

SAINT MARY OF EGYPT ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Newsletter – OCTOBER 2012

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Calendar Highlights

October 1: Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (Pokrov)

October 20: PanOrthodox Women's Retreat – see article in the bulletin for more information

Thou who at every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God; long-suffering, merciful and compassionate; Who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come. O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications, and direct our lives according to Thy commandments.

Sanctify our souls. Purify our bodies. Correct our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith, and unto the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

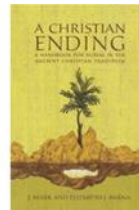
-Prayer of the Hours

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION ARE NEEDED FOR:

The Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of the South
Archbishop Nikon, Our Holy Synod,
Archpriest Peter, Matushka Anastasia, Lottie
Hieromonk Cyprian, Macrina and Nina
Priest Thomas; Matushka Angela
Archpriest Dimitri; Matushka Maryanne
Priest Paul and Matushka Gabrielle
Deacon Lazarus
Metropolitan Theodosius; Metropolitan Herman,
Metropolitan Jonah
Our catechumens: Yolanda, Jacob, Stephanie, David, Kim,
Ian, Matthew, Lindsay, Preston
Natalia, Kristina and Peter
Ioanna (Margaret) as she recovers
Michael and Serah (Ioanna's son and daughter in law)
The infant Juliana & family David, Elizabeth and David
Ward (Patrick) and Cindy (Patricia)
Marcella
Linda (Janice Douglass' sister undergoing bone marrow
transplant)
Cathie Payton (Maryanne Romano's mother – in treatment
for breast cancer)
Richard Romano (Chris' father)
Elise (Chris' mother and Richard's wife and caregiver)
Robert and Xenia Peterson
Abby and Holly (Debra's daughter in laws)
Magdalene Marston
Elaine Calugar and family, Carole;
Anna, Victor; Tanya and family - especially Veronica;
Todd (having uncontrollable stomach issues), Kimber,
Mathew, Maggie, Amanda (and the child to be born of her)
and her fiancé Paul, and Scott
Niko Bouboulis battling a brain tumor; his father, Pano
Christopher Michael
Juliana (Carol) and Peter
Caleb Noble
Thomas, Emilia, Maria, Catherine; Craig
Anna (Lynne)
Katherine-Theodora, Claude, and the Hunter-Terry family
Harvey (George) and Irene Ghiz (Emily's parents)
Christopher (Emily's cousin) and Julie Ghiz – Julie in
treatment for breast cancer
Christopher Tsialos (Emily's uncle)
Rayna and family
Nancy Carolan (Fr. Tom's sister) undergoing cancer
treatment
Nathaniel, Maria and family (Nathaniel is a long time
friend of the Alessandronis diagnosed with an inoperable
brain tumor); Jim Mason friend of the Alessandroni's
undergoing cancer treatment
Bob Winters (Vincent Hunter's cousin's husband
succumbing to lung cancer)
Angela; Lisa, Maddie and Daniel (Michael Berry's daughter
and grandchildren)
Danielle and Michael (Ralph Geeza's niece and brother)

Kerin Tamara (upcoming shoulder surgery on 10/10) and
Todd Demetrios
Tony (possible cancer)
Patricia in final stages of her battle with cancer (Krista's
aunt) and Patricia's family Wayne, Brad, Heather, Caroly
Talmadge, Kathy and Beverly
Andrea Rajski (Michaela's friend)
St. Basil's House
Ss Peter and Paul Gainesville Mission
Sts Mary and Martha Monastery
All those who have suffered and/or are suffering at the
hands of others or without friends or family
Those who have fallen asleep in the Lord:
Alexander
Archbishop Dmitri
Anna (Mat. Rebecca Myers' mother)
Tisha (Skiba's neighbor)

PanOrthodox Women's Retreat Saturday October 20, 2012 A Christian Ending to Our Lives



Retreat Leaders:
Mat. Elizabeth and Dn Mark
Barna
Authors of
A Christian Ending

*10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy followed by retreat
presentations*

How can a Christian community redeem the process
of death and burial to more fully realize the grace
and love of God within our church family and
witness to it in the wider community?

