

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH
802-485-9121 www.stjacobofalaska.org
November 8, 2009

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

Susanna Toolan
President

✠ ✠ ✠ Service Schedule ✠ ✠ ✠

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.

Wednesday, November 11th.

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

Saturday, November 14th.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection: 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 15th. **23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6.** Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa (299-306). Martyrs Elpidius, Marcellus, and Eustochius, who suffered under Julian the Apostate (4th c.). Martyr Demetrius of Thrace (ca.307). Ven. Paisii (Paisius) Velichkovsky (1794).

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

Epistle: Eph. 2:4-10; Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Beginning of the Nativity Fast

Upcoming Services

Friday, November 20th. **Forfeast of the Entry of the Most-holy Theotokos into the Temple.**
All-night Vigil Service: 6:00 pm.

Tuesday, November 24th. **Akathist of Thanksgiving, "Glory to God for All Things": 6:00 pm.**

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**Congratulations to newly baptized Nina,
her parents Amanda and Michael Lewallen,
her brothers Gideon and Gabriel,
and her godparents Faith and Andrew Gibson**

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Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers

Commemorated on November 8

(condensed from oca.org)

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael, and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones. The six-winged SERAPHIM (Flaming, Fiery) (Is. 6:12) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others. The many-eyed CHERUBIM (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen. 3:24) stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory. The THRONES (Col. 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities. DOMINIONS (Col. 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation. POWERS (1Pet. 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obediences. They also encourage them to be patient, and give them spiritual strength and fortitude. AUTHORITIES (1 Pet 3:22, Col. 1:16) have authority over the devil. They protect people from demonic temptations, and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes three ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. PRINCIPALITIES (Col. 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them. ARCHANGELS (1 Thess. 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous things. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel. ANGELS (1 Pet. 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people in virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it. (Continued)

Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means ‘who is like unto God’), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, “Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!”

Holy Scripture and Tradition give us the names of the Archangels:

Gabriel: strength (power) of God, herald and servitor of Divine omnipotence (Dan. 8:16, Luke 1:26). He announces the mysteries of God.

Raphael: the healing of God, the curer of human infirmities (Tobit 3:16, 12:15).

Uriel: the fire or light of God, enlightener (3 Ezdras 5:20). We pray for him to enlighten those with darkened minds.

Selaphiel: the prayer of God, impelling to prayer (3 Ezdras 5:16). He prays to God for mankind.

Jehudiel: the glorifying of God, encouraging exertion for the glory of the Lord and interceding for the reward of efforts.

Barachiel: distributor of the blessing of God for good deeds, entreats the mercy of God for people.

Jeremiel: the raising up of God (3 Ezdras 4:36).

Each person has a guardian angel, and every nation also receives its own guardian angel from God (Dan. 10:13). When a church is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel (Palladius Dial. CH. 10).

Troparian – Tone 4

Commanders of the heavenly hosts,
we who are unworthy beseech you,
by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory,
and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry to you:
“Deliver us from all harm, for you are the commanders of the powers on high!”

Kontakion – Tone 2

Commanders of God’s armies and ministers of the divine glory,
princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind,
ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy,
supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

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