

October 6 – Glorification of St. Innocent of Alaska

People were not created merely to live here on earth like animals that disappear after their death, but to live with God and in God, and to live not for a hundred or a thousand years, but to live eternally. But only Christians can live with God; that is to say, those who rightly believe in Jesus Christ.

Everyone, whoever he may be, desires and seeks prosperity and happiness. To desire what is good for oneself and to seek prosperity or happiness is part of man's nature, and therefore it is not a sin or vice. But we need to know that here on earth there has not been, and is not, and never will be true and perfect happiness and prosperity; for all our prosperity and happiness is only in God. No one will ever find true happiness and perfect prosperity without God or outside God.

Nothing in this world but God can fill our heart or fully satisfy our desires. A fire cannot be put out with brushwood and oil, because only water will put it out. In exactly the same way, the desires of the human heart cannot be satisfied with the goods of this world, because only the grace of God can quench the thirst of our desires.

Everything we desire pleases us only so long as we do not possess it; and when we get it, we soon get tired of it. Or only what we do not as yet have seems to us good and attractive; while all that we have, even though it is the very best, is either not good enough for us or does not attract us. A good example of this is King Solomon who, as is well known, was so rich that all the household plate and furniture in his palaces was of pure gold; he was so wise that kings came to visit him; and he was so glorious that his foes were terrified of him. Being wiser and mightier than all his contemporaries, he was able to satisfy all his wishes and desires, so that there was hardly a thing in the world which he did not possess or could not obtain. But with all this he could not satisfy his heart, and the desires of his heart wearied and tormented him far more than an ordinary man: and in the end, having tried everything in the world, he said in his writings: Everything in this world is vanity, and nothing can satisfy our desires.

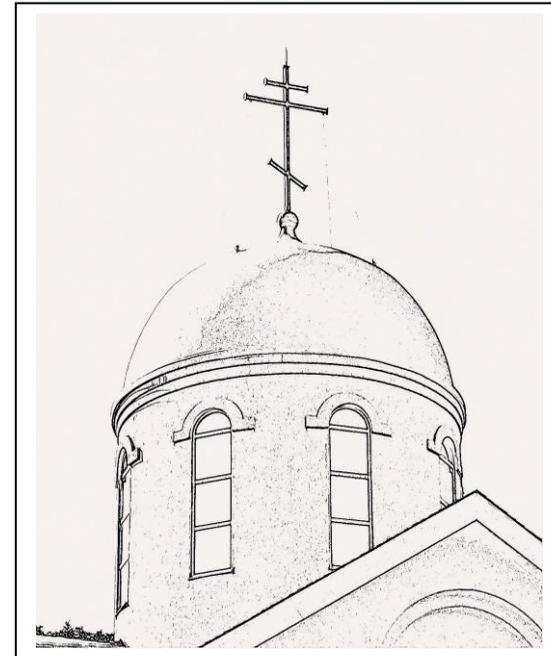
Truly not a single earthly pleasure can satisfy our heart. We are strangers on earth, pilgrims and travelers; our home and fatherland are there in heaven, in the heavenly Kingdom; and there do not exist on earth things which could perfectly satisfy our desires. Let a man own the whole world and all that is in the world, yet all that will not interest him for more than a minute, so to speak, and it will never satisfy his heart: for the heart of man can be fully satisfied only by the love of God and therefore God alone can fill the heart and soul of man and quench the thirst of his desires.

And so, do you wish to live with God there, in the Kingdom of Heaven? Be an Orthodox Christian. Do you want prosperity and happiness? Seek it in God. Do you want your heart to be fully satisfied? Turn it to God from Whom you have been separated by your sins.

This is excerpted from the Introduction of St. Innocent's treatise, "The Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven". The full text can be found online at:

<https://www.stmaryofegypt.org/files/library/Indication.pdf>.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Dn. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Deacon*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

October 6, 2019

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 7. Glorification of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, and Apostle to the Americas (1977—Sept 23rd O.S.). Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas (1st c.). Monk Martyr Macarius of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos—1590). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos “O ALL-HYMned MOTHER”.

Today’s Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 and Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16 and John 10:9-16

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

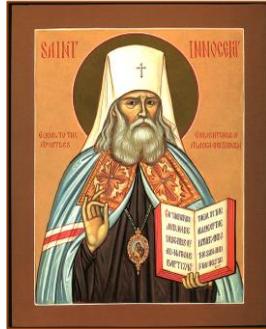
Saturday - 7:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 and Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 and John 17:1-13



Glorification of St. Innocent

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM A (Pasick, Stavrou)

Next Sunday – TEAM B (Nilsen, Christos)

Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Olga Kornafel, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Matushka Cathy Smida, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Cathy Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.

Annunciations

TODAY – Church School classes will be held today at their usual times following the Divine Liturgy.

TODAY – Deacon Michael Pejovic begins his service to God by serving at Holy Transfiguration Chapel on the campus of Princeton University. On **Sunday mornings**, Deacon Michael will be assisting Father Daniel Skvir, whose priestly function has been affected by illness. Throughout this time, Deacon Michael will remain attached to our parish and will serve most non-Sunday services here.

TODAY We observe **Church Choir Recognition Sunday** (transferred from last Sunday). On this day, we especially give thanks to God for our singers and our Choir Director, **Matthew Hascha**.

TODAY – The **blessed healing icon of St. Anna**, the mother of the Theotokos, will be visiting Holy Assumption Church, 35 Orange Ave. in Clifton, NJ. A molieben and healing service will begin at 4pm. Please speak with Father Gary for more details or contact **Father Terry Baz** at (315) 708-9395.

Next Sunday – A **Calendar Party** will take place at **Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Paramus** beginning at 3:00pm. The event will feature dinner, a “tricky tray”, and a 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are \$25 per person. Proceeds from this affair will go to **St. Andrew’s Camp**. Please **RSVP to Anna Brasowski** at (908) 647-9143.

Many thanks again to all who participated in last Sunday’s Ethnic Fair and Gift Auction. It was a wonderful day of fellowship, good food, and fun. In total, **we raised over \$10,000 with this event**. A portion of this will help with the paydown of the outstanding debt incurred with the building of the parish hall. The rest of the proceeds will help with the usual operation of the parish.

Congratulations to Marie Price, the winner of the **50/50 raffle** at last Sunday’s Ethnic Fair and Gift Auction!

Please keep **Father Paul Kucynda** in your prayers. He is currently hospitalized at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold.

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Tuesday – Jim Vivanco

Wednesday – Marko Tesla

Thursday – Natalie May

OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are *always* accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.