

**ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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

**Northfield Falls, Vermont 05664**

**802.485.9121; www.stjacobofalaska.org**

**February 17, 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, February 17. **SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 5. [Beginning of the Lenten Triodion].** Greatmartyr Theodore the Tyro (The Recruit—ca. 306). Hieromartyr Germogén (Hermogenes), Patriarch of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1612). Ven. Theodore the Silent, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). St. Mariamne, sister of Apostle Philip (1st c.). Uncovering of the Relics of Martyr Menas of Alexandria (867-869). The weeping “TIKHVIN” Icon of the Most-Holy Theotokos on Mt. Athos.

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

*Epistle: II Tim 3:10-15      Gospel: Lk 18:10-14*

Wednesday, February 20. Eve of St Eustathius the Archbishop of Antioch

Daily Vespers, 5:30pm, with light meal and study Lenten Study.

Saturday, February 23.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, February 24. **SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 6. First (4th c.) and Second (452)**

**Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John.** Ven. Erasmus of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.).

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

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

*Epistle: I Cor 6:12-20; II Cor 4:-6-15      Gospel: Lk 15:11-32; Mt 11:2-15*

Parish Council Meeting following coffee hour (~ noon)

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**House Blessings**

Today, all are invited to the Abetti's for the blessing of their home. Bring your skates if you have them (if not, they have some extras); on their property is a large indoor skating area.

Next Saturday, 2/23, at 1pm, all are invited to Walter and Barbara Gabriel Clarke's for the blessing of their home.

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**Lenten Study**

Father Caleb will be leading a Lenten study on Wednesday evenings starting this Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be using both Fr. Schmemmann's *Great Lent* and St. John Climacus' *The Ladder*. While you don't need to own the books to come to the study, a few copies of each are available for purchase (from Fr. Caleb) downstairs in the gift store area. This week we'll be discussing the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of *Great Lent*.

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**Fasting in Pre-lenten Weeks**

Today is The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Lk 18:10-14), the beginning of three preparatory weeks for Great Lent. It is the time when we start to structure our lives for participation in the bright sorrow of the 40-day fast, which St. Athanasius describes as follows:

Rejoicing in afflictions, we break through the furnace of iron and darkness, and pass, unharmed, over that terrible Red Sea. ... Thus, singing praises, and seeing that the sin that is in us has been cast into the sea, we pass over to the wilderness. And being first purified by the fast of forty days, by prayers, and fastings, and discipline, and good works, we shall be able to eat the holy Passover in Jerusalem. (*Festal Letter III.5*)

This first week of preparation is a fast free week; meat, fish, dairy, wine and oil are permitted everyday—including Wednesday and Friday.

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**This Week's Saints**

(adapted from www.oca.org)

Monday, February 18: *St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome* (461). After receiving a privileged education, St. Leo forsook opportunities for a profitably career in the world and instead pursued a life of service in the Church at Rome, first as Archdeacon to Pope Sixtus III, and then as Pope (440-461). During these troubled times for the Church, St. Leo is noted for both his pastoral solicitude and his unshakeable defense of the Christian Faith. Most notably, he was influential in promoting the Fourth Ecumenical Council (at Constantinople in 451) and the influential *Tome of Leo* defending the two natures of Christ against the heresy of those who believed Christ had a single nature (Monophysites).

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**Women's Retreat in Montreal**

Women who would like to pre-register for the retreat in Montreal on Saturday March 1 (two weeks from yesterday) must have their registration fee (\$35) to Mat. Anna Konkle today. If you would like more information about the retreat, or would like to be included in the car pooling, please contact Mat. Anna.

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**Important Dates**

Feb 29	Fri	Vespers in Maine
Mar 1	Sat	Retreat in Montreal (Contact Mat. Anna Konkle for details.)
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