



SAINT INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Worship: Forming the Kingdom of Heaven Within

BY FATHER THEOPHAN

Christ is Risen!

What a beautiful Holy Week and Pascha we had at St. Innocent! We had record attendance for all our liturgical services and in all those areas of participation. Our mission statement states that our parish seeks to "glorify God in the beauty of our worship." We thank God for the choir, the deacon and servers, the bell ringers, the church decorators, and all who came together using their time and talents to offer God-worthy praise!

Although we are doing well as a community in the area of honoring God with our worship, it is always good to review the ethos behind what we do. Faithful and regular worship is at the core of what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. What is it that we are doing when we gather together in worship? First, everything we do in life can be considered a form of worship. It is easy to inventory what we think is valuable by where we put our time, energy, money, and attention. These areas can further be reduced down to the worship of self, or offerings to God.

As the Church gathers together in worship, it is meant to form us and cultivate us to "seek first the Kingdom of Heaven." As a community, we gather in unity to make an exchange. We take all that makes up our life, the good, the stressful, our abilities and inabilities, our sustenance or lack, and we offer it to God. In exchange, God gives us life by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Material items, such as bread and wine, are offered and sown, and immaterial grace is given and implanted in our lives; this is how our lives are meant to be directed and oriented.

It is not always easy to make it to church, especially in a parish with such a large radius. It is not easy, but in the divine economy, it is worth it. It is especially difficult for parents, but raising our children faithfully in the Church with the patterns of the Kingdom of Heaven will help them become consumers of divine grace rather than materialistic consumers. May God reward you for your faithful efforts!

Our Lord has richly blessed us with His generosity. As we continue through the Paschal season to the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost, let us continue to offer ourselves, each other, and all of our lives to Christ our God.



NEWLY ILLUMINED



AMELIA (MIA)
BOWERS



JACK
MILLER



ALEX & BETHANY
WILKINSON

*Many
Years!*



PAUL ORIES
WIFE: LARYSA
MOORE

Welcome

NEW CATECHUMEN



JEFFERY BACKUS
DAUGHTER: GIA



TJ PACE



CHRISTOPHER
MALLORY

Congratulations!
TO ALL OUR GRADUATES



COFFEE HOUR

- Team 2 – May 4th
- Team 3 – May 11th
- Team 4 – May 18th
- Team 5 – May 25th
- Team 6 – June 1st



MANY YEARS! BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Quintin Curington
- 2 – Oliver Hough
- 10 – Lee Olson
- 13 – Olha Osobov
- 15 – Matthew Marble
- 16 – Meg Croft
- 16 – Susan Kehayes
- 21 – Zellie Hicks
- 25 – Sarah Magnusson
- 26 – Emmy Douglas
- 27 – Emmelia Ennis

CATECHUMEN



- Jeffrey Backus
- Gia Backus (Daughter)
- Peyton Bass
- Anthony Gomez
- Carson Howell
- Kathryn 'Cat' Johnson
- Reid Johnson
- Ryan Kroger
- Christopher Mallory
- Tyler & Perlita McKoon
- Ryan Merkle
- Van Mickelson
- TJ Pace
- Nadia Stephens
- Jonathan & Stephanie Teel
- Joseph Thrasher
- Logan Willis

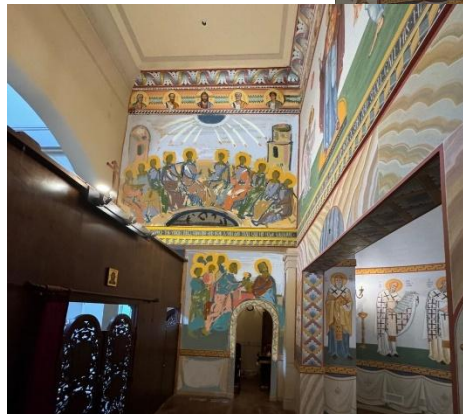


ICON CORNER

When one steps into an Orthodox church, one should feel as if one has entered a realm that celebrates the beauty of God's creation, a testament to His love for humanity. The traditional iconography gracing an Orthodox church's interior is a cornerstone of this celebration. Icons have always served as a medium of education in the Orthodox church, imparting the teachings of the Gospel through art. They are a powerful tool for conveying the Gospel's message, particularly the icons of Christ, which affirm the Incarnation.

We thank God that Vladimir and Olga Grygorenko recently completed and installed the first phase of iconography at St. Innocent (May 2024). It has significantly enhanced the beauty of our church. Vladimir has expressed his desire to move on to the second phase by 2026 (possibly earlier), allowing us time to gather the necessary funds.

We kindly request your generous donations to bless our second phase of iconography. It will enlighten those who already worship at St. Innocent and those who may "Come and See" in the future.



Donations can be made on the SIOC Website or on Realm.

LILLY GRANT

SABBATICAL DISCUSSION

**Saturday, May 3rd
4:00 pm**

All are Welcome!

SIOC MEN

GRILLOUT ON THE PATIO!

**Saturday, May 10th
Noon – 5:00 pm**

Bring your appetites and relax with the guys!

Burgers, Hotdogs, and Sodas will be provided

Bring anything you'd like to eat (Chips, sides or more meat)

If you have any questions contact Jordan Thomae

LOAVES & FISHES

MONTHLY MEAL PREP

**Saturday, May 3rd
9:00 am**

If you want to know what we do contact Amanda Mosallam

MAY HAPPENINGS

**Saturday, May 24th
10am – 12pm**

*** Youth Families Welcome***

This month we will be meeting at The Walk at Sandy Run down in Warner Robins. We want to get in some fun outdoor time before it gets too hot!