The vast majority of people die at home or in the
hospital. As difficult as it is, this is an opportunity,
our last opportunity, to show true Christian charity
and love to our deceased brother or sister in Christ.
In these sessions Mat. Elizabeth and Deacon Mark
will discuss practical steps believing Christians can
take to ease the passing of our beloved brothers and
sisters in Christ. What is death? How should
Christians think about it? What can we do to prepare
legally, practically and spiritually for the one event
all people have in common, our death.

Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia are epidemic in our society. Many of us are faced with the prospect of caring for parents or spouses with dementia. What are the options for care? Mat. Elizabeth and Dn. Mark will share with us their experience of caring for three elderly parents in their home for seven years. How does one make the decision to care for a loved one at home? What can we expect and how should we handle it. In the end, what can Christians do to ease the passing of a loved one suffering from this terrible, debilitating disease?

A death in the Church is a death in the family. When a loved one dies we have many options available to us. One of those options is to handle the funeral and burial in the same way that Christians have done since the very beginning. In the State of Georgia it is perfectly legal for churches and families to bury their own dead without the assistance of a professional funeral director. In this final session, Deacon Mark and Mat. Elizabeth will share their experiences and the procedures they have used many times to care for the bodies of deceased family, friends and complete strangers from the moment of death until sealing the grave.

To reserve your place please contact Anya Gill at anyagill@yahoo.com or call 404-218-3588

Please bring a potluck dish to share
Cost: Free will offering



REFLECTION by St Nikolai

If only we begin with the firm intention to live according to God's law, we need not be afraid of any assaults by unreasonable men. For he who truly begins to live according to God's law finds that all things done to him by men happen for his benefit, and to the glory of God. One especially need not fear being compelled to move from a place that he loves to a place that he doesn't care for. Instead of empty fear and fruitless lamentation, it is better to seek out God's intention for us. What harm did the evil

actions of Joseph's brothers do to him? Did not his involuntary departure to Egypt glorify him, save his brothers from famine, and create the necessary conditions for all the wondrous things God worked through Moses in Egypt and in the wilderness? The pagans and heretics often drove Orthodox Christians into barbarian regions. What did they accomplish by that? Did they destroy Orthodoxy? No-rather, they strengthened it even more in the souls of the persecuted, and spread it among the barbarian peoples. The evil heretic Lucius exiled the glorious Macarius, with several Tabennisiot ascetics, from Egypt to a barbarian island, where the entire population worshiped idols. But by the teachings and example of these holy men, the entire populace of the island was soon baptized. That island was later renamed the "Island of Repentance."



St. Innocent of Moscow & Alaska

Saint Innocent of Moscow & Alaska—Life

Born: August 26, 1797 (Anginskoye, Irkutsk)

Reposed: March 31, 1879 (Moscow, Russia)

Glorification Date: October 6, 1977

Commemoration Dates: October 6 (Glorification); March 31 (Repose); and also by the Russian Orthodox Church, on October 5 (Synaxis of All the Holy Hierarchs of Moscow)

St. Innocent (Popov-Veniaminov), Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomensk (August 26, 1797—March 31, 1879), was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church on October 6, 1977. He was born in the village of Anginsk in the Irkutsk diocese. The Apostle of America and Siberia proclaimed the Gospel "even to the ends of the earth:" in the Aleutian islands (from 1823), in the six dialects of the local tribes on the island of Sitka (from 1834), among the Kolosh (Tlingit); in the remotest settlements of the extensive Kamchatka diocese (from 1853); among the Koryak, Chukchei, Tungus in the Yakutsk region (from 1853) and North America (in 1857); in the

Amur and the Usuriisk region (from 1860).

Having spent a large part of his life in journeys, St. Innocent translated a Catechism and the Gospel into the Aleut language. In 1833, he wrote in this language one of the finest works of Orthodox missionary activity, *The Indication of the Way to the Kingdom of Heaven*.

