

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, July 26th 2020

7th Sunday after Pentecost/Tone 6

Rest of St. Jacob Netsvetov, Enlightener of the Peoples
of Alaska

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7 | Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

This coming Saturday marks the beginning of the **Dormition Fast**. Let us increase our prayer and fasting for the world in this difficult time! As always, confession is encouraged especially during the fasting seasons. Fr. John is always available by appointment or any time after vespers.

Despite the Pandemic, we are moving forward optimistically and preparing for our food fair. **We are asking for your help** this coming **Friday and Saturday (July 31st & August 1st)** to help us prepare Piroghi. We are in especial need of help this year as many of the outside helpers who come are not able to come this year. If you or anyone you know is willing to help those days, each day we will begin at **9 AM**. We will of course be following health guidelines in preparing. For both days, to any who bring food for a lunch break, please keep in mind that both **Friday and Saturday are fasting days** as we begin the Dormition Fast. (We will need volunteers again at the end of August for Halupki, but we are going to see how this weekend goes first).

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Saturday, Aug. 1st 6:00pm—Great Vespers

Sunday, Aug. 2nd 9:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:10

Prayer List July 19th

Mary Behanna—in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat

Ginny & David Casciani—for health of daughter Gina, Fr. Igor

Sandy Carroll—health of family, health of Jim Hays

Bill Mullen—in memory of sister Irma who passed away on 5/6/20 / in memory of wife Lorraine

Isabella Mullen—in memory of Grandmother Lorraine

Tom & Elaine Backstrom—in memory of mom & Dad / in memory of Paul Zolak / God's healing hand be upon sister Michele / God's blessings be upon grandchildren, Sydney Luke Freddy and Madison / special intentions

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ruev—in memory of dearly beloved sister, Delores Evans / in memory of departed grandson Joshua / for health and recovery of nephew, Gary Levar

Pauline Aitken—in memory of departed son Kevin / in memory of departed grandson, Nicholas / in memory of departed husband Lee / special intentions

Dr. Dimitri & Pauline Petro—God's blessings upon cousins Barbara and Bill Bauer on their anniversary / for health of Christine and Alexandra / for health of Kyra, Luke, Noah / for health of Mat. Nadia, Fr. Igor / for health of Jim Hays

Sandy Klizas—in memory of Stephen and Helen Drake / in memory of Frank and June Drake / in memory of Jean Zagic / for health of sister-in-law Carolyn / for health of Kenny Montgomery / birthday blessings for Larissa Walko

Fr. Igor—in blessed memory of beloved Mat. Irene / Speedy recovery for son, Philip

Mark Soroka—for health of father, Fr. Igor

The benefit of memorizing short prayers

Prayer is not something we should only do in the morning or the evening, but throughout the whole day. The more we keep an inner awareness of God's presence, the easier it will be to live according to His will, to understand His commandments, and to drive away thoughts and feelings of anger, sadness, despondency and depression. God is always with us, and yet we so rarely make use of this blessing of calling on Him.

In general, every Christian should have certain prayers memorized (from doing a rule of prayer), namely the Trisagion prayers (Holy God, Holy Mighty, etc. Glory to the father... Now and Ever... Oh most Holy Trinity... Our Father... etc. That whole sequence begins every service of the Church, and should be how we begin our private prayer, too. This framework forms our prayer in the Orthodox way, so that we pray according to the Church, and not our own will. This short set of prayers can be done at points in the day, too, as a way of "resetting" the attention of our heart to God and finding some stillness.

It is also good to memorize and recite psalms. The most used psalm we have is psalm 50, the psalm of repentance, and should be part of our rule of prayer. This is also a good prayer to have in mind to recite while driving, waiting in line, etc.

Another of the simplest ways to keep a remembrance of God is to learn "quickfire" or "arrow" prayers, short, memorable prayers that we can use throughout the day even in the midst of activity. Remember, Our Lord told us that we don't have to offer long, fancy prayers in order to be heard. Rather, if we pray sincerely in the heart, we will feel His presence and His consolation. Some examples of "arrow" prayers: the most obvious one we've talked about at length is the Jesus prayer. This is a good prayer to have become your default thought, to constantly invoke the name of Jesus, asking his mercy. But always remember that you're actually calling on Christ; don't just repeat it mindlessly or like a mantra.

Other good examples are prayers like "Oh Lord, make haste to help me." Or, "Not my will, but thine, O Lord," or in times of difficulty and temptation, make the sign of the cross and say: "Save and protect me oh Lord, from ___!"

St. Jacob of Alaska

Jacob Netsvetov was born on the island of Atka, Alaska, in 1802. His father was a Russian, an employee of the Russian-American Trading Company, and his mother was a Native American. Raised in Irkutsk, Siberia, Jacob received a theological education. At age 23, he married a Russian woman from Siberia, named Anna. Three years later, he was ordained a priest and assigned to St. Nicholas parish on Atka. He was the first Native American Orthodox Christian to be ordained to the priesthood.

Fr. Jacob's parish territory consisted of a number of islands, spanning a total distance of 2,000 miles. He visited the islands regularly, ministering to the faithful and dispensing medicine. He established a school and, with the help of St. Innocent, Fr. Jacob developed a written form of the local Unangan language. He then translated the Scriptures and other writings into it. Most of the Islanders had already been introduced to the basics of Christianity and had been baptized by lay missionaries. It was Fr. Jacob's task to chrismate the people and to continue their Christian education. In his first year, he recorded that he had baptized 16, chrismated 442, married 53 couples, and buried 8. Father Jacob kept a most interesting and valuable journal of his activities.

For example, an excerpt of his entry for November 26, 1842, reads: "On the occasion of the feast of St. Innocent of Irkutsk, I held the vigil. In the morning, prior to Liturgy, I baptized an infant born to a local Aleut a week ago. Then, all the children, boys and girls, were gathered in the chapel, and I spoke to them about God's love for people, especially for children.... Afterwards, I celebrated the Divine Liturgy, at which 50 adults who had come to confession were joined to the Holy Mysteries. Later on, I visited the cemetery and sang the requiem for all those who had died there since my last visit. The rest of my time was spent performing weddings.... After the services, I instructed the newlyweds on the meaning of marriage and the duties of husband and wife, respectively. Thus I concluded my activities there."

In 1844, St. Innocent appointed Father Jacob (now a widower) to the Kuskokwim/Yukon Delta region as a missionary priest. He spent the next twenty years ministering to and learning the languages of the Yup'ik Eskimos and Athabaskan Indians of this vast region of the southwest Alaska tundra. Father Jacob fell asleep in the Lord on July 26, 1864, at the age of 62. He was glorified as "Enlightener of the Peoples of Alaska"

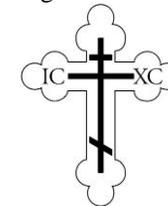


"If a man does not truly in his heart look upon himself as a sinner, the Lord god will not hear his prayer. And who is there who really in his heart considers himself a sinner? He who always looks at his own sins, and never at those of his neighbor."—

St. Moses the Black

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

1 St. Nicholas Drive
DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA
Organized 1916



The Reverend Father JOHN PARKER, Pastor
Rectory Telephone (724) 379-4827
frjohndonora@gmail.com

Deacon ROBERT MOTICHAK (Attached)
Dr. DIMITRI PETRO, Choir Director

www.stnicholasorthodoxdonora.org
Facebook / Instagram: @stnicholasdonora