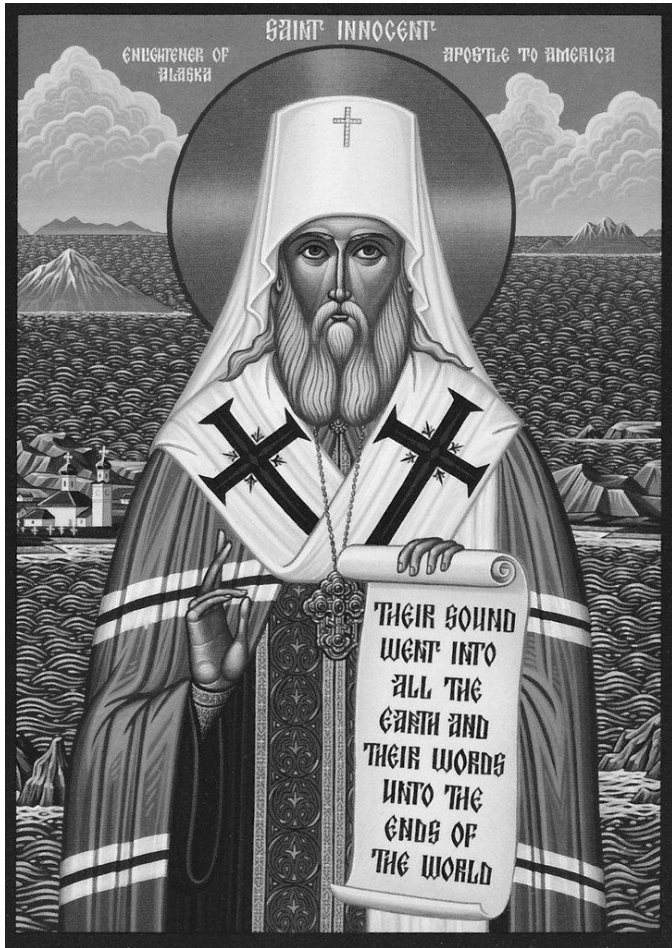




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ March 31st, 2024 + Second Sunday of Great Lent + The Sunday of Gregory Palamas + St. Innocent of Alaska



Hymns for Today

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

O Holy Father Innocent, in obedience to the will of God, thou didst accept dangers and tribulations, bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth. Thou didst show us the way; now by thy prayers help lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven!

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Thy life, O holy Father Innocent, apostle to our land, proclaims the dispensation and grace of God! For, laboring in dangers and hardships for the Gospel of Christ, thou wast kept unharmed and exalted in humility. Pray that He may guide our steps in the way we should go!

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: "Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of all, so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!"

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

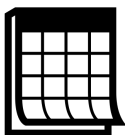
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 30th

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Parastas

5 PM: 9th Hour (4:50), Great Vespers,
Confession (*before or after Vespers*)

6 PM: "The Chosen" w/ Popcorn Viewing Downstairs

Sunday, March 31st

8:00 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Church School, Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK - 3rd Week of Great Lent

Tues, 4 PM: Great Compline

Wed, 11 AM: Church open for prayer

Wed, 6 PM: Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/ Potluck

Thurs, 11 AM: Bible Study

Fri @ 6:30 PM: Canon w/ Akathist to Mother of God
w/ Litya for the Departed

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NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of the Precious Cross

Saturday, April 6th

9 AM: Divine Liturgy

3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

5 PM: 9th Hour (4:50), Great Vespers,
Confession (*before or after Vespers*)

6 PM: "The Chosen" w/ Popcorn Viewing Downstairs

Sunday, April 7th

8:00 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Church School, Coffee Hour

4 PM: Mission Vespers @ Holy Trinity, Stroudsburg PA



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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Parish Council is the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is **SUN, April 14th.**

Friends of the Poor is the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be **SAT, April 13th.**

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **April 28th, Palm Sunday.**

Lenten Adult Ed: Sunday's throughout Great Lent during Coffee hour we will have a short Lenten Adult Education presentation w/ discussion. We will focus on a variety of topics that relate to Great Lent. ***THIS WEEK: "Being Found out"***

NEW! Orthodoxy 101 Class: Beginning Saturday, April 6th at 3:30 PM we will have a weekly "inquirers" class and discussion for anyone interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith. Class materials will be provided.

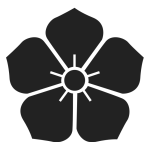
THIS WEEK: PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY w/ LENTEN POTLUCK: This week we will have Presanctified Liturgy followed by a Lenten Potluck (No meat or dairy) on Wednesday nights throughout the fast. Make this Liturgy and Community Meal a part of your Lenten Journey. Presanctified begins at 6 PM.

Watch “The Chosen” Saturday Nights During

Lent: The Chosen is a critically acclaimed television series that tells the story of the gospels, Our Lord and His disciples. Join us Saturday evenings following Great Vespers @ 6 PM during Lent to watch episodes from Season 1. This is an excellent and thought provoking show that is sure to inspire your Lenten journey. Popcorn and drinks will be provided!

Bring in your Pussywillows: Anyone willing to harvest pussywillows from your yard or area for our Paschal celebration can now bring them to the church. Spring weather is upon us and they will soon begin to flower. Thanks so much for your help!

National Orthodox Baby Shower: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Olyphant is participating in the Orthodox Christians for Life National Orthodox Baby Shower. It is held in conjunction with the Feast of the Annunciation. We will be collecting items through the end of the month, and will be delivered to Providence Pregnancy Resource Center in Scranton in early April. Items will be collected through March 31st. OCLife requires we give new and unused items, and the PRC said that they give needy families baby clothes from size 1 to 4t, with more need in the size 1 category. Diapers and wipes are always needed. You may bring items and leave them in the Narthex / Vestibule this week or next Sunday, March 31st.



LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday may be given to Deborah Mills. Please write “Flowers for Lent” in the memo. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers “In Memory of” or “For the Health of” a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations at the candle stand, mail them to the Church, OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox attention Deborah Mills. The names of your loved ones will be listed in the Holy Pascha Church Bulletin and remembered in prayer. If you wish to have your offering listed in the Holy Pascha Bulletin, your

loved ones name(s) and donation must be received by Palm Sunday.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Andy Dutko (4/9), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward
Anniversaries: Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

This Week’s Birthdays: Jean Ann Hutz (3/31) Delores Voda (3/31), Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6)

The Feast of St. Innocent of Alaska

From st-innocent.org

Our father among the saints Innocent of Alaska, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of North America (1797-1879), was a Russian Orthodox priest, bishop, archbishop, and Metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia. He is known for his missionary work, scholarship, and leadership in Alaska and the Russian Far East during the 1800s. He is known for his great zeal for his work as well as his great abilities as a scholar, linguist, and administrator. He was a missionary, later a bishop and archbishop in Alaska and the Russian Far East. He learned several native languages and was the author of many of the earliest scholarly works about the natives and their languages, as well as dictionaries and religious works in these languages. He also translated parts of the Bible into several native languages.

His Life

St. Innocent, né Ivan (John) Evseyevich Popov-Veniaminov, was born on August 26, 1797, into the family of a church server in the village of Anginskoye, Verkholsk District, Irkutsk province, in Russia. His father died when John was six.

In 1807, John entered the Irkutsk Theological Seminary. In 1817 he married, and on May 18, 1817 he was ordained deacon of the Church of the Annunciation in Irkutsk. He completed his studies in 1818. He was appointed a teacher in a parish school, and on May 18, 1821 he was ordained priest to serve in the Church of the Annunciation.

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Tom & Joan Austin, Joan Lello, Barbara Pascoe, Elizabeth Hutz, Melanie Bishop, Delores Voda, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Michael Yeosock, Fr. Gregory White, Mary Gurka, Mary Ann Kudey, Tom Youngblood, Catherine Gates, John Boyle, Rose Marie, Ben Dragon **Departed:** Michael Yeosock, Barbara Kulick, Daniel Fitzsimmons, Shirley Gingo

At the beginning of 1823, Bishop Michael of Irkutsk received instructions to send a priest to the island of Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. Father John Veniaminov volunteered to go, and on May 7, 1823, he departed from Irkutsk, accompanied by his aging mother, his wife, his infant son Innocent, and his brother Stefan. After a difficult one-year journey, they arrived at Unalaska on July 29, 1824.

After John and his family built and moved into an earthen hut, he undertook the construction of a church on the island and set about studying the local languages and dialects. He trained some of his parishioners in construction techniques and with them undertook the construction of a church, which was finished the following July.

Father John's parish included the island of Unalaska and the neighboring Fox Islands and Pribilof Islands, whose inhabitants had been converted to Christianity before his arrival, but retained many of their pagan ways and customs. Father John often traveled between the islands in a canoe, battling the stormy Gulf of Alaska.

His travels over the islands greatly enhanced Father John Veniaminov's familiarity with the local dialects. In a short time he mastered six of the dialects. He devised an alphabet of Cyrillic letters for the most widespread dialect, the Unagan dialect of Aleut and, in 1828, translated the Holy Gospel of St. Matthew and other church materials into that dialect, which were eventually published in 1840 with the blessing of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. In 1829, he journeyed to the Bering Sea coast of the Alaskan mainland and preached to the people there. In 1836, his travels even extended to the south, to the Ross Colony north of San Francisco and to the Spanish missions of northern California. At Ross Colony he conducted services at its small, wooden chapel.

In 1834, Father John was transferred to Sitka Island, to the town of Novoarkhangelsk, later called Sitka. He devoted himself to the Tlingit people and studied their language and customs. His studies there produced the scholarly works *Notes on the Kolushchan and Kodiak Tongues and Other Dialects of the Russo-American Territories*, with a Russian-Kolushchan Glossary.

In 1838, Father John journeyed to St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia, and Kiev, Ukraine, to report on his

activities and request an expansion of the Church's activities in Russian America. While he was there, he received notice that his wife had died. He requested permission to return to Sitka. Instead, it was suggested that he take vows as a monk. Father John at first ignored these suggestions, but, on November 29, 1840, made his vows. He chose the name Innocent in honor of Bishop Innocent of Irkutsk.

On December 15, 1840, Archimandrite Innocent Veniaminov was consecrated Bishop of Kamchatka and Kuril Islands in Russia and the Aleutian Islands in Russian America. His see was located in Novoarkhangelsk, which he returned to in September 1841. He spent the next nine years in the administration of his see as well as on several long missionary journeys to its remote areas. On April 21, 1850, Bishop Innocent was elevated to Archbishop. In 1852, the Yakut area was admitted to the Kamchatka Diocese, and in September 1853, Archbishop Innocent took up permanent residence in the town of Yakutsk. Innocent took frequent trips throughout his enlarged diocese. He devoted much energy to the translation of the scriptures and service books into the Yakut (Sakha) language.

In April 1865, Archbishop Innocent was appointed a member of the Holy Governing Synod of the Church. On November 19, 1867, he was appointed the Metropolitan of Moscow, replacing his friend and mentor, Filaret, who had died. While there, he undertook revisions of many Church texts that contained errors, raised funds to improve the living conditions of priests and established a retirement home for priests.

Innocent died on March 31, 1879. He was buried on April 5, 1879, at Troitse-Sergiyeva Lavra.



The Treasury

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Collections last Sunday (3/24): \$5,260