

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 7, 2008

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President

Lives of the Saints
(from oca.org)

+ + **Service Schedule** + + +

Sunday, December 7th

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (11th of Luke) — Tone 8. St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397).
Ven. Anthony, Abbot of Siya (Novgorod – 1558). Ven. Nilus of Stolobensk (1554). Ven. John the Faster,
of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves – 12th c.). Martyr Athenodorus of Mesopotamia (ca. 304).
Ven. Paul the Obedient. St. Philotheia of Thrace, Protectress of Romania (12th c.).
Ven. Gregory, Founder of Grigoriou Monastery (Mt. Athos – 14th c.)
3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10am
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30am.
Epistle: Eph. 4:1-6; Gospel: Luke 17:12-19.

Wednesday, December 10th

Daily Vespers, 2:00 p.m. at **Berlin Health and Rehabilitation Center**.
Daily Vespers, 5:30pm. Meal and Study Group @ 6:15 pm: “Finding Christ According to the Scriptures”.
Food sign up: see David (soup, bread, or drink).

Saturday, December 13th

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5:00pm.

Sunday, December 14th

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (12th of Luke)—Tone 1. **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**.
Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucis, and Callinicus of Apollonia (249-51).
Martyrs Apolonius, Philemon, Arianus and Theoctychus of Alexandria (286-287)
3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10am
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30am.
Epistle: Col. 3:4-11 (Forefathers); Gospel: Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers)

+ + + **Upcoming Events** + + +

11/15 – 12/24		Nativity Fast
12/10	Wednesday	Daily Vespers, 2 p.m. at Berlin Health and Rehabilitation Center
12/24	Wednesday	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Followed by a Work Day Holy Supper, 4:30 p.m.
12/25	Thurs	Christmas! The Nativity of Our Lord. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Vespers or Vigil, 6:00 p.m.

There is a Special Parish Meeting being held today to elect additional Parish Council members. Please remember to attend.

Saint Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, was born in the year 340 into the family of the Roman prefect of Gaul (now France). After the death of the father of the family, Ambrose journeyed to Rome, where the future saint and his brother Satyrus received an excellent education. About the year 370, upon completion of his course of study, Ambrose was appointed to the position of governor (consular prefect) of the districts of Liguria and Aemillia, though he continued to live at Mediolanum (now Milan).

In the year 374 Auxentius, the Arian Bishop of Mediolanum, died. This led to complications between the Orthodox and the Arians, since each side wanted to have its own bishop. Ambrose, as the chief city official, went to the church to resolve the dispute.

While he was speaking to the crowd, suddenly a child cried out, “Ambrose for bishop!” The people took up this chant. Ambrose, who at this time was still a catechumen, considered himself unworthy, and tried to refuse. He disparaged himself and even tried to flee from Mediolanum. The matter went ultimately before the emperor Valentinian the Elder (364-375), whose orders Ambrose dared not disobey. He accepted holy Baptism from an Orthodox priest and, passing through all the ranks of the Church clergy in just seven days, on December 7, 374 he was consecrated Bishop of Mediolanum. He dispersed all his possessions, money and property for the adornment of churches, the upkeep of orphans and the poor, and he devoted himself to a strict ascetic life.

Ambrose combined strict temperance, intense vigilance and work within the fulfilling of his duties as archpastor. St. Ambrose, defending the unity of the Church, energetically opposed the spread of heresy. Thus, in the year 379 he traveled off to establish an Orthodox bishop at Sirmium, and in 385-386 he refused to hand over the basilica of Mediolanum to the Arians.

The saint combined strictness with an uncommon kindness. Granted a gift of wonderworking, he healed many from sickness. One time at Florence, while staying at the house of Decentus, he resurrected a dead boy.

The repose of St. Ambrose, who departed to the Lord on the night of Holy Pascha, was accompanied by many miracles. He even appeared in a vision to the children being baptized that night. The saint was buried in the Ambrosian basilica in Mediolanum, beneath the altar, between the martyrs Protasius and Gervasius (October 14).

St. Ambrose received particular renown as a Church writer. In dogmatic compositions he set forth the Orthodox teaching about the Holy Trinity, the Sacraments, and Repentance: “Five Books on the Faith”; “Explication of the Symbol of the Faith”; “On the Incarnation”; “Three Books on the Holy Spirit”; “On the Sacraments”; “Two Books on Repentance”.

St. Ambrose was also a reformer of Church singing. He introduced antiphonal singing (along the Eastern or Syrian form) into the Western Church, which became known as “Ambrosian Chant”. He also composed twelve hymns which were used during his lifetime. The hymn, “Thee, O God, we praise” (Te Deum), attributed to St. Ambrose, entered into the divine services of the Orthodox Church.

