

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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April 13, 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, April 13. *Fifth Sunday of Lent – Tone 5 St. Mary of Egypt. Hieromartyr Artemon, Presbyter, of Laodicea in Syria (303).*

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

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

Epistle: Heb 9-11-14; Gal 3:23-29 Gospel: Mk 10:32-45; Lk 7:36-50

Choir practice, 12noon.

Wednesday, April 16. *Eve of Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop in Persia, and those with him: Martyrs Abdechalas and Ananias.*

9th hour and Typica, 5:40pm.

Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, 6pm.

Friday, April 18.

Matins of Lazarus Saturday, 6pm.

Saturday, April 19. *Lazarus Saturday. Ven. John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine (8th c.).*

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

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

Epistle: Heb 12:28-13:8 Gospel: Jn 11:1-45.

Parish Council Meeting, 12noon.

Vigil for the Feast of the Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, 5pm.

Sunday, April 20. *Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday). Ven. Theodore Trichinas (“the Hair-shirt Wearer”), Hermit, near Constantinople.*

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

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

Epistle: Phil 4:4-9 Gospel: Jn 12:1-8.

Bridegroom Matins of Great and Holy Monday, 12noon.

+ + + Important Upcoming Dates + + +

4/21 – 26 Holy Week: see the service schedule or website for Holy Week services.

Sun, 4/27 Pascha.

Mon, 4/28 Bright Monday Liturgy, 9am, with breakfast following at local restaurant.

+ + + Announcements + + +

Choir Practice: There will be a choir practice today after coffee hour.

Pascha Flower Collection: The special collection this week and next will be for Pascha flowers.

Preparations for Palm Sunday and Holy Week: Next Saturday, after Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday and before Vigil for Palm Sunday, all are invited to participate in preparations for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Tuna and Peanut Butter Sunday: Next Sunday, the third Sunday of the month, we will collect tuna, peanut butter, and other canned and dried goods for CERV, our local Northfield food shelf.

Confession: Offering ourselves to Christ in confession is woven into the fabric of our Orthodox practice and into our regular reception of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Great Lent is an especially important time to avail ourselves of this mystery of the Church. If you haven’t already, please make arrangements with Fr. Caleb for confession in the coming week.

+ + + Liturgical Reflection + + +

A week of reflecting on Lazarus: The final week of lent is a quiet week of reflecting on the death and resurrection of Lazarus. It is today, Sunday, that Jesus is first told of Lazarus’ illness, and yet He waits two days (until Tuesday) before He informs His disciples that they must go to Jerusalem since Lazarus has fallen asleep. This phrase, ‘fallen asleep’, now so familiar to us, perplexes the disciples as they think that Jesus means that Lazarus is simply resting. Our Lord uses this phrase, however, neither to indicate that one is napping nor even to describe what death is like, but to indicate that, like sleep, we will wake up; we will arise. Death is not the end; there will be a resurrection.

It is four days before Jesus arrives in the village of Bethany to meet the grieving Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus. During these four days we too rest, as much as our schedule permits, and live in the stillness and anticipation of God’s response to death. Then, on Saturday, at the very heart of St John’s Gospel (the 11th of 22 chapters), we see Jesus revealed in the fullness of His humanity and divinity. On the one hand, He is deeply moved in spirit and troubled (vv. 33, 38) to the point of weeping (v. 34). On the other hand, in the midst of all this unsettling sorrow, Martha proclaims: “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world” (v. 27); indeed, the Christ proceeds to call on his Father and to raise Lazarus from the dead in anticipation of His own conquering of death by death in just one weeks time: “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (vv. 25-26). During these final days of Lent and Holy Week, let us discern our reply to Christ.