

# River of Gladness



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*St. Jacob of Alaska Orthodox Church, Northfield Falls, Vermont*  
*June 2007*

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## ST. JACOB'S WELCOMES THE ABETTIS...

On May 26, Fr. Caleb Abetti served the Vigil of Pentecost at St. Jacob's, and on the 27<sup>th</sup> the Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost. We welcome the Abetti family from our hearts! Unfortunately, the children have been sick and Matushka Nicole has as yet been unable to attend, but Fr. Caleb assured the parish that he has *not* taken a vow of celibacy along with his ordination and that his family does still exist.

Fr. Caleb has plunged into the duties of his new priesthood with a good heart and a willing spirit, hearing confessions, serving Daily Vespers in addition to the weekend services, holding deep and loving conversations with parishioners during coffee hour, and this week he will begin visiting people who have been unable to come to Church. He plans to spend the coming Wednesday (June 5) at the church, assessing some carpentry projects that he would like to undertake and generally getting the feel of the physical church. He invites anyone who would like to see him then to call him on his cell phone (603-219-1711). He will also serve Daily Vespers that evening and urged parishioners to come and talk about the Apostles Fast after service.

The Abettis plan to hold a parish party this Friday at Fr. Caleb's father's home in White River Junction, where they are living (*see the announcement below*).

Fr. Caleb says that, beginning this month, he will work three days a week (Monday through Wednesday, weather permitting) for his father, building a barn in Connecticut—for five weeks—and then he'll be able to be with us full time for a couple of months. He is anticipating that this pattern will provide his family with the income they need.

It is exciting to have arrived at last at this crucial turning point in the life of our parish, and we look forward—also with good hearts and willing spirits—to folding the Abettis into that life, and to all that their good presence among us will mean for us.

## ...AND WE BID FAREWELL TO THE KORBANS

On May 13 St. Jacob's held a loving farewell—but not goodbye!—to the Korbans. Looking ahead last January to four months of being served by a supply priest seemed a lonely prospect. But how blessedly God surprised us!

Who could have imagined how much we would come to love Fr. Mark and Matushka Reba and their two sons, Jesse and Micah, who drove so many long hours and worked so many after-hours to serve St. Jacob Church? And who would have guessed that, alongside the great joy of welcoming Fr. Caleb and Matushka Nicki to our parish would come the sadness of the Korbans' departure?

The Church School and members of the parish prepared a "card" for the family that included photos of as many people as we could gather, and such words of farewell as:

☞ "They brought a loving calmness to our parish at this difficult time. What a blessing to have them here!"

☞ "How naturally Fr. Mark and Mat. Reba, with warmly open hearts and arms, have been woven into the fabric of our little parish. They have been so dear, so loving, so approachable, and have extended themselves so fully to us all."

☞ "Before my first confession with Fr. Mark, my expectation was of judgment, of not being understood. But I was met with love, compassion, and a peace I could take away with me. That same love and peace, Mat. Reba, Jesse, and Micah possess as well."

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☞ “[Jesse and Micah are] lovely, sweet, considerate and intelligent young men. It was a pleasure and great benefit to have them at St. Jacob.”

☞ “They will all be sorely missed for their presence and for the fellowship we have been able to share.”

☞ “Thank you for every little thing you have given to all of us during your months with us.”

☞ “I’ve found a friend in all the Korbans. But even more I’ve found a Father. His priesthood is very deep.”

The St. Jacob community considers now that the Korbans are part of our extended family and hopes that they will attend Church with us whenever they can. And last Sunday Jesse and Micah joined us for Liturgy!

### THE PHOTO DIRECTORY

As most of you were informed by email, Fr. Caleb asked Xenia if she could prepare something with photos and names (and communion names) of the parishioners, along with their birthdays and namedays (so we can sing to you!). This has grown into a photo directory, which has absorbed time and labors that might otherwise have produced a full newsletter this month. The good news is that the directory is nearly done.

Please, if you have not already done so, send right away (to the newsletter address at the bottom of p. 1) a photo of yourself and brief description of who you are, along with your birthday, communion name, and name day. The information is especially for Fr. Caleb, but it is turning out to make a precious document of our parish that is a joy to read and look at.

It is generally agreed that we should not post the directory on the Website, as being too public a place for such private information, thus the directories will be available at Church within the next week or so, or you may write to request one. Since it looks so lovely in color, we are seeking donations tagged for this project so that we can produce it beautifully.

### THE SAINTS AND THE APOSTLES FAST

Last Sunday (June 3, the Sunday after Pentecost) was dedicated to the memory of all the saints, and the coming Sunday (June 10) to the Saints of North America. “For,” we read in *The Incarnate God* (p. 226), “sanctity is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When man knows how to act in the light of God, he becomes a receptacle of the Spirit....The Holy Spirit joins the saints, unites with them, and acts with them to make the light shine in the world. Each saint becomes a fount of the Holy Spirit for, according to the gospel, ‘*Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water*’ (Jn 7:38). The work of the Holy Spirit in man is called ‘uncreated grace.’”

“[T]he work of the Holy Spirit is to make each redeemed person into a saint, by uniting himself to each human being. We call this work of the Holy Spirit ‘deification.’

“...Christ unites all men and gathers them into one body, the Church. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, brings diversity and makes of each human being a unique and irreplaceable person. Each person is called to achieve union with God through the Holy Spirit.”

At this time in the liturgical year, then, we join the Holy Apostles, who, having rejoiced for fifty days following Pascha, began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message. As part of their preparation, they began a fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in their missionary undertakings.

The Apostles Fast is considerably longer this year, beginning on June 4 and concluding with the Vespers Liturgy for the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul on June 28. We may eat fish on the weekends (and also on June 11, dedicated to the Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas, and June 19, dedicated to Jude, the Brother of the Lord) and wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the fast.

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### PARTY AT THE ABETTIS’!

Everyone is invited to a party this Friday, June 8, at 5:00 (or any time after), at the Abettis’. The address is 923 Kings Highway in White River Jct., VT. Do not mapquest because the directions are a little off. Take I-89 to exit 1. Go left at the stop sign (onto Rte. 4 toward Quechee). Very soon after the Mobile gas station and Al's gas station (less than half a mile), take the first left, by a yellow house, onto Center of Town Rd. Take the next right onto Kings Highway (it comes up pretty quickly; at the green; playground there, etc...). Go straight uphill till it becomes a dirt road (slow down for bump at top) and shortly you'll come to the 923/ABETTI mailbox on the right side of the road. It's a big white farmhouse with an even bigger wood barn.

WHAT TO BRING: one drink to share and one food item to share...if you can; if not, please come anyway!

#### SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

*Fr. Caleb's schedule is still uncertain. Following is the schedule as we know it now:*

*Weekend services as usual:*

Great Vespers Saturdays at 5:00

Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:30

*Midweek services will be announced on Sundays. Watch the Bulletin and the Website for schedule information if you have to miss Church.*

Mon., June 4     Apostles Fast begins

Wed., June 6     Daily Vespers and discussion

Thurs., June 28     Vespers Liturgy for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

