

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH
802-485-9121 www.stjacobofalaska.org
October 18, 2009

Fr. Caleb Abetti
Priest (802-485-9615)

Susanna Toolan
President

✠ ✠ ✠ Service Schedule ✠ ✠ ✠

Sunday, October 18th. **19th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.).**

Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbus (4th c.). Ven. Julian the Hermit, of Mesopotamia (4th c.).

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Epistle: 2 Cor. 11:31-12:9; Gospel: Luke 8:5-15.

Wednesday, October 21st.

Daily Vespers, 5:30 pm. Meal and Study Group to follow: Bishop Kallistos Ware's *The Inner Kingdom*.

Saturday, October 24th. Memorial Saturday.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection: 5:00 pm.

Sunday, October 25th. **20th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 3.** Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius the Notaries, of

Constantinople (ca. 355). Ven. Martyrii (Martyrius) the Deacon and Martyrii the Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 13th-14th c.). Martyr Athanasius the Fuller, at Salona in Dalmatia (3rd c.). St Tabitha, the widow raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter (1st c.).

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Epistle: Gal. 1: 11-19; Gospel: Luke 16:19-31.

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All-Parish Meeting Today

The annual all-parish meeting will be held today after coffee hour.

Please plan to attend.

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Forefeast of the Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple

Friday, November 24th, 2009

All-night Vigil Service at Saint Jacob of Alaska Church

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Apostle and Evangelist Luke
Commemorated on October 18
(from oca.org)

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil. 1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Sts Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits St Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. St Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), St Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In St Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Books of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of St Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymous (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of St Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulcher in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

(Continued on insert)

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of St Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of St Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skeleton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.

Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymous to be venerated in St Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.



Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Troparian _ Tone 5

Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke,
the recorder of the joyous Gospel of Christ
and the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles,
for his writings are a testimony of the Church of Christ.
He is the physician of human weaknesses and infirmities.
He heals the wounds of our souls,
and constantly intercedes for our salvation!

Kontakion – Tone 2

Let us praise the godly Luke:
he is the true preacher of piety,
the orator of ineffable mysteries
and the star of the Church;
for the Word, Who alone knows the hearts of men,
chose him, together with wise Paul, to be a teacher of the gentiles!



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