In 1859, the Yakut first heard the Word of God and divine services in their native language. Twice (in 1860 and 1861) St. Innocent met with St. Nicholas the Apostle to Japan (commemorated February 3), sharing with him his spiritual experience.

A remarkable preacher, St. Innocent said, "Whoever abounds in faith and love, can have mouth and wisdom, and the heart cannot resist their serving it."

Having begun his apostolic work as a parish priest, St. Innocent completed it as Metropolitan of Moscow (January 5, 1868 - March 31, 1879). He obeyed the will of God all his life, and he left behind a theme for the sermon to be preached at his funeral: "The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord" (Ps. 36:23).

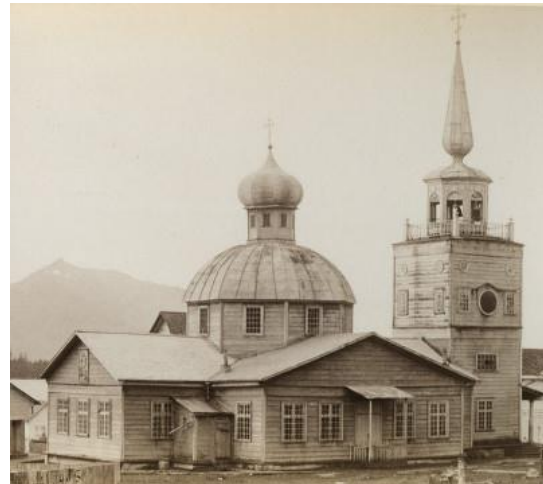
St. Innocent is commemorated on October 6 (his Glorification), and on March 31 (his Repose). He is also commemorated by the Russian Orthodox Church on October 5 (Synaxis of All the Holy Hierarchs of Moscow).

In 1997 Orthodox Christians in North America celebrated the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of their "apostle" and first bishop—St. Innocent (Veniaminov).

Born on August 26, 1797, in a remote village in Siberia, John Popov (who later assumed the surname of Veniaminov) studies for pastoral service at the seminary in Irkutsk. After his marriage to Catherine Sharina (1817) and ordination to the priesthood (1821), Fr. John volunteered for missionary work in Alaska.

Arriving with his family in Unalaska in the Aleutian island chain (1824), Fr. John began his remarkable career as a missionary priest and bishop in the far-reaches of the Russian Empire -- Siberia and Alaska. Following the death of his wife (1839), he entered monastic life by taking the name Innocent and was elected the first resident bishop of Alaska (1840-58).

A person with many skills and interest, Fr. John carefully studied the traditional cultures of his flock and well as their natural environment. He also designed and built churches including the Mission House and St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka.



An accomplished linguist, Fr. John learned the various native Siberian and Alaskan languages of his diverse flock. While serving in Unalaska, he learned Unangan, the Fox Island dialect of the Aleut people. Along with Aleut leader Ivan Pan'kov, he devised a written grammar and alphabet, translating the Gospel of St. Matthew and liturgical texts. His spiritual treatise *Indication of the Pathway into the Kingdom of Heaven* was first published in Unangan and was the first Aleut book.

Later in his life he was appointed Metropolitan of Moscow (1868). However, Metropolitan Innocent's evangelical zeal never diminished -- establishing in 1868 the Orthodox Missionary Society. He died in Moscow on March 31, 1879, and was canonized a saint of the Orthodox Church on October 6, 1977.

Reprinted from the website of St. Tikhon's in Chattanooga TN

The heart itself is but a small vessel, yet dragons are there, and there are also lions; there are poisonous beasts and all the treasures of evil. But there too is God, the angels, the life and the kingdom, the light and the apostles, the heavenly cities and the treasures of grace—all things are there.

