

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 23, 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 23. *Second Sunday of Lent — Tone 2. St. Gregory Palamas. Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples with him in Sicily (251).*

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

Epistle: Heb 1:10-2:3; 7:26-8:2 Gospel: Mk 2:1-12; Jn 10:9-16

Monday, March 24. *Eve of The Annunciation of our Most-Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

Vespers with the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 6pm.

Epistle: Heb 2:11-18 Gospel: Lk 1:24-38

Wednesday, March 26. *Eve of Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica (3rd-4th c.)*

9th hour and Typica, 5:40pm.

Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, 6pm, followed by Lenten meal & Study (*Ladder* ch 6)

Saturday, March 29.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, March 30. *Third Sunday of Lent — Tone 3. Veneration of the Cross. Ven. John Climacus of Sinai, author of The Ladder (6th c.).*

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

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

Epistle: Heb 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mk 8:34-9:1

Parish Council Meeting, 12 noon.

+ + + Important Upcoming Dates + + +

Sat, 4/5 Lenten Retreat: “Standing by the Cross; Putting on Christ” (Fr. John Behr)

12:30 “Through the Cross”

2:30 “Born Again”

5:00 Vespers

6:30 Dinner

Fri, 4/11 Akathist to the Mother of God, 7pm at Holy Dormition in Burlington

Sun, 4/27 Pascha

*All temptations and afflictions require patience to be overcome,
and this constitutes their defeat.
--Elder Joseph the Hesychast*

+ + + Announcements + + +

Mission Collection: This Sunday and next (3/30) we will have our special missions collection that we will send directly to Fr. Chrysostomos in Kenya before Pascha.

Parenting Support Group will meet at the Abetti’s next Sunday, 3/30, at 4:00pm. All are welcome and encouraged to come and contribute: parents, grandparents, non-parents, young and non-so-young. Babysitting will be available; please bring a dish for a potluck meal.

+ + + Liturgical Reflection + + +

The Annunciation of our Most-Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (March 25th). The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian Feasts; there is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as "good tidings." The troparion for the feast describes this as the "beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery," for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man—good tidings, indeed. There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer (Gen 3:15): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled. Mary replies to his announcement, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word” (Luke 1: 35-38). In his Sermon 23 for this feast, St Philaret of Moscow boldly stated that "the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world." He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God's will, but also involves the Virgin's free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God's will and chose to cooperate in humble trust. Fish is permitted on this feast day. (adapted from oca.org)

+ + + This Week’s Saints + + +

(adapted from www.oca.org)

Wednesday, March 26. *Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel.* Gabriel, the holy Archistrategos (Leader of the Heavenly Hosts), is a faithful servant of the Almighty God. He announced the future Incarnation of the Son of God to those of the Old Testament; he inspired the Prophet Moses to write the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament), he announced the coming tribulations of the Chosen People to the Prophet Daniel (Dan. 8:16, 9:21-24); he appeared to St Anna (July 25) with the news that she would give birth to the Virgin Mary. The holy Archangel Gabriel remained with the Holy Virgin Mary when she was a child in the Temple of Jerusalem, and watched over her throughout her earthly life. He appeared to the Priest Zachariah, foretelling the birth of the Forerunner of the Lord, St John the Baptist. The Lord sent him to St Joseph the Betrothed in a dream, to reveal to him the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God from the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and warned him of the wicked intentions of Herod, ordering him to flee into Egypt with the divine Infant and His Mother. The Myrrh-Bearing Women heard from the Archangel the joyous news of Christ's Resurrection (Mt.28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8).