

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

802-485-9121 www.stjacobofalaska.org

December 6, 2009

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

Susanna Toolan
President

✠ ✠ ✠ Service Schedule ✠ ✠ ✠

Sunday, December 6th. **26th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1.** St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (ca. 345).

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Epistle: Eph.5:9-19; Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Wednesday, December 9th.

Daily Vespers, 6:00pm. Meal and study group to follow: Archimandrite Meletios Webber's

Bread and Water, Wine and Oil: An Orthodox Christian Experience of God.

Saturday, December 12th.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection: 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 13th. **27th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2. Sunday of the Forefathers.** Repose of Ven Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of all America (1837). Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, at Sebaste (4th c.). Virgin Martyr Lucia (Lucy) of Syracuse (304). Ven Arkady (Arcadius) of Novotorsk. Ven Mardarii (Mardarius), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 13th c.). Ven Arsenius of Latros (8th-9th c.). Ven Nicodemus (Romanian). St Dosoftei, Metropolitan of Moldava (Romania).

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Upcoming Services

Thursday, December 24th. **Eve of the Nativity of Christ**

Holy Supper: 4:30 pm.

Vigil – Great Compline and Matins: 6:00 pm.

Friday, December 25th. **Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Epistle: Gal. 4:4-7; Gospel: Matt. 2:1-12

St Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Commemorated on December 6

(condensed from oca.org)

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents, Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God...

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor...

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, St Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going around the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, St Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

(Continued on insert)

After his consecration as archbishop, St Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of St Constantine (May 21) as emperor, St Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor...

In the year 325 St Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. The Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius...

Having reached old age, St Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now.

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him...



Troparian – Tone 4

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
your humility exalted you;
your poverty enriched you.
Hierarch Father Nicholas,
entreat Christ our God
that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion – Tone 3

You revealed yourself, O saint, in Myra as a priest,
for you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ
by giving up your soul for your people,
and saving the innocent from death.
Therefore you are blessed as one become wise in the grace of God.

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