

**ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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February 8, 2009

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**Lives of the Saints**

(from oca.org)

**Prophet Zachariah**

The Prophet Zachariah the Sickle-Seer, the eleventh of the twelve Minor Prophets. He was descended from the tribe of Levi, and seems to have been a priest (Nehemiah 12:4, 16). He was called to prophetic service at a young age and became, in the wondrous expression of church hymnology, “a spectator of supra-worldly visions.”

The Book of the Prophet Zachariah contains inspired details about the coming of the Messiah (Zach. 6:12); about the last days of the Savior's earthly life, about the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem on a young donkey (Zach. 9:9); about the betrayal of the Lord for thirty pieces of silver and the purchase of the potter's field with them (Zach. 11:12-13); about the piercing of the Lord's side (Zach. 12:10); about the scattering of the apostles from the Garden of Gethsemane (Zach. 13:7); about the eclipse of the sun at the time of the crucifixion (Zach. 14:6-7).

“Enlightened by dawnings all above,” the Prophet Zachariah, “saw the future as it were the present.” According to Tradition, this “most true God-proclaimer” lived to old age and was buried near Jerusalem, beside his illustrious contemporary and companion, the Prophet Haggai (December 16). The title “Sickle-Seer” given Zachariah comes from a vision in which he saw a sickle flying in the air, destroying thieves and perjurers (Zach. 5:1-3).

The holy Prophet Zachariah died around 520 B.C. His tomb was discovered in 415 in a village near Eleutheropolis (Sozomen, Hist. Eccles. VI:32, IX:17). At the prophet's feet was the body of a child dressed in royal accoutrements. His holy relics were transferred to the church of St. James the Brother of the Lord (October 23) in Constantinople.



**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.



“I know that I am nothing worth. But still I do not think my pain, my suffering unworthy of attention. And the Lord Who bade us 'Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones' [Matt. 18:10] did not disdain my appeal 'and heard [me] and saved [me] out of all [my] troubles' [Ps. 34:6]. I was unrestrained in my frantic prayers, audacious even, but He responded softly, gently, without putting my ignorance to shame. Praying, I looked for an answer and at the same time did not dare to rely on one. Beyond all my expectations – He came. The manner of His coming was particularly unexpected. The enemies retired. The Lord conquered both them and me. Strange – for the first time I knew the unspeakable joy of being vanquished.”

- Archimandrite Sophrony, in We Shall See Him As He Is.

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

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

**34<sup>th</sup> 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).

*3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: 9:10 am.*

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

*Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-15; Gospel: Luke 18:10-14.*

Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Great Vespers of the Resurrection, 5:00 pm.

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**35<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Sunday of the Prodigal Son.** Apostle Onesimus of the 70 (ca. 109); Ven. Paphnutius (Paphnutius), Recluse of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves - 13<sup>th</sup> c.); Ven. Paphnutius and his daughter, Ven. Euphrosyne, of Alexandria (5<sup>th</sup> c.); Ven. Eusebius, Hermit, of Syria (5<sup>th</sup> c.).

*3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: 9:10 am.*

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

*Epistle: 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Gospel: Luke 15:11-32.*

+ + + **Upcoming** + + +

- 3/04/2009**      Wednesday      Starting the first Wednesday in March, the Wednesday night study group will begin a Lenten study, using St. John Climacus' Ladder of Divine Ascent.
- 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.