- *St. Macarius on the heart*



In our struggle for prayer the emotions are almost irrelevant; what we must bring to God is a complete, firm determination to be faithful to him and strive that God should live in us. We must remember that the fruits of prayer are not this or that emotional state, but a deep change in the whole of our personality. What we aim at is to be made able to stand before God and to concentrate on his presence, all our needs being directed Godwards, and to be given power, strength, anything we need that the will of God may be fulfilled in us.

That the will of God should be fulfilled in us is the only aim of prayer, and it is also the criterion of right prayer. It is not the mystical feeling we may have, or our emotions that make good praying. Theophan the Recluse says: 'You ask yourself, "Have I prayed well today?" Do not try to find out how deep your emotions were, or how much deeper you understand things divine; ask yourself: "Am I doing God's will better than I did before?" If you are, prayer has brought its fruits, if you are not, it has not, whatever amount of understanding or feeling you may have derived from the time spent in the presence of God.'

- Metropolitan Anthony Bloom



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Young Adults: (11th grade through 20s) Sally and Taylor Hostetter are leading this class which concentrates on our Union with God In Christ in basic Orthodox Christian discipleship. We are exploring the basic doctrines and practical disciplines In Christ with an emphasis on building community and mutual accountability.

6th-10th Graders are meeting with Reader Thomas Hobbs and are progressing through the Old Testament, with an eye toward how the events of the Old Testament prefigure the Incarnation. We are also learning how to be stewards of God's church by taking turns with classroom chores. Finally, we're learning non-trivial thing with a weekly trivia question. All 6th-10th graders are welcome!

3rd-5th Graders are meeting with Anya Gill and are calling themselves The Ambassadors. We are learning about the bible, Orthodoxy around the world and the Great Commission. They will be hosting a fundraiser coffee hour later this year in support of a mission they have researched and chosen. You may be hearing us sing in Swahili as well.

K-2nd Graders are meeting with Doris Hunter and are busily studying how our faith is expressed in our church temple. These budding young architects are building their own model iconostasis as they learn about all the icons



NEWS ITEMS:

Deceleration Lane: We are in our final permitting and bidding stages and will begin construction shortly on a deceleration lane. The lane will start just at the beginning of our property and provide a safer way to decelerate and enter and exit the property.

Additional work is ongoing to repave the parking lot and understand the scope of what would be required to bridge over the creek to better access the back acreage both for maintenance and for possible future use

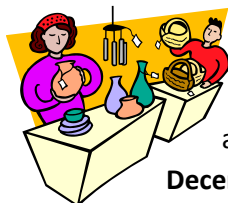
For specific information and to view the engineering plans, please see Taylor Hostetter.

Playground: Work days are being scheduled and funding is almost completely raised. If you would like to help push the project to its fundraising goal, please make your donation to St. Mary of Egypt earmarked "Playground"



Two work days are planned – the first to prepare the ground and set the footings and the second to install the playground and complete the mulching.

St. Nicholas Days: We are making the final decision on whether we have the critical mass of support to move ahead with our 2nd annual St. Nicholas Day on **December 1-2.** We're looking for



arts and crafts, gift items, homemade jams and jellies and other treats. We're planning on fun children's activities and tours of the church temple. Please let Anya know if you are interested in participating. We will make a final go- no go decision in the next few weeks.

St. Nicholas Coins: We are now actively collecting funds for the children of St. Mary's to help their families during the Nativity Season. Funds will be collected through early December.

Coffee Hour Teams: To share the effort fairly, we ask that everyone be part of a coffee hour team 4 times per year. The sign up sheet is in the hall for the remainder of the year.



It doesn't need to be elaborate or complicated. Our time at coffee hour is a time of fellowship for each of us new to the parish or long time members. We thank you for volunteering!

