

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

802.485.9121 www.stjacobofalaska.org

July 13, 2008

+++

+++

+++

Fr. Caleb Abetti
Priest (603.219.1711)

Susanna Toolan
President

Fr. Dn. John Konkle
Deacon (603.738.4635)

+++ Service Schedule +++

Sunday, July 13. 4th Sunday after Pentecost — Tone 3. Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.

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

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

Rom 6:18-23; Heb 13:7-16 / Mt 8:5-13; Jn 17:1-13.

Wednesday, July 16. Eve of Ven. Andrei Rublev (14th-15th c.).

Workday

Vespers, 5:30pm.

A light meal and study on St. Athanasius' *On the Incarnation*, 6:15pm.

Saturday, July 19.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5pm, which His Grace, Bishop NIKON present.

Dinner and discussion with His Grace, 6pm.

Sunday, July 20. 5th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 4. Holy Glorious Prophet Elija (9th c. B.C.)

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

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

Rom 10:1-10; Jam 5:10-20 / Mt 8:20-9:1; Lk 4:22-30.

+++ Upcoming Events +++

7/25	Friday	Vespers in Rockport, Maine
7/26	Saturday	Feast of St. Jacob of Alaska
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
9/21	Sunday	Parish Feast Day

In the beginning wickedness did not exist. Nor indeed does it exist now in those who are holy, nor does it in any way belong to their nature. But men later on began to contrive it, and to elaborate it to their own hurt. This is when and the reason they devised idols, treating what was not as though it were.

-- St. Athanasius, *Against the Heathen*, 2.1

+++ Announcements +++

Church Work Day: On Wednesday, July 16, we will have a workday at the Church. Come any time after 11am, for as long as you can, and bring a friend. A late lunch will be provided. We'll be preparing for the Bishop's visit, moving rocks (bring gloves), and possibly cleaning out the shed. The workday will be concluded with Vespers at 5:30, followed by dinner and study.

Wednesday Study Topic. This Wednesday evening after Vespers Fr. Caleb will begin a study on St. Athanasius' *On the Incarnation*. Copies of the book are available for purchase. The reading for this week will be the "Introduction" and "The Life of St. Athanasius" (pp. 3-24). Please read the material in advance if you are able.

Seminary Fund: This week we will take up a special collection for the OCA Seminaries: St Herman's, St. Tikhon's, and St. Vladimir's. You may specify which Seminary you would like your gift to go to; unspecified gifts will go to St. Vladimir's.

Arch-pastoral Visit: His Grace, Bishop NIKON, will visit us next weekend, on July 19th and 20th. On the 19th we will serve Vespers at our normal time, 5pm, after which we will have a meal and discussion time with the Bishop. On Sunday morning we will serve a hierarchical Liturgy, after which the Bishop will spend some time with the children of the parish. (Mat. Nicole and Linda are organizing this time; please see them if you have suggestions or would like to help.) His Grace will enter the Church before Hours a little after shortly after 9am on Sunday. Please make every attempt to be in the Nave comfortably prior to the starting time of the services so that we can properly greet His Grace.

+++ Liturgical Reflections +++

Hierarchical Visits: It is a great gift to have our Bishop visit for, as St. Ignatius states in the early years of the 2nd century, "See that ye all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father.... Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop.... Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the people also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church." So often, however, we feel awkward, distant and even afraid of Bishops, and we thereby don't adequately experience the joy of their presence among us. While there are, of course, proper ways to treat a Bishop, it's most important not to let our discomfort with 'protocols' prevent us from initiating interaction with him, and from asking his blessing. Here are a few tips to keep in mind.

- ◆ When the bishop is present, we do not as a blessing from a priest; only from the bishop. You can greet a priest with a normal greeting (e.g., 'Glory to Jesus Christ')
- ◆ When asking a bishop for a blessing: cross yourself and bow to the point of touching the ground with your right hand, and say something like "Your Grace, May I have your blessing", or "Master Bless".