

**ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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May 4, 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, May 4. *AntiPascha. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha – Tone 1. St. Thomas Sunday. Virgin Martyr Pelagia of Tarsus in Asia Minor (ca. 290).*

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30am. *Acts 5:12-20 / Jn 20:19-31.*

Wednesday, May 7. *Repose of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America (1909). Eve of Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (98-117 A.D.).*

Vespers, 5:30pm.

Saturday, May 10.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, May 11. *3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA—Tone 2. Holy Myrrhbearing Women. Commemoration of the Founding of Constantinople. Hieromartyr Mocius (Mucius), Presbyter, of Amphipolis in Macedonia (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> c.). Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Cyril (869) and Methodius (885), First Teachers of the Slavs.*

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

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30am. *Acts 6:1-7 / Mk 15:43-16:8.*

Wednesday, May 14. Vespers, 5:30pm.

Saturday, May 17. Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, May 18. *4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA—Tone 3. The Healing of the Paralytic.*

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

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30am. *Acts 9:32-34 / Jn 5:1-15.*

Wednesday, May 21. *Midfeast.* Readers Vespers, 5:30pm.

Saturday, May 24. Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, May 25. *5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA—Tone 4. The Samaritan Woman.*

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

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30am. *Acts 11:9-26,29-30 / Jn 4:5-42.*

Blessing of Graves

Parish Council Meeting

+ + + **Announcements** + + +

Peanut Butter and Cereal Sunday: On Sunday, May 17, the third Sunday of the month, we are collecting dried and canned goods for CERV, our Northfield food shelf. They have a particular need at this time for peanut butter and cereal.

Holy Synod Spring Meeting: On May 13-15, the Holy Synod of Bishops will meet for their regularly scheduled spring meeting. Please pray for their courage and wisdom as they prepare to address the troubles facing our Church.

Dn. John and Mat. Anna will be traveling to Greece May 5 – 20. Please pray for their safety and that God will open their hearts to holy sites they'll be able to visit. They will be out of phone contact, but on intermittent email, and happy to hear from friends.

+ + + **Liturgical Reflections** + + +

Artos: The bread (*artos*) we bless on Pascha night is, on Bright Saturday (or, by common practice, on St. Thomas Sunday), broken and distributed to the faithful. With this bread we are reminded that Our Lord says: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world” (Jn 6:51). The Artos is not the consecrated body and blood of our Lord, but is blessed for our physical and spiritual healing, and as a way to remember the Resurrection from Pascha to Pascha. It is a traditional practice for Orthodox to take some home, divide it into small pieces, and consume it throughout the year, especially at times of illness or distress, until the following Pascha.

‘O Heavenly King’: In our prayers, both personal and in Church, from Pascha to the Feast of the Ascension, we replace the prayer to the Holy Spirit, ‘O Heavenly King’, with the thrice repeated Paschal troparion: “Christ is risen for the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.” From the Ascension to Pentecost, we either say the troparion for the Ascension or simply go straight to “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, ....”

Scripture Reading: During the Paschal season we read the Gospel of John and the Acts of the Apostles. This is a wonderful time to recommit ourselves to the regular reading of the Scriptures.

Sundays of Pascha: While the Sunday themes of Great Lent are well known, we sometimes forget that the Sundays of Pascha also have designated themes to direct our attention to the resurrection: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: St. Thomas (Jn 20:19-31); 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: The Holy Myrrhbearing Women (Mk 15:43-16:8); 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: The Paralytic (Jn 5:1-15); 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: The Samaritan Woman (Jn 4:5-42); 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday: The Blind Man (Jn 9:1-38); 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Fathers’ of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council (Jn 17:1-13).