Parish Council Corner Treasurer's Report:

Income (Jan-Aug): \$120,866.63

Expenses (Jan-Aug): \$102,173.70

Actual Net Income: \$18,692.93

Budgeted Net Income: \$5,832.60

Thank you for your faithful support of our parish

OCTOBER Calendar

Week of Sept 30	
Sun Sept 30	9:00 Choir Practice 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy 1:00 Great Vespers
Mon Oct 1	9:40 a Hours 10:00 a Divine Liturgy Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (Pokrov)
Tues Oct 2	10:00 a Akathist 7:00 Catechumen Class at Starbucks
Weds Oct 3	7:00 p Daily Vespers
Thurs Oct 4	7:40 a Hours 8:00 a Divine Liturgy
Fri Oct 5	10:00a Various 7:00 p Great Vespers
Sat Oct 6	9:40 a Hours 10:00 a Divine Liturgy Glorification of St. Innocent 1:00 40 Day Panikhida for Alexander Lipatov 4:00 Confessions 5:00 Vigil
Week of Oct 7	
Sun Oct 7	9:00 Choir Practice 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy
Mon Oct 8	10:00 a Akathist
Tues Oct 9	10:00 a Akathist 7:00 Catechumen Class at Starbucks
Weds Oct 10	7 p Daily Vespers
Thurs Oct 11	7:40 a Hours 8:00 a Divine Liturgy
Fri Oct 12	10:00a Various
Sat Oct 13	4:00 Confessions 5:00 Vigil
Week of Oct 14	
Sun Oct 14	9:00 Choir Practice 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy
Mon Oct 15	10:00 a Akathist
Tues Oct 16	10:00 a Akathist 7:00 Catechumen Class at Starbucks
Weds Oct 17	7:00 p Daily Vespers

Thurs Oct 18	7:40 a Hours 8:00 a Divine Liturgy
Fri Oct 19	10:00 Various 7:00 p Great Vespers
Sat Oct 20	9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy Memorial Saturday PanOrthodox Women's Retreat 4:00 Confessions 5:00 Vigil
Week of Oct 21	
Sun Oct 21	9:00 Choir Practice 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy Parish Council
Mon Oct 22	10:00a Akathist
Tues Oct 23	10:00a Akathist 7:00 Catechumen Class at Starbucks
Weds Oct 24	7:00 p Daily Vespers
Thurs Oct 25	7:40 a Hours 8:00 a Divine Liturgy
Fri Oct 26	10:00a Various
Sat Oct 27	4:00 Confessions 5:00 Vigil
Week of Oct 28	
Sun Oct 28	9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy
Mon Oct 29	10:00 a Akathist
Tues Oct 30	10:00 a Akathist 7:00 Catechumen Class at Starbucks
Weds Oct 31	7:00 p Daily Vespers

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
ORTHODOX MISSION GAINESVILLE

Invites You to Attend

**THE FALL 2012
FIRST SATURDAY SERIES**

A monthly presentation on the Orthodox Church from October through December

Beginning Saturday, October 6, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Located in the Kindred Spirits classroom at First Baptist Church on Green Street

The Service of Great Vespers followed by Fr. Thomas Alessandrone presenting

Christ the Physician: The Church as Spiritual Hospital

A question and answer period and light refreshments will conclude the event

The Service of Great Vespers offering of thanksgiving and supplication to God as day fades to evening.

Fr. Thomas Alessandrone is an Orthodox Christian priest from St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church in Norcross. He is currently serving the SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Mission which meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at First Baptist. Prior to his Ordination in the Orthodox Church in America, Fr. Thomas spent many years in the field of mental health and continues to maintain a Christian marriage and family counseling practice.

**THE HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE OF THE
ORTHODOX LITURGY**

An informal lecture series by Taylor Hostetter
Alternate Wednesdays, October through December

Beginning October 3rd & 17th, 7:30-8:30 pm

Located at Starbucks, 821 Dawsonville Highway NW

Feel free to order a coffee and join us!

Taylor Hostetter has been a missionary with the Navigators since 1991, and converted to Orthodoxy in 2000 while serving in Serbia. He and his family live in Lawrenceville and he continues as an active missionary in Eastern Europe and in the United States. Taylor is also the Lay Catechist for St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church, and regularly leads informal presentations on Orthodox topics at a Starbucks in Lilburn.

For more information, contact: Ruth Purcell, lay leader; rpurcell@windstream.net