

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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October 26, 2008

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+ + + Service Schedule + + +

Sunday, October 26th. *19th Sunday after Pentecost (5th of Luke)—Tone 2. Holy and Glorious Greatmartyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica (ca. 306). Commemoration of the Great Earthquake at Constantinople in 740 A.D.*

3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10am

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

Epistle: Heb 12:6-13; 25-27(earthquake); 2Cor 11:31-12:9(Sunday); 2Tim 2:1-10(St. Demetrius).

Gospel: Matt 8:23-27(Earthquake); Lk 16:19-31(Sunday); Jn 15:17-16:2 (St. Demetrius).

Wednesday, October 29: *Eve of Hieromartyr Zenobius and his sister Zenobia, of Aegae in Cilicia (285).*

Daily Vespers, 5:30pm.

Saturday, October 25th.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5:00pm.

November, 2nd. *20th Sunday after Pentecost (6th of Luke)—Tone 3. Martyrs Acindynus, Pegasus, Aphthonius, Elpidophorus and Anempodistus, of Persia (ca. 341-5). St. Marcian of Cyprus (381-391).*

3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10am

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

Epistle: Gal 1:11-19; Gospel: Lk 8:26-39.

+ + + Upcoming Events + + +

11/10-13	Mon – Thur	All America Council
11/15 – 12/24		Nativity Fast
11/21	Friday	Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple.
12/6	Saturday	Feast of St. Nicholas

*A heart that is continually moved to thanksgiving
is a guide that leads the gifts of God to a man.*

A murmuring disposition always active in the heart is a guide that leads trials to the soul.

-- St. Isaac the Syrian

+ + + Saints Lives + + +

(from oca.org)

Sunday, October 26th: *Holy, Glorious Demetrius the Myrrhgusher of Thessalonica (306).* The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home. By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ. Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. The compiler of his Life, St Simeon Metaphrastes, says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessalonica (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.). The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians. Learning of this, St Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom. At dawn on October 26, soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth. During the reign of St Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of St Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher."

Friday, October 31st: *Hieromartyr Archpriest John Kochurov, Missionary in America First Clergy Martyr of the Russian Revolution (1917).* On October 31, 1917, in Tsarskoye Selo, a bright new chapter, full of earthly grief and heavenly joy, was opened in the history of sanctity in the Russian Church: the holiness of the New Martyrs of the twentieth century. The opening of this chapter is linked to the name of the Russian Orthodox pastor who became one of the first to give his soul for his flock during this twentieth century of fighters against God: Archpriest John Kochurov.