

ST. JACOB OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH
802-485-9121 www.stjacobofalaska.org

February 7, 2010

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

Susanna Toolan
President

✠ ✠ ✠ Service Schedule ✠ ✠ ✠

Sunday, February 7th. **35th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting. Sunday of the Last**

Judgment. Meatfare Sunday. St Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont (4th c.).

Ven Luke of Hellas (ca. 946). The 1,003 Martyrs of Nicomedia (303). New Hieromartyrs Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev and Galich (1918) and Peter, Archbishop of Voronezh (1929). Vasily (Basil), Bishop of Priluk (Vologda – 1930). Presbyter Stephan and Martyr Boris (1938).

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8-9:2; Gospel: Matt. 25:31-36.

Wednesday, February 10th.

Great 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, February 13th.

Great Vespers of the Resurrection: 5:00 pm.

Sunday, February 14th. **Sunday of Cheesefare – Tone 3. Forgiveness Sunday. The Expulsion of Adam from**

Paradise. Ven Auxentius of Bithynia (ca. 470). Repose of St Cyril, Equal-of-the-Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs (869). Ven Isaac, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves – ca. 1190). The Twelve Greeks who built the Dormition Cathedral in the Lavra of the Kiev Caves (11th c.). Translation of the Relics of Martyrs Michael and his councilor, Theodore, of Chernigov (1578). Ven Maron, Hermit, of Syria (4th c.). St Abraham, Bishop of Charres in Mesopotamia (5th c.)

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

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

Epistle: Rom. 13:111-14:4; Gospel: Matt. 6:14-21.

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Lenten Retreat

This year's Lenten Retreat will be held at Saint Jacob of Alaska Orthodox Church on Saturday, March 6, 2010. The retreat is entitled:

**The Whole Earth Is Sanctified:
Reclaiming the Christian Vision of Creation**

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Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

Commemorated on February 7

(from oca.org)

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in God's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hard and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book *Great Lent* (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt. 25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt. 25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

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Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

Troparian – Tone 1

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble

and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;
the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed!

Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, righteous Judge!

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Vespers at Middlebury College

On Friday, February 12 at 5:15 pm a Vespers Service will be held in the Mead Chapel at Middlebury College. Dinner and a talk by Father Caleb will follow.

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