

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 27, 2008**

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Fr. Caleb Abetti, Priest (603.219.1711)

Susanna Toolan, President

Fr. Dn. John Konkle, Deacon (603.738.4635)

Rebecca Kotula, Choir Director

Sunday, January 27. **35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. New Martyrs and Confessors of**

Russia. Translation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (438).

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

Epistle: Col 3:12-16; Heb 7:26 – 8:2 Gospel: Mt 25:14-30; Jn 10:9-16.

Wednesday, January 30. Synaxis of the Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.

Reader's Great Vespers, 5:30pm, with light meal and study on the Lord's Prayer following.

Friday, February 1.

Reader's Great Vespers for the Feast of the Meeting. 6:00pm.

Saturday, February 2. **THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, IN THE TEMPLE.**

3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10am.

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

Epistle: Heb 7:7-17 Gospel: Lk 2:22-40.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, February 3. **36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Afterfeast of the Meeting.** Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess.

3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10am.

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

Epistle: I Tim 1:15-17 Gospel: Mt 15:21-28.

This Week's Saints

(Adopted from the www.oca.org)

Sunday: *New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia* – "Martyr" literally means "witness" and is the title given to those who are put to death for Christ. "Confessors" is the title Orthodox use for those who have suffered greatly, but not to the point of death, for Christ. "New Martyrs and Confessors" is the title given to those who are killed or suffer for Christ under pagan, heretical, Islamic or atheistic (e.g., communist) governments. The New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia are those who suffered and died for Christ under Communism in the 20th century; they were canonized first by ROCOR in 1981 in New York City. The feast is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 25th, since that was the date of the martyrdom of St. Vladimir (Bogoiavlenskii), Metropolitan of Kiev, who is referred to as the "Protomartyr of the communist yoke in Russia."

Monday: *Ven. Ephraim the Syrian (373-379)* – A teacher of repentance, Saint Ephraim the Syrian was born at the beginning of the fourth century in the city of Nisibis (Mesopotamia) into the family of impoverished toilers of the soil. He combined asceticism with a ceaseless study of the Word of God, taking from it both solace and wisdom for his soul. He wrote many prayers and hymns, thereby enriching the Church's liturgical services, including the prayer that permeates our Lenten life. A quote from St. Ephraim: "If the Son of God is within you, then His Kingdom is also within you. Thus, the Kingdom of God is within you, a sinner. Enter into yourself, search diligently and without toil you shall find it. Outside of you is death, and the door to it is sin. Enter into yourself, dwell within your heart, for God is there."

Wednesday: *Synaxis of the Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.* – In the 11th century there was a dispute among Christians regarding who was the greatest of these three fathers, some calling themselves Basillians, others Gregorians and still others Johnites. The three hierarchs appeared to St John Bishop of Euchaita in 1080 saying "There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another", after which January 30th was set aside as a day to commemorate the three together.

Thursday: *Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John* – St. Cyrus was a noted physician in the city of Alexandria, where he had been born and raised. He was a Christian and he treated the sick without charge, not only curing their bodily afflictions, but also healing their spiritual infirmities. St. John, a soldier and pious Christian from Edessa, heard about Cyrus and went to be his follower. They were both martyred for their faith.

Friday: *Ven. Bridget (Brigid) of Ireland (523)* – Even as a child, St Bridget was known for her compassion for the poor. She would give away food, clothing, and even her father's possessions to the poor. The tradition of making St Brigid's crosses from rushes and hanging them in the home is still followed in Ireland, where devotion to her is still strong.

Parents' Support Group

The parenting support group will meet at the Abetti's home Sunday, January 27th at 4:00pm. All are welcome and encouraged to come and contribute: parents, grandparents, non-parents, young and non-so-young. Baby-sitting will be available; please bring a dish for a potluck meal.

Important Dates

Feb 9 Sat	House Blessing at Sarah Hoffman's.
Feb 24 Sun	Parish Council Meeting
Mar 9 Sun	Forgiveness Sunday
Mar 25 Tue	The Annunciation
Apr 5 Sat	Lenten Retreat: Fr. John Behr speaking on "Standing by the Cross, Putting on Christ"
Apr 27 Sun	Pascha