on The Lord's Prayer**

Deacon John will lead a study on the Lord's prayer on consecutive Wednesdays, Jan 2 – Feb 13 (1/23 excluded) following daily vespers (5:30pm) and a light meal. The study should begin about 6:30pm and end by 8pm.

---

**Theophany and House Blessings**

The Theophany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ occurs on a Sunday this year. This great feast completes the Church's understanding of the Incarnation celebrated at Nativity: the worship of the Trinity truly becomes manifest in the baptism of our Lord. Here are some things to keep in mind during this festal season:

**Fasting:** During all the days of Nativity (through Friday, 1/4) we are in a *fast free* time. All types of food are permitted, giving thanks to God that He is the provider of every good thing. Saturday, 1/5, is a fasting day on which wine and oil (as well as grains, vegetables, and fruits) are permitted.

Schedule of Services for Holy Theophany:

Friday	6pm	Royal Hours
Saturday	5pm	Vigil with Litya
Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Waters

**House Blessings:** In Theophany, all the world is transformed by the blessed waters of Jordan; thus it is the season for the offering of our homes to God for His blessed transformation of them. Please contact Fr. Caleb to set up a time to have your home blessed. After coffee hour on Theophany, all are invited to the Konkle's new home for its blessing and some light refreshments.