

E-Bulletin – St Innocent Orthodox Church

The Church St Innocent of Irkutsk is a parish of the Diocese of the West,
The Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

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stinnocenttarzana.org

Fr. Yousuf Rassam

February 16th, 2025

Today's commemorated feasts and saints:

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 1. St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan (1912). Martyrs Pamphilius – Presbyter, Valens – Deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Cæsarea in Palestine (307-309). St. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (422). Persian Martyrs in Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (4th c.).

Resources for this Sunday

[Sunday of the Prodigal Son Readings & Hymns](#)

[The Great Fast: To See Christ as He Is, by Archbishop Dmitri](#)

[Great Lent: A School of Repentance by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann](#)

For next Sunday:

[Sunday of the Last Judgment: Readings & Hymns](#)



OUR MEANS OF RECONCILING WITH GOD

From the time Adam and Eve exercised their free will to choose to disobey God, man has had the need for forgiveness. We all have fallen short of the high expectations that the Lord has for all of His children, allowing sin to overcome us again and again. Sin separates us from our Heavenly Father, but fortunately, He has provided us with a means of reconciling with Him through the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Since Confession is such an important part of the Lenten season, let us take a closer look at this Mystery of the Church.

Confession entails much more than merely listing and expressing some degree of sorrow for our sins. Before coming to Confession, it is necessary for us to examine our conscience – we must sincerely search our souls and determine where we have strayed from the path God has

charted for us. Our confession must be an honest attempt to admit the many ways we have transgressed God's Laws. Certainly, our All-Knowing God cannot be fooled! For the Grace of God to truly enter us through the Sacrament of Confession, however, we must experience a real feeling of REPENTANCE. Repentance literally means "to change." Confession must bring about a change in our lifestyle. Confessing our sinful ways is one thing . . . casting aside and walking away from our sinful deeds is another matter entirely!

During the Great Fast, may we all avail ourselves to the wonderful opportunity the Church gives us to "make things right" with the Lord, through the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Seek out the spiritual help this Sacrament provides.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

SCHEDULE ALL SERVICES LIVE STREAMED.

Matins Gospel: Matthew 28: 16 – 20 (*1st Matins Gospel*)

Next Week's Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6: 12 – 20 **Gospel:** Luke 15: 11 – 32 (*Prodigal Son*)

Reader: Andrew

Today	9:30 am Liturgy
Wednesday	6:00 pm Moleben w/ Canon for the Prodigal Son
Friday	6:00 pm Vespers with Panikhida, Soul Saturday.
Saturday	9:30 am Liturgy, Soul Saturday
Saturday	5:30 pm Vespers
Sunday	9:30 am Liturgy

Next Week's Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8: 8 – 9: 2 **Gospel:** Matthew 25: 31 – 46 (*Last Judgment*)

Reader: James

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. **Confessions:** After Saturday Vespers and by appointment.

Receiving Holy Communion: We should draw near to our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, and receive Holy Communion often. Orthodox Christians, who have prepared themselves through prayer and fasting, and are at peace with all men, and have attended the Divine Liturgy from the beginning, (or, at the very least, have not missed the Gospel), and have made a recent Confession, should draw near.

Others should diligently seek to be properly disposed and prepared as soon as possible.

Troparion, Resurrection – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who Lovest mankind!"

Announcements:

Our Bulletins (\$60.00)	Alla Slobodskaya Izolda (Zoya) & Vladimir Sogokon Veska
Our Altar Wine (\$40.00)	Gabriela Broncă & family good health & help in our needs.
Our Altar Candles (\$40.00)	Gabriela Broncă & family good health & help in our needs.
Our Altar Incense (\$20.00)	Gabriela Broncă & family good health & help in our needs.
Vigil – Golgotha I (\$7.00 /wk)	-
Vigil – Golgotha II (\$7.00 /wk)	-
Vigil – Prothesis (\$7.00 /wk)	-
- Broncă: Gabriela, Robert, & Carmen Iuliana.	Good health, & help in need. Repose: Tasia.
- Sogokon: for the health of Zoya, Vladimir, Irina, Anastasia, Vladimir, Vladimir.	
- for Svetlana, Rossitza, Emil, Veska; Repose: Atanas	

Today is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, the second ‘pre-Lent’ Sunday. This is coming week is the last week for eating meat. Forgiveness Sunday is March 2. Everyone who considers this their home parish should attend the Forgiveness Vespers, following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, on that date. Great Lent begins on Monday, March 3. Pascha is April 20.

