

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

March 7, 2010

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President

✠ ✠ ✠ Service Schedule ✠ ✠ ✠

Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. **Third Sunday of Lent – Tone 6. Veneration of the Cross.** The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capiton, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus (4<sup>th</sup> c.). Ven Paul the Simple, disciple of Ven Anthony the Great (4<sup>th</sup> c.). St Paul the Confessor, Bishop of Plusias in Bithynia (9<sup>th</sup> c.). St Emilian of Rome. Icon of the Most-Holy Theotokos, **“Surety of Sinners”** in Odrina (Orlovsk – 1843) and Moscow (1848).

Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:00 pm. Meal and Study Group to follow: St Isaac of Nineveh’s *On Ascetical Life*.

Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Great Vespers of the Resurrection: 5:00 pm.

Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. **Fourth Sunday of Lent – Tone 7. St John Climacus (of *The Ladder*).** Ven Benedict Of Nursia (543). St Theognostus, Metropolitan of Kiev and All Russia (1353). Rt Blv Great Prince Rostilav (Michael), Prince of Kiev and Smolensk (1167). St Euschemon the Confessor, Bishop of Lampsacus (9<sup>th</sup> c.). The **“FEODOROVSKAYA”** Icon of the Most-Holy Theotokos.

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**Third Sunday of Great Lent**  
**Veneration of the Cross**  
(from oca.org)

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ’s redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. “He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Mt. 10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both “the power of God and the wisdom of God” for those being saved (1 Cor. 1:24).

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**Hieromartyrs Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Elpidius, Agathodorus, Aetherius, and Capiton**

Commemorated on March 7  
(condensed from oca.org)

The Hieromartyrs Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Elpidius, Agathodorus, Aetherius, and Capiton carried the Gospel of Christ into the North Black Sea region from the Danube to the Dniepr, including the Crimea. They were bishops of Cherson at different times during the fourth century, and they sealed their apostolic activity with martyrdom. Only Aetherius died in peace.

Long before the Baptism of Rus under St Vladimir, the Christian faith had already spread into the Crimea, which in antiquity was called Tauridia and was ruled by the Roman Emperor. The beginning of the enlightenment of Tauridia is attributed to the holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called (November 30).

The Church’s enemies unwillingly contributed to the further spread of Christianity. The Roman emperors often banished traitors to this area. During the first three centuries, Christians were regarded as traitors because they would not follow the state religion. In the reign of Trajan (98-117), St Clement, Bishop of Rome (November 25), was sent to work in a stone quarry near Cherson. There he continued his preaching, and suffered martyrdom...

At the beginning of the fourth century a bishop’s See was established at Cherson. This was a critical period when Cherson served as a base for the Roman armies which constantly passed through the area. During the reign of Diocletian (284-305), the Patriarch of Jerusalem sent many bishops to preach the Gospel in various lands. Two of them, Ephraim and Basil, arrived at Cherson and planted the Word of God there.

Later on, St Ephraim went to the people living along the Danube, where he underwent many tribulations and sorrows. He was beheaded at the start of the persecution. The preaching at Cherson was continued by St Basil, St Ephraim’s companion. He set many idol-worshippers on the path of truth. Other wayward inhabitants of the city, enraged at his activity, rose up against him. The saint was arrested, mercilessly beaten and expelled from the city...

Soon, by order of the emperor Maximian Galerius (305-311), the persecution against Christians spread with renewed force. The Christ-haters rose up also against St Basil. On March 7, 309 he was dragged from his house during the night. They tied him up, dragged him along the streets and beat him to death with stones and rods. The body of the saint was thrown out of the city to be eaten by dogs and birds, and for many days it was left unburied, but remained untouched. Then Christians secretly buried the body of the holy martyr in a cave.

## Veneration of the Cross

### Troparian – Tone 4

O Lord, save Your people,  
and bless Your inheritance.  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians,  
over their adversaries.  
And by the virtue of Your Cross  
preserve Your habitation!

### Kontakion – Tone 7

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;  
it has mysteriously been quenched by the wood of the Cross!  
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;  
for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell:  
“Enter again into paradise.”

## Hieromartyrs Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Elpidius, Agathodorus, Aetherius, and Capiton

### Troparian – Tone 5

Since You have given us the miracles of Your Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson as an invincible rampart,  
foil the machinations of the ungodly, O Christ our God,  
and strengthen the faith of the Orthodox Christians,  
for You are good and love mankind.

### Kontakion – Tone 2

The radiant day of the hierarchs and pastors in Cherson has dawned!  
Let us sing hymns for the feast of those who suffered for the sheep of Christ!  
Hieromartyrs, entreat Christ, the chief Shepherd, that He may number us with the sheep on His right hand,  
so that we may cry aloud to You:  
Rejoice, holy fathers, for you shed your blood for Christ!

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