



SAINT INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Down with the Old

BY FATHER THEOPHAN

There is an epigram from a monastery gateway on Mt. Athos that states:

“IF YOU DIE
BEFORE YOU DIE,
THEN YOU WON’T DIE
WHEN YOU DIE”

At first glance, this seems nonsensical - how can one die before they actually die? The answer lies in the call to put to death the "old man," which is formed in the image of all that is fallen, and to allow God to resurrect in us the "new man," created in God's image. St. Paul tells us to "put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4:22–24).

The season of Lent is upon us, and the Church invites us to join our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ by making a concerted effort to become aware of the "old man" within ourselves and to starve and kill him. The Church encourages us to utilize various tools, such as fasting, prayer, almsgiving, removal of entertainment, confession of sins, and more frequent worship. Lent is a time for Christians to prioritize the embodiment of our faith in our daily lives.

Lent can be particularly challenging, especially if we approach it with the wrong mindset. The fallen man within us craves comfort, entertainment, and satisfaction from worldly delights. This "old man" will often



disguise itself as self-care. It is impossible to kill the old man without God's assistance (John 15:5). Our spiritual efforts during Lent may leave us feeling empty, but they also open us to God's action in our lives.

The promise is that if we are willing to work on putting our old man to death, our Lord will raise something new within us. The joy we experience at Pascha should not be merely a historical reflection or an intellectual acknowledgment that death has been defeated. Instead, our joy can stem from the experiential reality that Christ not only conquered death 2,000 years ago, but that He is conquering death within us now and has the power to raise us from the dead today.

With this in mind, may God bless us as we work to kill our sinful, fallen, and broken old man, who is influenced only by the world, the flesh, and the devil. And may our Lord God raise us up in Christ!



Axios!



NEWLY ILLUMINED



ETHAN & KATELYN PRICE
DAUGHTERS:
ILA & RUTH

Many Years!

**FATHER THEOPHAN WAS
ELEVATED
TO THE RANK OF ARCHPRIEST.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
TO GOD AND OUR COMMUNITY!

**NEW
CATECHUMEN**



RYAN
MERKLE



KATHRYN
JOHNSON

Welcome



MANY YEARS! BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Molly Croft
- 1 - Link Scouten
- 4 - Hadassah Truhn
- 5 - Mark Dorogy
- 7 - Jeremy Pelt
- 10 - Dena Sue Watts
- 11 - Bede Douglas
- 11 - Hannah Rooke
- 12 - David Marble
- 14 - Lana Pittman
- 15 - Mark Olsen
- 19 - Thomas Kehayes
- 22 - Eliza Buck



COFFEE HOUR

- Team 1 – March 2nd
- Team 2 – March 9th
- Team 3 – March 16th
- Team 4 – March 23rd
- Team 5 – March 30th



CATECHUMEN

- Peyton Bass
- Amelia Bowers
- Anthony Gomez
- Carson Howell
- Kathryn Johnson
- Reid Johnson



SPECIAL EVENT

LIVING ORTHODOXY A LENTEN RETREAT WITH DR EVE TIBBS

**AUTHOR OF: A BASIC GUIDE TO EASTERN ORTHODOX THEOLOGY:
INTRODUCING BELIEFS AND PRACTICES**

**Saturday, March 15th
12:00 - 4:30**

Join us for a special Lenten Retreat.

We are excited to have Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church joining us for this event.

The retreat will be followed by Great Vespers at 4:30 pm.

During the retreat, Dr. Tibbs will be presenting three engaging sessions:

1. First Presentation (12-1 pm): "The Church: A Forest and a Single Tree" - Discover the unity in our worship practices and why we cherish them.
2. Second Presentation (1:20-2:20 pm): "Great Lent: A New Hope" - Explore the significance of the Annunciation and the powerful Akathist Hymn.
3. Third Presentation (2:40-3:40 pm): "Seeing the Gospel" - Dive into the beauty of icons depicting Holy Week and Pascha, reflecting the God who desires to reveal Himself to us.

We look forward to a day of learning, reflection, and fellowship with you.

Come join us for an enlightening and inspiring retreat!

Childcare will be provided for children 10 and under.

- Ryan Kroger
- Tyler & Perlita McKoon
- Ryan Merkle
- Van Mickelson
- Jack Miller
- Paul Ories

- Nadia Stephens
- Jonathan & Stephanie Teel
- Joseph Thrasher
- Alex & Bethany Wilkinson
- Logan Willis



**LILLY GRANT
SABBATICAL DISCUSSION**

Saturday, March 1st

4:00

All are Welcome!

At this meeting, we will introduce the Lilly Grant Sabbatical proposal process and provide an outline and discussion of the parish's part of the sabbatical grant writing process.

We would love anyone who is interested to come join the conversation.

**CHURCH EXPANSION
BRAINSTORM**

Sunday, March 16th

12:30

All are Welcome!

As mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting, we need to start discussing our future. I think having an open brainstorming session would be a good way to begin our discussion.

We want to collect ideas in a non-judgmental environment.

Topics to discuss:

- What is our dream for expansion
- What are our concerns about expansion

**EXPLORING THE ORTHODOX
SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Starting Sunday, March 23rd

12:30

All are Welcome!

This new adult education class will explore the foundations of the Orthodox spiritual life.

Whether new to the faith or seeking to deepen your spiritual practice, this course will provide insight and guidance for living a life rooted in Christ.

Through engaging discussions and practical applications, we will discover how the Orthodox spiritual tradition helps us draw closer to God in our daily lives.

**SIOC
YOUTH GROUP**

Tuesday, March 25th

6:30 – 8:30pm

Are you a teen between the ages of 13-18? We would love to have you, and your family join us to celebrate the Annunciation of the Theotokos!

What will we be doing? We will have Scripture Reading, Prayer, Games, a crochet lesson with Ms Lydia (for those interested) and of course FOOD, Potluck Style!

Bring a yummy dish to share and join in : Growing Friendships & Faith
Having Fun & Fellowship



FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Each year after the Annual Meeting, as a Parish Council we vote on who will hold what office/role for the year. Here are the roles this year:

Jordan Thomae – Warden	Sarah Andrews – Jr Warden*
Dave Marble – Treasurer	Dena Sue Watts – Secretary
Andrews Ennis – Member and back up Secretary	

* This role was added for a twofold purpose, 1) to train someone else in the role and 2) to be able to spread the duties out. As our parish has grown, so have the demands on the Warden's time

Father then gives the rectors report. This is a rundown of all the things he will be doing over the next few months, recap of the important things from last month, and a general look at the health of the parish. We are healthy and thriving and want to keep it that way.

We discussed the Annual Meeting and any feedback we had received. It was one of the longest Annual Meetings we have, but feedback was positive, and the format was a good one.

Treasurer Update: Our parish has greatly benefited from the financial assistance provided by our Diocese's "managed debt program." Throughout the year of our parish hall loan with Planters First Bank, the Diocese of the South made our mortgage payments and applied a portion of our tithe toward these payments. During the Annual Meeting, Dave Marble announced that we have successfully paid off our mortgage to Planters First Bank in January.

At the end of February, Dave and the Diocesan treasurer worked to update and clarify our financial standing with the diocese. During this discussion, it was revealed that the diocese has forgiven over \$70,000 of our original loan. Thank God! We also learned that we still owe \$90,000 in repayments to the diocese. Our debt to the diocese is interest-free! Thank you to all those who have generously helped us pay down our parish hall debt!

We talked about some upcoming events in March, the Lilly Grant meeting, the Expansion Brainstorm, and the Lenten Retreat. We also discussed some community guidelines that the playground committee has put together and we are wanting to implement soon.

We then went through the various committees to see if there was anything new happening. The Cemetery Committee had a representative there to show us drawings and outline what they would like to do for a Phase 1 upgrade. Their proposal was to create a border with posts and a chain, level out some spots and correct the path of the drive. It was approved and will be implemented after Lent.

