



# SAINT INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**AT ST. INNOCENT  
ORTHODOX CHURCH,  
WE SEEK TO MAKE  
OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST  
THE CENTER OF  
EVERYTHING WE DO.**

**WE AIM TO GLORIFY  
GOD THROUGH THE  
BEAUTY OF OUR  
WORSHIP AND TO  
FAITHFULLY PRESERVE  
THE PRACTICES OF  
THE EARLY CHURCH.**

**WE STRIVE TO LOVE  
AND CARE FOR ONE  
ANOTHER AND FOR  
THOSE IN OUR WIDER  
COMMUNITY.**

**WE PRAY THAT OUR  
PARISH WILL  
CONTINUE TO BE A  
LIFE-GIVING SPRING  
OF THE ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN FAITH,  
BY THE GRACE OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT.**

## **Being There: Holy Week as Mystical Participation**

BY FATHER THEOPHAN

There is a profound difference between reading about an event and being present for it. We all know this intuitively. You can read every account of the moon landing. Still, it would have been something altogether different to stand in a field in July of 1969 and watch it happen. The same is true, in a far deeper and more sacred sense, of what we are invited to do in the services of Holy Week and Pascha.

Reading the Scriptures is essential. It is irreplaceable. But it can, if we are not careful, remain a largely intellectual exercise, words received by the mind, processed, filed away. The liturgical life of the Church is given to us precisely so that the words become something we inhabit rather than merely absorb. When we stand for the Gospel, we stand as those present before the King. When we bow at the name of the Holy Trinity, our spine bends in confession before our lips move. When we prostrate ourselves in front of the Cross, our whole frame lies down in veneration. The body is not dragged reluctantly along behind the praying mind; it is itself at prayer.

## ARTICLE CONTINUED

And then there is the hymnography. The services of Holy Week are saturated with it. The Bridegroom Matins, Passion service, the Royal Hours, the Lamentations of Holy Friday—these are not decorative additions to the readings. They are contemplative commentary, woven into poetry and song. They take the scriptural narrative and draw out its meaning, its pathos, its glory. We find ourselves not merely informed about Christ's Passion but emotionally and spiritually formed by it. Hearing and singing, we become people who, in some real sense, have accompanied Him.

But this is where Orthodox theology makes its most striking claim. The Church does not regard Holy Week as a pious memory exercise or a reenactment. Nor is it an audio-visual aid designed to help us feel what people felt two thousand years ago. Instead, it is something far more extraordinary. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, the wall of time is made permeable, and heaven and earth are united in the liturgical assembly. As Saint Nicholas Cabasilas writes in his *Life in Christ*: "The Church represents these mysteries not as bare signs of things absent, but as symbols of things truly present." Thus, we do not commemorate a past event from a safe distance; rather, we are, mystically and truly, there.

This is the ancient understanding of anamnesis, the biblical meaning of remembrance. When Israel kept the Passover, they did not merely call to mind the Exodus. They entered into it. The Christian liturgical tradition inherits and fulfills this same conviction. When we hear at the Holy Thursday Vespertal Liturgy, "Come, faithful, let us enjoy the Master's hospitality," we are being invited, not metaphorically but actually, to the very table in the upper room.

So as we journey through these days, we will stand beneath the Cross on Holy Friday. In the midnight radiance of Pascha, we will not merely celebrate an event that happened long ago; we will receive it. The tomb will be empty again. The news will be new again. Christ is and will be risen, not as history, but as present reality, proclaimed in a church full of flickering candles and faces lit with something real and present.

Come. Be there.

# WORSHIP



## APRIL IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00 PM**  
Holy Unction

**Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 AM**

Baptisms  
**10:00 AM**

Lazarus Saturday Liturgy  
**11:30 AM**

Pancakes and Palms  
**6:00 PM**

Palm Sunday Vigil

**Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM**

Palm Sunday Liturgy  
**1:30 PM**

Bridegroom Matins

**Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM**

Holy Monday Bridegroom  
Matins

**Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM**

Holy Tuesday Bridegroom  
Matins

**Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM**

Holy Wednesday Bridegroom  
Matins

**Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM**

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil  
**6:30 PM**

Passion Matins

**Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM**

Royal Hours

**3:00 PM**

Holy Friday Vespers

**6:30 PM**

Holy Saturday Matins

**Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> @10:00 AM**

Holy Saturday Vesperal  
Liturgy

**6:00 PM**

Great Vespers

**11:30 PM**

Midnight Office of Pascha

**Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 AM**

Paschal Matins

**1:30 AM**

Paschal Divine Liturgy

**3:00 AM**

Blessing of the Pascha

Baskets

**1:00 PM**

Agape Vespers

**Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>@ 6:00 PM**

Bright Week Vespers

**Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>@ 9:00 AM**

Bright Week Divine Liturgy

**Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>@ 6:00 PM**

Bright Week Vespers

**Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 9:00 AM**

Divine Liturgy

## PLEASE REMEMBER

**Church Office is Closed** On Mondays

# WORSHIP



BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME AS  
NORMAL ON WEDNESDAY THE 22ND  
THIS MONTH!