2025 Wall Calendars are here at the Candle stand. Requested donation this year, \$10.00.

Adult Education is will take place after the Moleben on Wednesday.

Lectionary. The Church Lectionary is reading chosen pre-lent readings on Sundays, and on on weekdays: 1 John & Mark.

Coffee Hour, This Week: Mihaelescu, Caratäs **Next Week:** Darka

USEFUL INFORMATION

Donations We now have a [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) page to make donating to the parish easy. Just click this link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1324837>. Thank you and God bless!

Streamed serices can be viewed at our website <https://stinnocenttarzana.org/livestream> or <https://stinnocenttarzana.org/facebook>, the streamed services are also uploaded here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEhqUqTl5kDekOrPPERcy5g>.

The daily readings and saints may be found here: <https://stinnocenttarzana.org/dailyreadings>.

Kontakion, Triodion, Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Tone 3

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!

Sessional Hymn – Tone 1

Make haste to open unto to me Thy fatherly embrace, for as the prodigal I have wasted my life. In the unfailing wealth of Thy mercy, O Savior, reject not my hear in its poverty. For with compunction I cry to Thee, O Lord: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee.

Of our charity, remember in your prayers:

February 16th, 2025

Special Intentions:

Christians of Syria, Egypt; Met. Paul, Abp. John, in captivity.

Natalya & Alla in Donetsk

sister Oksana McGovern & family

Metropolitan Onuphry of Kiev, the brotherhoods of the Kiev Caves Lavra, the Pochayiv Lavra, & Svyatohirsk Lavra. Metropolitan Theodosy and the faithful of St Michael Cathedral in Cherkassy, St Andrew Cathedral in Zoporyzhya

The Sick and those in need of health:

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

Archbishop Benjamin,

Archpriests Paul Waisanen, George Gray, Michael Regan, Andrew Jacobs; John Armstrong, Matthew Tate; James Jorgensen.

Abbess Victoria; Abbess Susanna;

Matushki Alexandra Safchuk, Elizabeth Powell, Clara Mancantelli, Maria Vallens, Jean Moore;

Robert David Peterson, Marios Perez, Barbara Anderson, Monika Cleenewerck, Marea Kuolt.

OCA-DOW

Manya Prybyla, Gregory Theophan Hoffberg; Leontina Himber; Virginia, Levon; Edmund Roschak, Darka Raicevich;

Karen Olds; Alla Miller, Mike Shinkarik, Andrew Sturmer; Bridget Merridy Strand, Assia Alexander, Scott T. Karen T.,

Dmitri G., Kyra; Linda Phillips; Ed Salm; Raphael; Magdalena Elizabeth; Ludmilla, Anna, George Arglen,

Gayle Anne; Lana,

Our Parish

Jelica, Zharko

Darka, Ilija & Jovanna

Lea Ann (Leah) Bochnak

Laura Bochnak

Gary Andrew Hart

Pia

sister Julia Azrael

Vladimir

Anya

Victoria Wilson

+Bernie Wilson

Laura, Eladia; Lydia

Manya Prybyla

Marie; Archpriest Jonathan Proctor (Holy Trinity, St. Paul, MN) (cancer).

Thaddeus Wojcik

Mildred Sturmer, Susan

Sturmer family

Martha Yarbrough

Yarbrough family

Margaret Banescu, Vona Leslee Christie, Hope Peacock and family.

Banescu family

Euphemia Marie Cox

John Ambrose Cox

George. Mihai

Maria Caratás

Mary, George Laurentiu, cancer treatment.

Florentina

Barbara, Steve

Scott & the Thompson family

Angela Apostol, Constantine Apostol

Constantine Apostol

Yekaterina

Lydia

Hieromonk Ambrose (Young), Amy Juried. Archpriest Michael Carney,

Fr. Yousuf

Matushka Sophia Haloulakos

Protodeacon George Haloulakos

Christina Dudchenko, Dcn. Sergius Miller, Kevin, Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu.

Deacon Nicholas Denysenko & family

Michael Rogozik

Yulia.

Lya, Marie, Yvonne

Gay Butu

Timofey

Dilaria

Kristina DeBree

Kevin Patrick DeBree

Reader John, Catherine, Dianna Bowen.

Danks family

Walter

Irina

Larry & Emma

Abbe Kulhanek

Anna

Elena

Pearl Ruggiero. Sheena Wickens, Veronica Clarkson, Anna Cruz, Anna Rossiter; Ward; Griselda Leon; Allan Elmaleh.

Diane Rhodes

Bruce Anderson, Audrey Anderson.

Subdeacon Polycarp Anderson & family

Larry McHargue; Laura; Robert; Kenny; Bill & Sara Love

Anne McHargue Witz & family

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Peter, Elijah Hoffberg, Ronnie (Barnabas) Austin, Shae, Ian & Henry.

For the Health and Salvation of the servants of God:

Catechumens: Dalen, Kelly, & Jamie, & Timothy Muster; Emma; Paulina; Louis; Alexander; Zachary; Jacqueline; Garreth, Hannah, James

Daniel; Antonio Cassandra, Veronica, Josephine

Orion

Igor & Luda

Nikolina

Jovanna & Ilija

Zlata Okunev, Artemi & Erica

Charlotte, parents Jonathan & Michaela Durham

Vitaly, Lyubov, Ella, Karen, Oksana, Valentina, Irina, Sofiya, Vladimir, Olga, Natalya, Tatyana, Irina, Elena, Evgeny.

Tikhvin icon donors

Alla, Dmitriy Jr., Dmitriy, Igor, Elena, Juliya, Tamara, Fredi.

Alla Slobdskaya

Elena, Marisa, Dimitrios (Jimmy), Nicholas, Alexander, Dimitrios, Dionisius.

+ Lola Macrina

Elijah, parents Aika & Dmitri Goudkov

Rowan. Galina.

Yelena, Anna, Wolfgang

Christopher, John, Lauren, Ekaterina.

+ Margarita Maximova

Catalina, Sofia, Florentina, Doina.

Calugaru family

Sherri, Nathanael, & Christopher, Amelia Marie.

Of our charity, remember in your prayers:

For the repose of the souls of the departed servants of God:

February 16th, 2025

Newly Departed Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

Newly Departed Matushka Susanne Senyo, + Jan 18, 25.

Newly Departed Veronika Polotaiko

Newly Departed Lyubov Shilo+ Jan 4, 25.

Newly Departed Nicholas Juried + Jan 11, 25.

Newly Departed Parvin, + Jan 15, 25.

Newly Departed Lazaro Medina,

Newly Departed Katherine Turnbull, + Jan 6, 25.

Newly Departed Traian Butu + Dec 20, 24.

Newly Departed Simos Constantine Dimas, +Nov 29, 2024.

Newly Departed Olga, + Nov 15, 2024. Boris, Nikolay, Lidiya, Olga.

Newly Departed Mary Grace Davidson +June 21, 2024; Newly Departed Carl Pagter, Jan 3, 2023; Ken Reed.

Mitred Archpriest Sergei Glagolev, +Sep 1, 2021, Matushka Gerry (Evgenia) Glagolev. +May 23, 2022.

Archpriest Nicolas Boldireff, +May 22, 2024.; Matushka Anisia Boldireff +Sep 1, 2021

+Feb 16: Matushka Mary Krafchak, 2008; Matushka Barbara Kucynda, 2018.

Matushka Tresja Denysenko

Edward Pogyor

Subdeacon Patrick Bernard Wilson

Germogen & Olga Stephanenko

Matushka Priscilla Shipley +Sep 10, 2023

Valentina

Cor Brevet Delabruinene

Rodney Lake + May 20, 2021.

Paul Prybyla. +Jan, 10, 2021

Nicholas Vasiliev Davidovich, +October 12, 2022

Barbara Johnson

Stanislava

Hormuzd (Emmanuel) Rassam, + Dec 21, 2022.

Nun Seraphima (Anna Kremenetskaya)

Nun Nonna (Verna Harrison)

Igor

Lola Macrina

Edward Michael & Joan Sutyak

Leon & Claudine Snyder

Dmitri

David

Deacon Hennok Soot, Matushka Mariamna Soot,

Evdokiya, Anatoliy, Domnikiy, Semen, Feodosiy, Ella, Grigoriy, Nadejda, Konstantin, Svetlana,

Valentina, Anna, infant Anatoliy, Olga, Anna, Peter.

Anne Lewandowski

Marina, Alexandra, Petr, Boris, Tatiana.

Hieromonk Vonifaty, Schemanun Savva, Priest Anatoly + Sep 9, 22; Monk Aristokliy June 1, 22; Andrei Vasilenko, April, 23; Archpriest Nikolay

Palahnyuk, June 13, 23; John Markevich, Oct, 23; Viktor Kotlishyn, Oct 19 23;

Rebecca Svetlana (Photini) Gushard

Basil Rosiczka

Archpr. Nazari Polotaiko & family

Amy Juried, Fr Yousuf

Amy Juried, Fr Yousuf

grandson James Goodarzy & family

Maggie Medina, Dean Apostol

Gay Butu & family

Julia Azrael

Lyudmilla

Diane Elizabeth Rhodes

Christia, Marina, John & family

Nathalie, Tamara, Marina, Michael & family

OCA

Deacon Nicholas & Sofia Denysenko & family

Eleanor Pogyor & family

Diane, Victoria, Nicholas, & Stephen Wilson & family

Larissa, Tatiana

Fr Ian Shipley & family, DoW

Irina Jackson

Natalya Slusar Nosa & family

son-in-law & daughter Thaddeus & Jacqui Wojcik

Manya & family

daughter Nancy Smollen

daughter Milena; family

wife Kaye Rassam, son Fr Yousuf Rassam, daughter Najma Fowner & family

Konstantin, Taissia, Vladimir, Ioann Kremenetsky

Tamara, Christina, Michael, Anne & family

daughters Laura & Carol, & family

Boris

Mitred Archpriest Ian & Matka. Nina MacKinnon, DOW

DoW, Fr Stephen Soot family, Mark & Olga Soot family

Alla Slobdoskaya

+ Raissa Dulian

+Margarita Maximova

son Wade Aiden Greer, Fr Yousuf

Hymns for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

As the prodigal I come to Thee, / merciful Lord. / I have wasted my whole life in a foreign land; / I have scattered the wealth which Thou gavest me, O Father. / Receive me in repentance, O God, // and have mercy on me.

Hymns for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

I was entrusted with a sinless and living land, / but I sowed the ground with sin / and reaped with a sickle the ears of slothfulness, / in thick sheaves I garnered my actions, / but winnowed them not on the threshing floor of repentance. / But I beg Thee, my God, the pre-eternal husbandman, / with the wind of Thy loving kindness winnow the chaff of my works, / and grant to my soul the corn of forgiveness; // shut me in the heavenly storehouse and save me.

Brethren, let us learn the meaning of this mystery. / For when the Prodigal Son ran back from sin to his Father's house, / his loving Father came out to meet him and kissed him. / He restored to the Prodigal the tokens of his proper glory, / and mystically He made glad on high, sacrificing the fatted calf. / Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving Father who has offered sacrifice, // and of the glorious Victim Who is the Savior of our souls.

Of what great blessings in my wretchedness have I deprived myself! / From what a kingdom in my misery have I fallen! / I have wasted the riches that were given to me, / I have transgressed the commandment: / Alas, unhappy soul! / Thou art henceforth condemned to the eternal fire. / before the end cry out to Christ our God: // Receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God, and have mercy on me.

Psalm 136 [137]

By the waters of Babylon, / there we sat down and wept, / when we remembered Zion. /

Alleluia!

On the willows there / we hung up our lyres. / **Alleluia!**

For there our captors / required of us songs, / and our tormentors, mirth, saying, / "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" / **Alleluia!**

How shall we sing the Lord's song / in a foreign land? / **Alleluia!**

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! / **Alleluia!**

Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, / if I do not remember thee, / if I do not set Jerusalem / above my highest joy! / **Alleluia!**

Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites / the day of Jerusalem, / **Alleluia!**

how they said, "Down with it, down with it! / Down to its foundations!" / **Alleluia!**

O daughter of Babylon, thou wretched one! / Blessed shall he be who requites thee / with what thou hast done to us! / **Alleluia!**

Blessed shall he be who takes thy little ones / and dashes them against the rock! / **Alleluia!**

Stikhera of Repentance - Tone 8 *Sung from the Triodion on the Sundays of Pre-Lent and Great Lent.*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life, / For my spirit rises early to pray towards thy holy temple. / Bearing the temple of my body all defiled; / But in Thy compassion, // purify me by the loving kindness of Thy mercy.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God, / For I have profaned my soul with shameful sins, / and have wasted my life in laziness. / But by thine intercessions, // deliver me from all impurity.

Tone 6 Have mercy on me, O God, / according to Thy great mercy; / according to Thine abundant mercy, // blot out my transgression!

When I think of the many evil things I have done, / wretch that I am, / I tremble at the fearful day of judgement. / But trusting in Thy living kindness, / like David I cry to Thee: / Have mercy on me, O God, // according to Thy great mercy.