

**ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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December 21, 2008

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President

+ + + **Service Schedule** + + +

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

**27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (13<sup>th</sup> of Luke) – Tone 2. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ.**  
**Sunday Before the Nativity.** *Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 500 men and 130 women (304).  
Rest of St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1326). St. Juliana, Princess of  
Viaz'ma (1406). Rest of Bl. Prokopii (Procopius) of Viatka, Fool-for Christ (1628). Martyr Themistocles  
of Myra in Lycia (251).  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours, 9:10 am.  
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30 am.  
Epistle: Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Gospel: Matt. 1:1-25.*

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. The Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours, 9:30 am.  
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 am, followed by a Work Day.  
Epistle: Heb. 1:1-12; Gospel: Luke 2:1-20  
Holy Supper, 4:30 pm.  
Vigil, 6:00 pm.

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. The Nativity of Christ

3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours, 9:30 am.  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am.  
Epistle: Gal. 4:4-7; Gospel: Matt. 2:1-12

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5:00pm*

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

**28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (14<sup>th</sup> of Luke) – Tone 3. Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ.**  
**Sunday After the Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and  
James the Brother of the Lord.** *The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia, including: Glycerius, Zeno,  
Theophilus, Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Indes, Gorgonius, Peter, Euthymius, and the Virgins:  
Agape, Domna and Theophila (302). Ven. Ignatii (Ignatius) of Lomsk (Vologda – 1591). Apostle  
Nicanor the Deacon (38 A.D.). Ven. Simeon the Myrrh-gusher, of Mt. Athos (14<sup>th</sup> c.).  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours, 9:10 am.  
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30 am.  
Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19; Gospel: Matt. 2:13-23*

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

There is an ongoing study of Saint John of Damascus being led by Mark Montague.  
This study meets at Father Caleb's home in White River Junction on Thursday  
evenings at 6:30 pm. The next meeting is on Thursday, January 8, 2009.

**Lives of the Saints**  
(from oca.org)

**Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia**

The Holy Virgin Martyr Juliana, daughter of an illustrious pagan named Africanus, was born in the city of Nicomedia. As a child, she was betrothed to a certain Elusius, one of the emperor's advisors. St. Juliana was endowed with a profound intellect and goodness of soul. She saw through the delusion and deception of the pagan faith, and secretly accepted holy Baptism.

When the time of her wedding approached, Juliana refused to be married. Her father urged her not to break her engagement, but when she refused to obey him, he began to beat her viciously. Then Africanus handed his daughter over to the Eparch, who happened to be Elusius, Juliana's former fiance. Elusius fervently asked Juliana to marry him, promising not to require her to abandon her faith. St. Juliana refused and said that she would rather be put to death.

They beat the saint both long and harshly, but after each beating she received healing and new strength from God. Her punishment took place before a large number of people. Of these, 500 men and 150 women came to confess Christ after witnessing the steadfastness and courage of the holy virgin miraculously healed from her wounds. They were all beheaded, and were baptized in their own blood.

Convinced of the futility of attempting to separate the holy virgin from her heavening Bridegroom, Elusius sentenced Juliana to death. She accepted the sentence with joy and glorified the Lord for permitting her to receive a martyr's crown. The holy Martyr Juliana was executed in the year 304.

St. Juliana is the subject of an Anglo-Saxon poem, believed to have been written by Cynewulf in the eighth century.



**From the Vesper Service of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ:**

**TONE FIVE**

Thou dost bear the form of Adam, yet Thou art all-perfect, being in the form of God. Of Thine own will Thou art held in human hands, who in Thy might upholdest all things with Thine hand. To Thee the pure and undefiled Virgin spake aloud: 'How shall I wrap Thee in swaddling clothes like a child, how shall I give Thee suck who givest nourishment to all the world? How shall I not wonder in amazement at Thy poverty beyond understanding! How shall I, who am Thy handmaiden, call Thee my Son? I sing Thy praises and I bless Thee, who dost grant the world great mercy.'

The undefiled Virgin, beholding the pre-eternal God as a child that had taken flesh from her, held Him in her arms and without ceasing she kissed Him. Filled with joy, she said aloud to Him: 'O Most High God, O King unseen, how is it that I look upon Thee? I cannot understand the mystery of Thy poverty without measure. For the smallest of caves, a strange dwelling for Thee, finds room for Thee within itself. Thou hast been born without destroying my virginity, but Thou hast kept my womb as it was before childbirth; and Thou dost grant the world great mercy.'

The pure Virgin spoke in wonder, as she heard the Magi standing together before the cave, and she said to them: 'Whom do you seek? For I see that ye have come from a far country. Ye have the appearance, but not the thoughts, of Persians; strange has your journey been, and strange your arrival. Ye have come with zeal to worship Him who, journeying as a stranger from on high, has strangely, in ways known to Himself, come to dwell in me, granting the world great mercy.'