## MINISTRY AREAS

- ◆ **Alter**
- ◆ **Choir**
- ◆ **Bell Ringers**
- ◆ **Hours**
- ◆ **Thanksgiving Prayers**
- ◆ **Prospora Bakers**
- ◆ **Candles**
- ◆ **Church Flowers  
& Decorations**
- ◆ **Greeters**
- ◆ **Church Temple  
Cleaning**

# DISCIPLESHIP



## SJAA EVENT

St. John's Adolescent Alliance will be enjoying fellowship at Amerson River Park on April 26th following coffee hour. All teens and their families are welcome! Please bring any yard games, chairs, blankets etc. that you would want to use during that time. We will meet in the parking lot near the play ground! Contact Leah Truhn for any more information.

PRAY FOR OUR  
CATECHUMEN

Shakinah Aquino  
 Blake & Jessica Brooks  
 Daughters: Hazel & Luna  
 Jefferson & Rebekah DeMott  
 Kids: Charlene & Jefferson  
 John Dirks  
 Zion & Rebekah Dixon  
 Bob & Jessie Drnek  
 Kids: Bobby, Adam, Sadie  
 Seth Elrod  
 Dakota & Brittany Fox  
 Kids: Emily, John  
 John & Eyndia Henderson  
 Kids: Merrick, Micah, Miranda  
 Jacob Lambert  
 Michael & Raena Liscio  
 Christopher Mallory  
 Ethan McKinnon  
 Seth Moon  
 Adam Overly  
 Jacob Owens  
 JT Pace  
 Michael Pemberton  
 Chava Rodriguez  
 Son:Felix  
 Sebastien Rodriguez  
 Elizabeth Sauer  
 Bailey Sheffield  
 Tyler & Savannah Stewart  
 Sons: Weston & Samuel  
 Emily Tawk  
 Zeke Taylor  
 Matthew Torbert  
 Chase Toy  
 Logan Ward  
 John Paul Williams  
 Timothy & Anzlie Vessell  
 Kids: Jeremy & Clark

PRAY FOR OUR  
NEWLY ILLUMINED!

Dustin & Nicole  
 Armstrong  
 Sons: John &  
 Josiah

Nathan  
 Harville



NEW  
CATECHUMEN

Jefferson &  
 Rebekah  
 DeMott  
 Kids:  
 Charlene &  
 Jefferson

Zion &  
 Rebekah  
 Dixon

Seth Moon

Michael &  
 Raena Liscio

Timothy &  
 Anzlie  
 Vessell  
 Kids: Jeremy  
 & Clark

APRIL  
CATECHISM  
DATES

**April 22nd &  
April 29th**

*Welcome*

MINISTRY AREAS

- ◆ **Adult Education**
- ◆ **Catechism**
- ◆ **Church School**
- ◆ **Youth Group**
- ◆ **Book Store**
- ◆ **Lending Library**

# COMMUNITY



**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 PM**

Monthly Meal Prep

For more  
information,  
Contact:  
Amanda Mosallam



**COFFEE  
HOUR**

**Every Sunday  
12:00pm**

Join us every Sunday!

This is a great way to build  
community within the parish!

When we are better  
connected to one another,  
we can better impact the  
world around us!

**MANY  
YEARS!  
BIRTHDAYS**



1- Matthew Sauer  
1-Isaac Sauer  
2-Mili Haynes  
3-Olga Collins  
4-Jessica Ennis  
4-Wayne Teel  
4-Thomas Sauer  
6-Wyatt Pittman  
7-Kathyrn Johnson  
9-Dumitru Turner  
9-Blake Brooks  
10- Colton Teel  
11-Stephen Marble  
11-Brady Hough  
20-Sтивен Davis  
27-Jeremy Plummer  
29-Gheorghe Codreanu  
29-Benjamin Truhn

## CLEAN UP TEAMS

Team 6 – April 5<sup>th</sup>  
Team 1 – April 12<sup>th</sup>  
Team 2 – April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Team 3 – April 26<sup>th</sup>

*If you are on a Clean Up  
team, please be aware of  
when your team is working.*

*If you are not able to make  
it please let your Team Lead  
know.*

## MINISTRY AREAS

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ Men's Fellowship   | ◆ Kitchen Crew         |
| ◆ Women's Fellowship | ◆ Inventory / Supplies |
| ◆ St Olga Society    | ◆ Safety Officer       |
| ◆ Coffee Hour        | ◆ Parish Hall Cleaning |
| ◆ Parish wide Events |                        |

# CHARITY



## LENTEN CHARITY INFORMATION

This year, our Lenten Charity will be International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)! They provide worldwide relief services such as: emergency response aid, water and sanitation, health care, agricultural assistance, and and career education and training. Check out their website at <https://iocc.org/> !