And as a reminder all are welcome to come to the Parish Council Meetings to hear what's happening firsthand.

Our next Meeting will be Saturday, March 22nd at 3:30pm.

MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 23 Last Judgment (Meatfare) 8:30am Baptisms 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	Feb 24 (Office Closed)	Feb 25	Feb 26 3:00pm Glorifying God in Old Age 6:00pm Great Vespers St. Raphael of Brookline 7:00pm Orthodoxy 101	Feb 27 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Raphael of Brookline	Feb 28	1 5:00am Loaves and Fishes 4:00pm Lilly Grant Sabbatical Meeting 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
2 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-fare) 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Forgiveness Vespers 12:45pm Food and Fellowship	3 Lent Begins 6:30pm Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew	4 6:30pm Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew	5 3:00pm Glorifying God in Old Age 6:15pm 9th Hour 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy	6 6:30pm Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew	7 6:30pm Akathist to the Theotokos	8 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession 7:00pm Orthodoxy 101
9 Sunday of Orthodoxy 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy Icon Procession! Bring your icons! 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:20pm Family Church School	10 (Office Closed)	11	12 6:15pm 9th Hour 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy	13	14 6:30pm Akathist to the Theotokos	15 12:00pm- Lenten Retreat 4:30pm Great Vespers 5:15pm Sacrament of Confession
16 St. Gregory Palamas 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Church Brainstorm	17 (Office Closed)	18	19 6:15pm 9th Hour 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy	20	21 6:30pm Akathist to the Theotokos	22 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession 7:00pm Orthodoxy 101
23 Venerable Cross 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Orthodox Spiritual Life	24 6:30pm Vigil for Annunciation	25 Annunciation 9:00am Vespers Liturgy for the Annunciation 6:30pm Youth Group	26 6:15pm 9th Hour 6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy	27	28 6:30pm Akathist to the Theotokos	29 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession 7:00pm Orthodoxy 101
30 St. John Climacus 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Orthodox Spiritual Life	31 10:00am Presanctified Liturgy for St. Innocent's Repose	Apr 1	Apr 2 6:30pm The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Life of St. Mary	Apr 3	Apr 4 6:30pm Akathist to the Theotokos	Apr 5 9:00am Loaves and Fishes 9:00am Parish Work Day 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession 7:00pm Orthodoxy 101

APRIL 2025 CALENDAR - TENTATIVE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30 St. John Climacus 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Orthodox Spiritual Life	Mar 31 10:00am Presanctified Liturgy for St. Innocent's Repose	1	2 6:30pm The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Life of St. Mary	3	4 6:30pm Akathist to the Theotokos	5 9:00am Loaves and Fishes 9:00am Parish Work Day 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession 7:00pm Orthodoxy 101
6 St. Mary of Egypt 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:20pm Altar Server Pascha Practice Youth Confession Day	7	8	9 6:15pm 9th hour & Presanctified Liturgy	10	11 6:30pm Matins for Lazarus Saturday	12 8:30am Baptisms 10:00am Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy 11:30am Pancakes and Palms 6:00pm Palm Sunday Vigil
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy with Palm Procession 11:45am Food and Fellowship	14 6:30pm Bridegroom Matins	15 6:30pm Bridegroom Matins	16 6:30pm Holy Unction	17 10:00am Mystical Supper Vespers Divine Liturgy 6:30pm Passion Matins	18 10:00am Royal Hours 12:00pm Decorate the Bier 3:00pm Vespers 6:30pm Lamentation Matins	19 10:00am Harrowing of Hades Vespers Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Set up for Pascha 11:30pm Pascha Midnight Office
20 PASCHA 12:00am Pascha Matins 1:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy 3:00am Blessing of the Pascha Baskets 1:00pm Parish Pascha Party	21	22 6:00pm Bright Week Vespers	23 9:00am Bright Week Liturgy	24 6:00pm Bright Week Vespers	25 9:00am Bright Week Liturgy	26 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
27 St. Thomas Sunday 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	28	29	30 6:00pm Daily Vespers	May 1	May 2	May 3 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession