

AUGUST 2023

ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR



The month of August brings an end to the Church's yearly liturgical cycle with two Great Feasts: the Transfiguration of our Lord upon Mount Tabor, and the Dormition of the most holy Theotokos. Prior to the feast of the Dormition on August 15th, we enter together into a fasting period for two weeks. With Great Lent, the Dormition Fast is one of the two stricter fasting seasons of the year. We abstain from all animal products, cut back on our entertainment, and add to our charitable works and to our prayers for two weeks as we prepare to celebrate the feast of the Dormition—the time when the most holy Mother of God becomes our Heavenly Mother and Intercessor before the Lord.

The feast of the Transfiguration falls during the Dormition fast on August 6th. We mystically return to the time when Christ revealed His glory to his select disciples upon Mount Tabor, demonstrating that He is the Eternal God whom Moses and Elijah worshipped.

It is a paradoxical time of year. While we sense that we ought to be mournful on a feast that commemorates Our Lady's death, we rejoice that she is in heaven, glorified in her body, becoming the very first human being to experience the final resurrection. Likewise, while we should be exulting in the joy of the Transfiguration, it still falls within the Dormition Fast. We observe the feast by only lightening our fast a little, making it a "fasting feast."

This paradox allows us to experience what the Fathers call "Joyful Sorrow." It is an essential balance that helps the Christian to continue in the spiritual life. We experience sorrow, but we do not despair because we know that our Lord has conquered death and that He remains with us until the end. We encounter joy, but we do not get carried away into frenzy or debauchery because we are keenly aware of our continual need for repentance.

Joyful Sorrow helps us to keep our eyes upon the Lord. The enemy is the great "swinger of the pendulum." He wants to tempt us into the extremes of elation or despair because these extremities require all of our attention. They turn our attention away from Christ and toward our own situation. Maintaining Joyful Sorrow, though, keeps our gaze upon Christ.

The Church in Her wisdom grants us this month in which to live out and experience Joyful Sorrow through the rhythm of our liturgical life. As we enter the Dormition fast, then, let us pray to the most holy Theotokos that she would help us to keep our eyes gazed upon her Son, our God—the Transfigured Lord! In this way we will end the liturgical year well, maintaining the Joyful Sorrow, the hopeful balance that the Church offers to us for our salvation.

Paraklesis Service

On the two Wednesdays of the Dormition Fast we will serve the Paraklesis, also known as the Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos. It's a beautiful and traditional way to seek the intercessions of the Mother of God for any need.



Birthdays in August

1 Phoebe Andrews, 1 Sara Luloff, 2 Mason Hough, 8 Susie Savage, 9 Michael Dykes, 11 Rachel Marble, 13 Seraphin Curington, 14 Jacob Plummer, 19 Stephanie Douglass, 23 Stephanie Curington, 24 Nadia Stephens, 26 Eric Olson, 27 James Andrews, 28 Mat. Valerie Werner, 29 Jamie Fernandez



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7301 Rivoli Road - Macon, Georgia 31210



AUGUST 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 30 Fr. Thaddeus filling in 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Church Cleanup Party	Jul 31	1 Procession of the Cross 7pm Zoom Book Study	2 6:00pm Paraklesis	3	4	5 6:00pm Vigil for the Feast of Transfiguration
6 TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy Blessing of Fruit Back to School Blessing 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Catechism	7	8	9 6:00pm Paraklesis	10 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy	11	12 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
13 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Catechism	14 6pm Lamentation Matins for the Feast of Dormition	15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS 9am Festal Divine Liturgy	16 6:00pm Daily Vespers 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting	17	18	19 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
20 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship 12:30pm Church School Org Meeting	21	22 7:00pm Zoom Book Study	23 6:00pm Daily Vespers	24	25	26 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
27 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	28 6:00pm Great Vespers	29 Beheading of the Baptist 9:00am Divine Liturgy	30 6:00pm Daily Vespers	31	Sep 1 The Church New Year	Sep 2 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession

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



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SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 27 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	Aug 28 6:00pm Great Vespers	Aug 29 Beheading of the Baptist 9:00am Divine Liturgy	Aug 30 6:00pm Daily Vespers	Aug 31	1 The Church New Year	2 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
3 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	4	5	6 6:00pm Daily Vespers	7	8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS	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	11	12	13 6:00pm Daily Vespers	14 ELEVATION OF THE CROSS	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	18	19	20 6:00pm Daily Vespers	21	22	23 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession
24 9:40am 3rd and 6th Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Food and Fellowship	25	26	27 6:00pm Daily Vespers	28	29	30 6:00pm Great Vespers 6:45pm Sacrament of Confession

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