

**ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
802-485-9121 [www.stjacobofalaska.org](http://www.stjacobofalaska.org)

January 17, 2010

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Priest (802-485-9615)

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President

✠ ✠ ✠ Service Schedule ✠ ✠ ✠

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. **32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 7. Zacchaeus Sunday.** Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great (356). Ven Anthony of Dymsk (Nopvgorod – ca, 1224). Ven Anthony of Chernozersk (16<sup>th</sup> c.).

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

*Epistle: 1 Tim. 4:9-15; Gospel: Luke 19:1-10.*

Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Daily Vespers: 6:00 pm. Meal and study group to follow: Archimandrite Webber's *Bread and Water, Wine and Oil: An Orthodox Christian Experience of God.*

Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection: 5:00 pm.

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. **33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8. Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.**

**[Beginning of the Lenten Triodion].** Ven Xenia of Rome and her two female slaves (5<sup>th</sup> c.).

St Gerasim, Bishop of Perm (1441). Martyr John of Kazan' (1529). Martyrs Babylas (Vavila) of Sicily, and his two disciples: Timothy and Agapius (3<sup>rd</sup> c.). St Macedonius, Hermit, of Syria (ca. 420).

Translation of the relics of St Athanasius the Persian (7<sup>th</sup> c.). Ven Dionysius of Olympus (16<sup>th</sup> c.).

Ven Philotheus, founder of Philotheou Monastery (Mt. Athos – 10<sup>th</sup> c.). Bl Xenia of St. Petersburg (19<sup>th</sup> c.).

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.*

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### **Sunday of Zacchaeus**

Commemorated on January 17

(from oca.org)

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation

to a sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he has falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection: “Today salvation has come to the world”, which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

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### **Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great**

#### **Troparian – Tone 4**

You imitated the ways of zealous Elijah,  
and followed the straight path of John the Baptist.

You became a desert dweller

and strengthened the world by your prayers.

Father Anthony, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 2**

You rejected the tumult of this life  
and lived your life to the end in solitude,  
imitating the Baptist in every way.

With him we honor you, most venerable Anthony, foundation of the Fathers.

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