

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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June 1, 2008

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+ + + Service Schedule + + +

Sunday, June 1. 6th Sunday of Pascha—Tone 5. Blind Man. Martyr Justin the Philosopher and those with him at Rome: Martyrs Justin, Chariton and his wife, Charity, Euelpistus, Hierax, Peon, Valerian, and Justus (166).

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

Acts 16:61-34 / Jn 9:1-38.

Blessing of Graves, following Liturgy.

Wednesday, June 4. Leavetaking of Pascha – Forefeast of the Ascension. Eve of the Ascension of our Lord.

Reader’s Vespers, **6:00pm.**

See Announcements for area services for the Ascension.

Saturday, June 7.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm.

Sunday, June 8. 7th Sunday of Pascha—Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of the Ascension. Translation of the Relics of the Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates (319). Glorification of St. John of Kronstadt (1990).

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

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

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 / Jn 17:1-13.

+ + + Upcoming Events + + +

6/15	Sunday	Pentecost – Feast of the Holy Trinity
6/22	Sunday	All Saints Day
6/23 – 28		Apostle’s Fast
6/29	Sunday	Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (and All Saints of North America)
7/26	Saturday	Feast of St. Jacob of Alaska
7/27	Sunday	Arch-pastoral Visit of His Grace, Bishop NIKON
8/1 – 14		Dormition Fast
8/6	Wednesday	Feast of the Holy Transfiguration
8/15	Friday	Feast of the Holy Dormition
8/17	Sunday	Celebration of the Feast of the Holy Dormition at Burlington.

+ + + Announcements + + +

Services for the Feast of the Ascension: Since we will only be serving a Reader’s Vespers for the Ascension, please avail yourself of the services from other churches if possible:

- ◆ Holy Dormition, Burlington: Matins and Liturgy (Thurs, 8am.)
- ◆ Holy Resurrection, Claremont: Vespers with Liturgy (Wed, 6pm)
- ◆ Holy Trinity, Springfield: Vespers (Wed, 6pm); Liturgy (Thur, 6:30am)

Peanut Butter and Cereal Sunday: On Sunday, June 15, 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.

Letter from Fr. Chrysostomos (to Xenia): “Christ is risen. Indeed He is risen. I hope you enjoyed the Lenten worship as well as the triumphal Paschal celebration. I wish to inform you that I have opened an email address; this will ease our communication. I received us dollars 450 from Kathy and I have put on the roof of the church though not yet completed. After the political crisis here things are very expensive so we are bearing this difficulty for life to continue otherwise I am wishing you well, together with Father and Matushka Abetti and the congregation. In Christ service, Father Chrysostomos”

+ + + Liturgical Reflections + + +

On the Ascension: “In the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection. The Lord did not rise in order to return again to the fleshly order of life, so as to live again and commune with the disciples and the multitudes by means of preaching and miracles.... With Christ, man's nature ascends also. "We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven," says St John Chrysostom.... The Ascension is the token of Pentecost, the sign of its coming, "The Lord has ascended to heaven and will send the Comforter to the world." For the Holy Spirit was not yet in the world, until Jesus was glorified. And the Lord Himself told the disciples, "If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you" (John 16:7).... The Ascension is a sign and token of the Second Coming. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).”
V. Rev. George Florovsky

Prayer from Ascension to Pentecost: From Ascension to Pentecost, we no longer say the Pascha Troparion in place of ‘O Heavenly King’, but instead remain in silent anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit, much like the disciples waiting in the upper room (Acts 1:12 – 2:4). On Pentecost we return to saying ‘O Heavenly King’ in our prayers.

Kneeling Vespers: On Sunday, June 15th, after coffee hour we will serve Kneeling Vespers. It is here that, for the first time since Pascha, we kneel and do prostrations. Much like Forgiveness Vespers initiates our corporate Lenten and Paschal journey, so too Kneeling Vespers initiates our entrance into the season of growth, into the ascetic efforts involved in tilling the soil of our hearts so that the seeds of God’s word can germinate and grow, to the end that we might bear much fruit.