For more information on  
any of our Charitable  
Adventures  
Contact:  
Nicole Thomae

# EVANGELISM



## SOCIAL MEDIA

### The Week Ahead Events on Social Media

This will be posted every Thursday, highlighting events for the following week.

### If you have a church event planned:

- Please email [social@st-innocent.org](mailto:social@st-innocent.org) with the details (Who, What, Where, Why, When)
- If you have a graphic or photo you'd like to include, please attach it. (If you would like help with a graphic, you can reach out to Sarah 'Esther' Andrews)
- Please try to get it submitted a month prior to the event.

This could be a ministry event, fellowship event, or even a personal event (baptism, for example) that you'd like to announce to the parish community.

Thank you so much for all your understanding and help with this!

If you have any questions,  
please contact Sarah Adams

## NEWSLETTER

### If you have a church event planned:

- Please email [office@st-innocent.org](mailto:office@st-innocent.org) with the details (Who, What, Where, Why, When)
- If you have a graphic or photo you'd like to include, please attach it. (If you would like help with a graphic, just let me know)
- Please submit all information by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to go into the next months newsletter.

This could be a ministry event, fellowship event, or even a personal event (baptism, for example) that you'd like to announce to the parish community.

If you have any questions,  
Please contact Sarah 'Esther' Andrews

### MINISTRY AREAS

- ◆ **Digital Media**
  - Website
  - Live Stream
  - YouTube
  - Social Media
  - Photography
  - Church Calendar
- ◆ **Printed Media**
  - Bulletin
  - Newsletter
  - Banners & Signs

# ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMITTEES



## MINISTRY AREAS

- ❖ Rector / Priest
- ❖ Parish Council
- ❖ Grounds Maintenance
- ❖ Building Maintenance
- ❖ Cemetery Committee
- ❖ Iconography Committee
- ❖ Lily Grant Committee
- ❖ Storage Coordinator
- ❖ Offering Counters
- ❖ Parish Health Team
- ❖ IOCC Homefront Team



## ICONOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

### Phase 2 Plans:

- Completing the top side walls behind the altar that can be seen from the nave and adding the 4 center walls underneath the dome.
- Tentatively, Vladimir is scheduled to return in the fall in 2026.



We kindly request your generous donations to bless our second phase of iconography.

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

Any Questions, Contact:  
Mark Dorogy





UPCOMING EFFECTIVE  
PARISH ASSESSMENT!



**A Parish Health Assessment**

You're invited to join us as we work together to bolster the health of our parish through a church-wide assessment. We need your input and your voice! More details to come. Stay tuned.



## MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES



Our meeting in March was on Saturday, March 14 at 3:00 pm.

- The recent Lenten retreat was well attended and went smoothly. More lay organization and leadership is needed for future Lenten retreats so all the planning and organizing is not on Fr. Theophan. There is also a broader need for a Special Events Committee.
- We have new audiovisual equipment in the choir area that allows for better live streaming. The services can also now be broadcast outside the church.
- The calendar is quite busy as we head into the latter half of Lent and Holy Week, with chrismations, baptisms, and a parish workday. Sign-up sheets for the various Holy Week and Pascha services and fellowship and service opportunities are being emailed out.
- In two months of collections, we have reached 20% of the \$250,000 income budgeted for the year.
- This year, parishioners have the opportunity to purchase flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one. You can donate on Realm or note "greenery" in the check memo line.
- A special parish council meeting will be held later this spring (date TBD) to discuss Fr. Theophan's potential backpay. All interested parties are invited to attend.
- The Parish Health Team will be announcing the Effective Parish Assessment after Pascha, as an opportunity for all who call St. Innocent home to give feedback on the current state of the parish.
- Assistive listening devices are being tried out by interested parishioners to help cut down on ambient noises picked up and amplified by hearing aids. The location of readers chanting the Epistle is being moved back to between the columns to help with the readers being able to be heard better throughout the church. There is also a lapel microphone that readers can use.
- Applications for the parish administrative assistant will be received through March 21, with interviews of selected candidates to follow.
- Work on the toddler playground continues. Upcoming work in the library will include painting the library wall, removing the dry erase board, and hanging the tv used for livestreaming on the wall.
- We discussed initial plans for the next Ministry Fair on August 30, and continued plans for "Name tag Sundays" on the last Sunday of the month.
- The parish hall has a new AED, and two new icons are arriving next week.
- We discussed the need for more volunteers and leaders in several key ministries, including church school and St. Olga's society, and are following up with the current leaders of those ministries.
- We also discussed ideas for more formalized ways of having committees communicate their needs and updates to the parish council.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 18 at 3:00 pm.

