

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

802-485-9121 www.stjacobofalaska.org

November 1, 2009

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

Susanna Toolan
President

✠ ✠ ✠ Service Schedule ✠ ✠ ✠

Sunday, November 1st **21st Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4.** Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmos and Damian of Mesopotamia, and their mother, St Theodora. Hieromartyrs John the Bishop And Jacob (James) the Presbyter, of Persia (Ca. 345). Martyrs Cyrenia and Juliana in Cilicia (4th c.). Martyr Hermenegild the Goth of Spain (586). Martyrs Caesarius, Dacius, Sabbas, Saninia, Agrippa, Adrian, and Thomas, at Damascus (7th c.). Monk Martyrs Jacob, Jacob the Deacon, and Dionysius, of Prodromou (Mt. Athos – 1520).

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Epistle: Gal. 2:16-20; Gospel: Luke 8:26-39.

Wednesday, November 4th

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

Saturday, November 7th

Great Vespers of the Resurrection: 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 8th **22nd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5.** Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the other bodiless powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jegugiel, and Barachiel.

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18; Gospel: Luke 8:41-56.

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

Friday, November 20th, 2009

All-night Vigil Service at Saint Jacob of Alaska Church

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Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmos and Damian of Mesopotamia

Commemorated November 1

(from oca.org)

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmos and Damian and their mother St Theodora were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, St Theodora preserved her children in the purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmos and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of St Cosmos and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary did not dare to refuse.

When St Cosmos learned what had happened, he became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmos, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

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"Humility is a great spiritual gift.

A humble person always speaks the truth,

and anyone who contradicts him is like the servant who struck Christ on the face.

It is impossible for a humble person to justify his actions

because humility and self-justification are mutually exclusive, just as fire and water cannot be combined.

Even if a humble person is completely unlearned,

because he possesses the truth he becomes wiser than the wise.

Although he may acquire wisdom in speaking, it will still not be able to harm him.

Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cosmos and Damian of Mesopotamia

Troparian – Tone 8

Holy unmercenaries and wonderworkers, Cosmos and Damian,
heal our infirmities.
Freely you have received; freely you give to us.

Kontakion – Tone 2

Having received the grace of healing,
you grant healing to those in need.
Glorious wonderworkers and healers, Cosmos and Damian,
visit us and pout down the insolence of our enemies,
and bring healing to the world through your miracles.

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