

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

802.485.9121 www.stjacobofalaska.org

December 28, 2008

Fr. Caleb Abetti
Priest (603.219.1711)

Susanna Toolan
President

Lives of the Saints

(from oca.org)

Rest of the Venerable Seraphim the Wonderworker of Sarov

Commemorated on January 2

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

Sunday, December 28th

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (14th 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 (14th c.).*
3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10 am.

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30 am.
Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19; Gospel: Matt. 2:13-23

Wednesday, December 31st

Daily Vespers, 5:30 pm. Meal and Study Group at 6:15 PM: “Finding Christ According to the Scriptures”

Friday, January 2nd. Ven. Seraphim of Sarov.

3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10 am.
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am.
Epistle: Heb. 7:18-25; Gospel: Mark 12:1-12

Saturday, January 3rd

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5:00pm

Sunday, January 4th

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Sunday Before Theophany.
Synaxis of 70 Apostles; Ven. Theoctistus.
3rd and 6th Hours, 9:10 am.
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 9:30 am.
Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:5-8; Gospel: Mark 1:1-8.

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

1/5/2009	Tuesday	Vigil at 6:00 pm.
1/6/2009	Wednesday	Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am. Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
1/17/2009	Saturday	Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am. Venerable Godbearing Anthony the Great
1/30/2009	Friday	Divine Liturgy and Liturgical Symposium at St. Vladimir's Seminary

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.

Saint Seraphim of Sarov [born Prochorus], a great ascetic of the Russian Church, was born on July 19, 1754...Young Prochorus, endowed with an excellent memory, soon mastered reading and writing. From his childhood he loved to attend church services, and to read both the Holy Scripture and the lives of the Saints with his fellow students. Most of all, he loved to pray or to read the Holy Gospel in private...

While still in his youth Prochorus made his plans to devote his life entirely to God and to go to a monastery. His devoted mother did not object to this and she blessed him on his monastic path with a copper cross, which he wore on his chest the rest of his life. Prochorus set off on foot with pilgrims going from Kursk to Kiev to venerate the Saints of the Caves.

The Elder Dositheus (actually a woman, Daria Tyapkina), whom Prochorus had visited, blessed him to go to the Sarov wilderness monastery, and there seek his salvation. Returning briefly to his parental home, Prochorus bid a final farewell to his mother and family. On November 20, 1778 he arrived at Sarov, where the monastery was then headed by a wise Elder, Father Pachomius. He accepted him and put him under the spiritual guidance of Elder Joseph. Under his direction Prochorus passed through many obediences at the monastery: he was the Elder's cell-attendant, he toiled at making bread and prosphora, and at carpentry...

With the blessing of Igumen Pachomius, Prochorus abstained from all food on Wednesdays and Fridays, and went into the forest, where in complete isolation he practiced the Jesus Prayer...After eight years as a novice at the Sarov monastery, Prochorus was tonsured with the name Seraphim, a name reflecting his fiery love for the Lord and his zealous desire to serve Him. After a year, Seraphim was ordained as hierodeacon...

In 1793, Hierodeacon Seraphim was ordained to the priesthood, and he served the Divine Liturgy every day. After the death of Igumen Father Pachomius, St. Seraphim received the blessing of the new Superior Father Isaiah, to live alone in a remote part of the forest three and a half miles from the monastery. He named his new home “Mount Athos” and devoted himself to solitary prayer. He went to the monastery on ly on Saturday before the all-night Vigil, and returned to his forest cell after Sunday's Liturgy, at which he partook of the Divine Mysteries.

Fr Seraphim spent his time in ascetic struggles. His cell rule of prayer was based on the rule of St. Pachomius for the ancient desert monasteries...He kept a very strict fast, eating only once during the entire day, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he completely abstained from food...In the spring of 1810, he returned to the monastery after fifteen years of living in the wilderness. Continuing his silence, he shut himself up in his cell, occupying himself with prayer and reading. He was also permitted to eat meals and to receive Communion in his cell. There St Seraphim attained the height of spiritual purity and was granted special gifts of grace by God: clairvoyance and wonderworking. After five years of solitude, he opened his door and allowed the monks to enter. He continued his silence, however, teaching them only by example. On November 25, 1825 the Mother of God...appeared to the Elder in a vision and told him to end his seclusion and to devote himself to others. He received the igumen's blessing to divide his time between life in the forest and at the monastery. He did not return to his Far Hermitage, but went to a cell closer to the monastery. This he called his Near Hermitage. At that time, he opened the doors of his cell to pilgrims as well as his fellow-monks.

On January 2, 1833, St. Seraphim was found kneeling before an icon of the Mother of God with his arms crossed on his chest. His pure soul was taken by the angels at the time of prayer, and had flown off to the Throne of the Almighty God, Whose faithful servant St Seraphim had been all his life.