We will start with the Walk, then have our meeting time with scripture, prayers, saint of the day, and finish it all up with a picnic lunch.

We are asking that everyone bring their own favorite picnic foods to enjoy and their families!

Once the Walk and meeting time is finished families will be free to go as they please.



SAINT JOHN'S TEEN GROUP

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE AN ACTIVE TEEN GROUP?

ELLIE PELT & LEAH TRUHN

Are the ladies responsible for making it happen!

For all teen activities please contact Ellie or Leah

SAVE THE DATES

**June 24th – Movie Night
July 31st – Macon Bacon Night**



CHARITABLE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

LET'S HAVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR...

NICOLE THOMAE

She is our newly minted Charitable Outreach Guru!

If you have any questions about all the charities we participate in here at SIOC,
She's the person to ask!



Friday, May 2nd

4:00 – 6:00 pm

* All are Welcome!*

What is it: Backpack Buddies is a local charity whose mission is "to provide children who are at risk for poor nutritional intake when not receiving school meals (weekends and holidays) with supplemental, child friendly food." They supply food to approximately 3,000 children in the surrounding area and they need help.

How can we help: We have the opportunity to join in the great work they're doing by packing bags for the kids. *Anyone* can come and pitch in, so please sign up below if you want to help!

Where do we go: The location is a house immediately next to Forest Hills Church. If there's not enough parking in the driveway, please park in the church parking lot.

Supervised children are welcome!



Mother's Day – Father's Day

What is it: We collect change and fill a baby bottle (or donating) to give to The Pregnancy Center of Monroe County. All donations are used to help the center provide support for both the emotional and spiritual needs of clients during the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy, those of parenthood, or in making an adoption plan.

How can we help: *One way* is to Grab a Bottle and fill it with change! Be sure to return the bottle by Father's Day.

A *second way* is to write a check to SIOC and note that it is for the Baby Bottle Boomerang. A *third way* is to donate directly to the Pregnancy Center. The website is:

<https://pregnancyfamilylifecenter.com/donate/>





IT'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT THE BALLFIELD!
 COME JOIN US FOR

SAINT INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

NIGHT WITH



VS



THURSDAY
 JULY 31, 2025
 6:00PM

FEATURING:
 FIRST PITCH:
 FATHER THEOPHAN
 NATIONAL ANTHEM:
 MEG CROFT



TO MAKE SURE
 WE HAVE ENOUGH
 RESERVED SEATS WE NEED
 EVERYONE TO
**WE NEED TO KNOW
 ASAP THAT YOU ARE
 WANTING TO GO.**

\$17
 PER TICKET!

TICKETS INCLUDE:

- GAME ADMISSION
 - HAT
- ALL YOU CAN EAT (FROM A SELECT MENU)
- GROUP PICTURE ON THE FIELD

**TO BUY TICKETS &
 RESERVE YOUR SPOT**
CONTACT: ELLIE PELT
ELLIEPELT@YMAIL.COM
OR 912.695.1739

ALL SIOC TEENS
 (13-17 YEAR-OLDS)
 * WILL BE PAID FOR *
 BY THE CHURCH

MAY 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 27 St. Thomas Sunday 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Radonitsa Panikhida w/ blessing of graves 12:15pm Food and Fellowship	Apr 28 (Office Closed)	Apr 29	Apr 30 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism	1	2 4:00pm Backpack Buddies	3 9:00am Loaves and Fishes 4:00pm Lilly Grant Meeting 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
4 Holy Myrrhbearing Women 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Adult Education: Church Tour	5 (Office Closed)	6	7 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Parish Council	8 St. John the Theologian 9:00am Divine Liturgy	9	10 12-5pm Men's Grill Out 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
11 Mother's Day Ss. Cyril and Methodius 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	12 (Office Closed)	13 6:00pm Daily Vespers for Mid-feast 7:00pm Catechism	14 9:00am Divine Liturgy for Mid-feast	15	16	17 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
18 Samaritan Woman 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	19 (Office Closed)	20	21 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism	22 9:00am Divine Liturgy	23	24 10:00am St. John's Youth Hike 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
25 Blind Man 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	26 Memorial Day (Office Closed)	27	28 6:00pm Vigil for the Ascension	29 ASCENSION OF THE LORD 9:00am Festal Divine Liturgy	30	31 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession

JUNE 2025 CALENDAR - TENTATIVE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fathers of the 1st Council 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	2	3	4 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Adult Education Class	5	6 6:00pm Memorial Saturday Vespers	7 9:00am Memorial Saturday Liturgy with Lity 6:00pm Vigil for Pentecost
8 PENTECOST 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45 Kneeling Vespers 12:30pm Food and Fellowship	9 <i>Office closed through July 1st</i>	10	11	12	13	14 6:00pm Great Vespers
15 Fr. John Dresko filling in 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	16 Apostles Fast Begins	17	18	19	20	21 6:00pm Great Vespers
22 Fr. John Dresko filling in 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	23	24 6:00pm St. John's Youth Movie Night	25	26	27	28 6:00pm Great Vespers
29 Fr. Thomas Moore filling in Ss. Peter & Paul 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	30	Jul 1	Jul 2 9:00am Atlanta: Divine Liturgy for St. John the Wonderworker 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism	Jul 3	Jul 4	Jul 5 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession