

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 09, 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

+ + + **Service Schedule** + + +

Sunday, March 9. *SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE—Tone 8. The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise. The Holy*

Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. St. Caesarius, brother of St. Gregory the Theologian (ca. 369).

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

Epistle: Rom 13:11-14:4; Heb 12:1-10 Gospel: Mt 6:14-21; Mt 20:1-16

Forgiveness Vespers, 12 noon.

Monday – Thursday, March 10 – 13. The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, **6pm.**

Wednesday, following the canon, light meal and Lenten Study (*Great Lent*, ch. 3; *Ladder*, ch 4.)

Friday, March 14.

9th hour and Typica, 5:30pm.

Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, **6pm.** (Lenten meal following.)

Saturday, March 15.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, March 16. *FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT—Tone 1. Sunday of Orthodoxy.* Martyr Sabinas of Egypt.

Martyr Pappas of Lyconia (305-311). St. Serapion, Archbishop of Novgorod (1516).

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

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

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26,32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51

+ + + **Important Upcoming Dates** + + +

Tue, 3/25

The Annunciation

Sun, 3/30

Parish Council Meeting

Sat, 4/5

Lenten Retreat: “Standing by the Cross; Putting on Christ” (Fr. John Behr)

Sat, 4/19

Lazarus Saturday

Sun, 4/27

Pascha

Let us receive with joy, O faithful, the divinely inspired announcement of Lent. ... Let us wash ourselves with tears for its divine purification. Let us pray to behold the fulfillment of Pascha, the true Revelation. Let us prepare for adoring the Cross and Resurrection of Christ our God. Do not deprive us of our expectation, O Lover of Man! (Apostikha of Tuesday Vespers of Cheesefare week)

+ + + **Announcements** + + +

Lenten/Pascha Book and Gift Orders: St. Jacob makes a small profit and pays for shipping if you order through the church. Please place your orders today: books with Barbara Gabriel; icon and Pascha cards with Kathy.

Confession: Great Lent is a time to awaken within us our need for regular confession. Fr. Caleb hears confessions on Saturday after vespers, and by appointment. In the coming week, we'll have services every night—a good opportunity to start out Lent with confession.

CERV Sunday: Next Sunday, March 16, we will collect food for Community Emergency Relief Volunteers, our Northfield food shelf. Please bring canned and dried goods to put in the basket in the Narthex; peanut butter and tuna are especially appreciated.

+ + + **Liturgical Reflection** + + +

Forgiveness Vespers: One may ask: Why should I perform this rite when I have no "enemies?" Why should I ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to me, and whom I hardly know? To ask these questions is to misunderstand the Orthodox teaching concerning forgiveness. It is true that open enmity, personal hatred, real animosity may be absent from our life, though if we experience them, it may be easier for us to repent, for these feelings openly contradict Divine commandments. But the Church reveals to us that there are much subtler ways of offending Divine Love. These are indifference, selfishness, lack of interest in other people, of any real concern for them - in short, that wall which we usually erect around ourselves, thinking that by being "polite" and "friendly" we fulfill God's commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize - be it only for one minute - that our entire relationship to other men is wrong, makes us experience that encounter of one child of God with another, of one person created by God with another, makes us feel that mutual "recognition" which is so terribly lacking in our cold and dehumanized world. (Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Forgiveness Sunday Vespers*, p. 3)

+ + + **This Week's Saints** + + +

(adapted from www.oca.org)

Wednesday, March 12. *St. Gregory Dialogus, Pope of Rome (604):* Born in Rome around AD 540 into a devote family (his mother and two aunts also being saints), St. Gregory received an excellent secular education and served in high government positions. He yearned, however, for the monastic life with all his soul. So, after the death of his father, he used his inheritance to establish six monasteries including a monastery in Rome dedicated to the holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called, where he received monastic tonsure. He lived in Constantinople for a time, where he wrote his commentary on the book of Job. Chosen to be Pope of Rome in 591, St. Gregory worked tirelessly in propagating the Word of God. He compiled the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, which was later affirmed at the Sixth Ecumenical Council and is so loved by Orthodox. St Gregory was called 'Dialogus' after the appearance of his beautiful work, *Dialogues Concerning the Life and Miracles of the Italian Fathers*. In addition to his many pastoral letters, he also wrote *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, insightfully instructing those who desire to be true pastors.