



DECEMBER 2023

SAINT INNOCENT MONTHLY

Official Newsletter of Saint Innocent Orthodox Church
Macon, Georgia



Who shall I be at Christmas?

Shall I be as old Israel, caught in captivity and under the domination of powers and attitudes and thoughts alien to the person whom God has chosen me to be?

Shall I be as the scribes and priests and Pharisees, so caught up in my own expectations and my own sense of how things ought to be, my own sense of knowing what is right that I am not open to the One Who is coming?

Shall I be as Herod, threatened by not being the main character in the story, hurting and wounding and killing the souls of others in my rage and resentment?

Shall I be as the wise men from the East, unsure of what exactly is occurring but having seen the sign of hope as from afar, making the difficult journey and bringing whatever I have in worship to the One Who is born?

Shall I be as the shepherds, hearing the Gospel of great joy out in the fields, struck in fear and astonishment at what I am hearing, yet hastening to see what has been spoken?

Shall I be as Mary's kinswoman Elizabeth, with what is within me leaping at the presence of the Lord of glory even as He is yet unseen, even as I do not understand Him, even as His mother has come to me?

Shall I be as Joseph, given this Gospel in words that seem to make no sense in a situation that makes no sense in a world that surely will not understand, called to be faithful in serving one who is serving the Lord Who serves us all?

Shall I be as the Virgin Mary, given a great task by God, asked to give up myself, asked to give up what is most precious and intimate as a dwelling place for the Lord of glory Himself, asked to remain forever pure, asked to become a place of prayer for all who come to me?

And shall I be as Christ, for there is nothing but Christ and nothing after Christ, for He is my hope, for He is my longing, for He is the One Who has come to redeem me? And to be like Him—that is my all. There is nothing else. As I kneel at the manger, as I go to see a beautiful newborn babe, there, I meet God. And there I become for Him whatever He wants. There I become His own child, His own brother, His own family, His own.

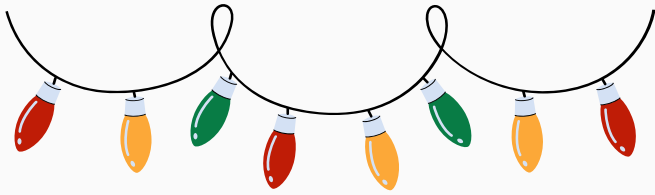
At Christmas, I will be His own, for He has made Himself my own.

To the Christ Who is born for us be all glory, honor and worship, with His Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A blog from Father Andrew Stephen Damick

December 24, 2016

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/asd/2016/12/24/who-shall-i-be-at-christmas/>



NATIVITY SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 20 & 21 @ 6pm Pre- Nativity
Matins

Friday, December 22 @ 6pm Nativity Royal
Hours

Saturday, December 23 @ 4pm Baptisms &
6pm Great Vespers

Sunday, 9:40am Hours, 10am Divine Liturgy,
6pm Nativity Candlelight Vigil

Monday, December 25 @ 10am Nativity
Divine Liturgy Followed by food and
fellowship



5 Diane Dorogy
6 Michael Muth
6 Leah Hough
9 Diana Grace Stephens
9 Izzy Magnusson
9 Felix Sosa-Rivera
11 Pauline Magnusson
15 Nicholas Curington
18 Muryah Scouten
21 Ray Lanier
23 Logan Douglas
25 John Haralson
27 Edward Demenchonok
31 Isaac Curington

Nativity Charity International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

St. Olga's Alaska clergy fund: The median family income for the state of Alaska is \$77,790 per year. But the median stipend for native priests is \$7,200 per year, a salary that is \$26,000 below the poverty line for a family of four. Almost all the clergy and their wives worry about a future that is so financially fragile. Some priests have been forced to leave priestly ministry to provide for their families. And pious young men considering the priesthood have hesitated to answer the call with such abject poverty looming in their future. Through a replenishing clergy stipend endowment, you can help establish a means to provide our priests and their families with basic necessities every month for their entire active ministry.



ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH
7301 Rivoli Road - Macon, Georgia 31210



DECEMBER 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Nov 26 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Catechism | Nov 27 <i>Fr. Theophan in Colorado</i> | Nov 28 <i>Fr. Theophan in Colorado</i> | Nov 29 <i>Fr. Theophan in Colorado</i> 6:00pm Readers Vespers | Nov 30 <i>Fr. Theophan in Colorado</i> | 1 (Vladimir Grygorenko) 6:30pm Women's Fellowship Christmas Party | 2 (Vladimir Grygorenko) 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 3 (Vladimir Grygorenko) 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship | 4 | 5 7:00pm Zoom Book Study | 6 St. Nicholas 6:00pm St. Nicholas Family Dinner 7:00pm Akathist to St. Nicholas | 7 | 8 | 9 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 10 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:20pm Church School | 11 | 12 6:00pm Akathist to St. Herman of Alaska 7:00pm Zoom Book Study | 13 St. Herman of Alaska 9:00am Divine Liturgy | 14 | 15 | 16 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 17 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:15pm Church Cleanup | 18 | 19 (Tentative) 7:00pm Zoom Book Study | 20 6:00pm Forefeast Matins | 21 6:00pm Forefeast Matins | 22 6:00pm Royal Hours of Nativity | 23 4:00pm Baptisms 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 24 9:30am Chrismations 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 6:00pm Nativity Vigil | 25 NATIVITY OF THE LORD 10:00am Festal Liturgy for the Nativity of our Lord | 26 | 27 No Fast 6:00pm Daily Vespers | 28 | 29 No Fast | 30 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 31 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship | Jan 1 Circumcision of the Lord | Jan 2 | Jan 3 No Fast 6:00pm Daily Vespers | Jan 4 | Jan 5 6:00pm Vespers with the Great Blessing of the Waters | Jan 6 THEOPHANY OF THE LORD 10:00am Festal Divine Liturgy for Theophany 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |

Please consult the Sunday bulletin for changes to the monthly calendar.



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| JANUARY 2024 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Dec 31 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship | 1 Circumcision of the Lord | 2 | 3 No Fast 6:00pm Daily Vespers | 4 | 5 | 6 THEOPHANY OF THE LORD 10:00am Festal Divine Liturgy for Theophany 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 7 Synaxis of the Baptist 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:20pm Blessing of the Ocmulgee/parish picnic | 8 | 9 | 10 6:00pm Daily Vespers | 11 9:00am Divine Liturgy | 12 | 13 10-4pm Warner Robins House Blessings 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 14 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:20am Family Church School | 15 | 16 | 17 St. Anthony the Great 6:00pm Daily Vespers | 18 9:00am Divine Liturgy | 19 | 20 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 21 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship | 22 | 23 | 24 6:00pm Daily Vespers | 25 9:00am Divine Liturgy | 26 | 27 10-4pm House Blessings 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |
| 28 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship | 29 | 30 Three Holy Hierarchs | 31 6:00pm Daily Vespers | Feb 1 6:00pm Vigil for the Meeting of the Lord | Feb 2 MEETING OF THE LORD 9:00am Divine Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord | Feb 3 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession |

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