

- ST. JACOB (IAKOV) OF ALASKA:

In May of 1853 St. Jacob set out on a four day trip in one region of the Yukon river, traveling via kayak upstream (no soldiers or civil authorities with him). He would travel all day, and upon reaching a village or campsite, would spend that evening and next day preaching and catechizing the Native Peoples who would come to listen to him. He wrote in his journal: "From this activity I became dreadfully tired and felt pain from standing so long...However, this spiritual joy at the sight of so many souls joined to the flock of the Christian Church compensated for everything, and the bodily weaknesses disappeared." At the end of the trip all the newly baptized traveled to be together with the saint. He wrote the following: "All those newly baptized, all that are here present, attended and prayed. One must imagine the joy in my heart at the sight of so many souls gathered in one place, more than 300, praying to God, people of various tribes, formerly hostile to each other, enemies, now united as the flock of Christ's Church, offering prayers to the true God. After the Service [the Liturgy] I offered them a sermon, as to the reborn children, first declaring to them why I held such a communal prayer, that is, explaining that today is Sunday. Then I taught them Christian commandments, about prayer, Christian love, and Christian virtues, but **most of all** about human kindness, about peaceful and cordial co-existence between all people.

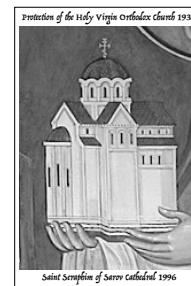
—[*Orthodox Alaska, Fr. Michael Oleksa*](#)

- MANY THANKS:

We are grateful to the three women who spent three long days cleaning the Cathedral in preparation for the Feast of St. Seraphim. Thank you, you are as angels in the flesh. All the brass candle stands were disassembled, polished, reassembled and the sand replaced, ancient wax was scraped off the floor which was then washed, the carpets vacuumed, the ledges dusted, the chairs sanitized, etc. More still needs to be done: windows (inside and out) need to be washed, the light fixtures in the aisles, narthex and porch need to be cleaned, the vines trimmed away from the olive tree in front of the church and weeds pulled from the cracks on walkway around the Cathedral, etc. If you'd like to help with one of these projects, please contact me, and I'll get you going on your choice of activities. Remember the prayer? *O Lord, bless those who love the beauty of Thy House!* Come, receive a blessing. —*Fr. Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



July 26, 2020

Feast of St. Jacob, Enlightener of Alaska



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone 6:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hades, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: Glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF ST. JACOB, Tone Four:

O righteous Father Jacob, adornment of Alaska; thou didst offer thyself as a living sacrifice to bring light to a searching people. Offspring of Russian America, flower of brotherly unity, healer of sickness and terror of demons: O Holy Father Jacob, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed Resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all.

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- KONTAKION OF ST. JACOB, Tone Three:

O Holy Father Jacob, teacher of the knowledge of God, thou hast revealed thy love for thy people, taking up thy cross and following Christ, enduring hardships like the Apostle Paul. Pray on our behalf to Christ our God to grant us great mercy!

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 25: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy in the Protection Church for the [*Feast of St. Anna*](#)
3:30 PM, Catechism
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 26: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy—on the Porch
- Monday, July 27: 8 AM, [*Akathist to St. Panteleimon*](#)
- Tuesday, July 28: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Anniversary of the Consecration of the Cathedral in 2001
- Wednesday, July 29: 5 PM, Vespers
7 PM, Online Book Study: [*Way of the Ascetics*](#)
- Friday, July 31: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
5 PM, Matins for the [*Procession of the Holy Cross*](#) & Maccabean Martyrs
- Saturday, August 1: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy (in St. Seraphim) for the Feast of the Cross
3:30 PM, Catechism
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, August 2: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral (St. Kassiani Quartet to sing)
3 PM, Women's Online Fellowship

- DIVINE LITURGY ON THE PORCH:

This Sunday the Divine Liturgy will be served on the porch of the Cathedral. Bring a folding chair and an umbrella for shade. The following letter is from Vladyka Benjamin regarding the outdoor Liturgy: “You are blessed to hold Services outside, but only if the purpose of this is allow for a greater, more comprehensive attendance, i.e. not because people think it would be ‘nice’ to be outside. Please be aware that social distancing and masking are

still required for outdoor services. In those cases in which the Divine Liturgy is celebrated in the open air, all precautions should be taken to assure the dignity of the celebration and the safety of the Holy Gifts.”

- DORMITION FAST:

We begin the Dormition Fast on **August 1** each year in preparation for the Feast Day of the [*Dormition of the Theotokos*](#), celebrated on August 15. I encourage you to keep the fast—you will find that even a failed effort (I don't say “weak”) will help your soul and body gain a spiritual balance. With the little offering of our the fast (not something He needs, but something we need to give), we just might discover the help of the Savior in both difficult moments and times of abundance. **Some suggestions:** avoid the internet as much as possible (it's a time-vampire, and can be both a distraction and addictive, frequently evaporating our peace of heart with little to no intellectual benefit, and anyway, who cares what we think about this or that?). Pray the [*Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos*](#) as much as possible. Abstain from all meat, eggs, dairy and also forgo wine, olive oil and fish (excepting weekends and holy days). A good fast can lead to a good feast. May the Lord grant us all the strength and zeal we lack to love and to please Him. The Fast ends with the celebration of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- AUGUST 15:

The Feast Day of the Dormition, August 15, directs our attention to final things: our death, the Lord's promise to raise us from the dead to life eternal and of course, the great example of the fulfillment of that promise in the Virgin Mary. The feast celebrates her death, and her being raised to the life of the age to come. We share in that glory—here and now—in our vigil (Friday, August 14 at 5 PM) and especially in our receiving of Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgy. Dormition celebrates the funeral of our All-Holy Lady Theotokos, our common Mother in the faith, and the mystery of her bodily resurrection into the Kingdom, and our own participation in that mystery. This year we have the great blessing of receiving Randy Joseph Pelfrey and Daniel Durrant in Baptism at 9 AM, before the Dormition Liturgy.