# APRIL 2026 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 29 <b>St. Mary of Egypt</b>  9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Family Church School 12:00pm Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Lenten Class	Mar 30 <b>Office Closed</b>	Mar 31  9:45am 9th Hour 10:00am <b>Presanctified for St. Innocent's Repose</b>	1	2	3	4 8:30am Baptisms 10:00am Lazarus Saturday Liturgy 11:30am Palms and Pancakes  5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Palm Sunday Vigil
5 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>  9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy with Palm procession 11:45am Family Church School 12:00pm Food and Fellowship 1:30pm <b>Bridegroom Matins</b>	6 <b>Holy Monday</b>  6:30pm <b>Bridegroom Matins</b>	7 <b>Holy Tuesday</b>  6:30pm <b>Bridegroom Matins</b>	8 <b>Holy Wednesday</b>  6:30pm <b>Bridegroom Matins</b>	9 <b>Holy Thursday</b>  10:00am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil 6:30pm <b>Bridegroom Matins</b>	10 <b>Holy Friday</b>  10:00am Royal Hours 12:00am <b>Decorate the Bier</b> 3:00pm Holy Friday Vespers 6:30pm Holy Saturday Matins	11 <b>Holy Saturday</b>  10:00am Holy Saturday Vespers Liturgy 12:00pm Church Clean and Prep 11:00pm Reading from Acts 11:30pm <b>Midnight Office of Pascha</b>
12 <b>PASCHA</b>  12:00am Paschal Matins 1:30am Pascha Divine Liturgy 3:00am Blessing of Pascha Baskets 1:00pm Agape Vespers 2:00pm Parish Pascha Picnic	13 <b>Office Closed</b>	14  6:00pm <b>Bright Week Vespers</b>	15  9:00am <b>Bright Week Divine Liturgy</b>	16  6:00pm <b>Bright Week Vespers</b>	17	18  5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession
19 <b>Thomas Sunday</b>  9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Day of Rejoicing Panikhida with cemetery blessing 12:15pm Food and Fellowship	20 <b>Office Closed</b>	21	22  6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism 7:00pm Bible Study	23 <b>Great-Martyr George</b>  9:00am Divine Liturgy	24	25 <b>Apostle Mark</b>  5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession
26 <b>Holy Myrrhbearers</b>  9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	27 <b>Office Closed</b>	28	29  6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism 7:00pm Bible Study	30	May 1	May 2  2:00pm Men's Fellowship 5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession

# MAY 2026 CALENDAR - TENTATIVE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 26 <b>Holy Myrrhbearers</b> 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	Apr 27 Office Closed	Apr 28	Apr 29 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism 7:00pm Bible Study	Apr 30	1	2 2:00pm Men's Fellowship 5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession
3 <b>Paralytic</b> 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	4 Office Closed	5 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism 7:00pm Bible Study	6 <b>Mid-Pentecost</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy	7	8	9 5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession
10 <b>Samaritan Woman/Mother's Day</b> 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	11 Office Closed	12	13 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Catechism 7:00pm Bible Study	14	15	16 5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession
17 <b>Blind Man</b> 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	18 Office Closed	19	20 <b>Leave-taking of Pascha</b> 6:00pm Great Vespers with Litya	21 <b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b> Ss. Constantine & Helen 9:00am Feetal Divine Liturgy	22	23 5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession
24 <b>Fr.'s of 1st Eumenical Council</b> 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	25 Office Closed	26	27 6:00pm Daily Vespers	28	29 6:00pm Memorial Vespers	30 9:00am Memorial Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Vigil for Pentecost
31 <b>PENTECOST</b> 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy with Kneeling Prayers 12:15pm Food and Fellowship	Jun 1 Day of the Holy Spirit	Jun 2 3rd Day of the Holy Trinity	Jun 3 6:00pm Daily Vespers	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6 5:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Confession