

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 1, 2009

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Susanna Toolan
President

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

Sunday, February 1st

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. Sunday of Zacchaeus. Forefeast of the Meeting. Martyr Tryphon of Campsada near Apamea in Spain (250). Martyrs Perpetua, a woman of Carthage and the Catechumens: Saturus, Revocatus, Saturinus, Secundulus and Felicitas (202-203). Ven. Peter Galata, Hermit, near Antioch in Syria (429). Ven. Vendemianus (Bendemianus), Hermit, of Bithynia (ca. 512). Ven. Bridget (Brigid) of Ireland (523).

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

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am.

Epistle: 1 Tim. 4:9-15; Gospel: Luke 19:1-10.

Vespers, following Coffee Hour.

Monday, February 2nd

Please note that the Divine Liturgy previously scheduled for this date has been cancelled.

Wednesday, February 4th

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

Saturday, February 7th

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5:00 pm.

Sunday, February 8th

34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. [Beginning of the Lenten Triodion.] Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. Afterfeast of the Meeting. Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates (“the General” - 319). Prophet Zechariah (ca. 520 B.C.). St. Sava II, Archbishop of Serbia (1269).

+ + + **Upcoming** + + +

3/04/2009	Wednesday	Starting this week, the Wednesday night study group will begin a Lenten study, using St. John Climacus' <u>Ladder of Divine Ascent</u> .
4/04-05/2009	Sat. - Sun.	Lenten Retreat , with Peter Bouteneff, St. Vladimir's Seminary Professor of Patristics and Systematic Theology.
Weekly	Tuesdays	Orthodox Christian Fellowship , Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College, 7:00 pm.
Weekly	Thursdays	There is an ongoing study of St. John of Damascus being led by Mark Montague. The study meets at Father Caleb's house in White River Junction, Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on February 2

(from oca.org)

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St. Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St. Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32). St. Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St. Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem” (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads : “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+360), Gregory the Theologian (+389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+394), Gregory of Nyssa (+400), and John Chrysostom (+407).



House Blessings

Between now and the beginning of Great Lent is the traditional time for house blessings. If you would like Father Caleb to come to your home to bless it, please sign up on the sheet which is on the table at the entrance to the church.



