

THE LADDER *of* Divine Ascent



Volume 12, Issue 2 The Newsletter of St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church October 2010

October 6th : St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of North America

Saint Innocent was born in 1797 to a poor family in a remote village in a rural area of Irkutsk Province in Russia, and named Ioann (John). He was orphaned at the age of six, and assigned to the seminary in Irkutsk at the age of nine. Shortly after he arrived, the relics of St. Innocent of Irkutsk were found, whose name and apostolic ministry young Ioann later would inherit. He was a hard working and outstanding student, who also was seen as humble and kind, and for these qualities he was given the surname of Veniaminov after the late Bishop Veniamin of Irkutsk who had been beloved by the faithful.

After John was ordained to the priesthood, he spent a year as a parish priest in Irkutsk, and then volunteered to go into missionary work in Alaska, though many other clergy were afraid to do so, because they had heard it was a wild country filled with dangerous savages. His wife broke into tears when she heard the news of this mission, but was unable to dissuade him, so at age 26, he and his family traveled over 2,000 miles, taking over a year to complete this arduous journey, and arrived finally in the Aleutian Islands in 1824. He built a church with his own hands, traveled to remote areas by kayak, dog sled, and even reindeer! He learned six dialects of the native language and developed the first written alphabet for the native Aleuts. He translated the Gospel of Matthew and other sacred books into their language. Years later, he also translated scriptural books into other Alaskan native languages. He also studied all aspects of the local area, and wrote ethnographic, geographical and linguistic works for which he later was elected an honorary member of the Russian Geographical Society and Moscow Royal University.

On a return visit to Russia to seek more resources and support for the Alaska mission, his wife died, and he reluctantly took monastic vows and the name Innocent, after Bishop Innocent of Irkutsk. He was later consecrated Bishop, and was assigned to the new see of Kamchatka-Kurils and the Aleutian Islands, to which he returned, tirelessly building churches, guiding priests, seeking to bring the Gospel and the Holy Orthodox Church to native peoples of Alaska. He encouraged the use of English, and the use of indigenous clergy.

He was later made Archbishop, and later, having returned to Russia, ultimately became Metropolitan of Moscow, where he continued his missionary zeal, establishing and guiding an Orthodox Missionary Society. He is perhaps especially remembered for his zeal to bring the gospel to the world. The apostolic preaching of Metropolitan Innocent spread to a vast territory including Alaska and Chukotka, the Aleutian, Kurils and Commander Islands, eastern Siberia, the Amur region, Kamchatka and the Far East.

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

St Innocent, Enlightener of NA	page 1
October 2010 Calendar	page 2
Metropolitan Jonah's Talks	page 3
Announcements	page 4



'Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel!'

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

Schedule of Services

October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>From 'The Way into the Kingdom of Heaven'</p> <p>Work for your salvation while it is still daylight, for the night will come in which there will be no chance to change anything. Strive for the Heavenly Kingdom while you can still walk. Walk even a little bit, even if by crawling, but do it in the right direction. Then in eternity you will truly rejoice for every step you have taken!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~ St Innocent, Met of Moscow, Enlightener of North America</p>					<p>01 <i>fish, wine, & oil</i></p> <p>Protection of the Theotokos</p>	<p>02</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>
<p>03 19th Sunday after Pentecost Church School 9:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>	<p>04</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>SJOTL Women's Group 7:00 pm</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Furman University 7:30 pm</i></p>	<p>05</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Confessions 5:00 pm</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>	<p>06 <i>fish, wine, & oil</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Divine Liturgy 7:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No Adult Class</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Daily Vespers</p>	<p>07</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm</i></p>	<p>08 <i>fast</i></p>	<p>09</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Confessions</i> Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>
<p>10 20th Sunday after Pentecost Ven Ambrose of Optina 'Ask the Priest' Alms Collection Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>	<p>11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Furman University 7:30 pm</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 <i>fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No Adult Class</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daily Vespers 6:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm</i></p>	<p>15 <i>fast</i></p>	<p>16</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: fit-content;">Church Campout in...</div> <p style="text-align: right;">Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>
<p>17 21st Sunday after Pentecost</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: fit-content;">...Hot Springs, NC</div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No Church School</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>	<p>18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Furman University 7:30 pm</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 <i>fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'Credo' Quartet Performance at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd 7:00 pm</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Daily Vespers</p>	<p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm</i></p>	<p>22 <i>fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spartanburg Area 'Small Group' Fellowship 7:00 pm</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Confessions</i> Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>
<p>24/31 22nd/23rd Sun after Pentecost</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Church School 9:00 am</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Furman University</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: fit-content;">Blessing of Joshua & Cassandra Kaseman's Marriage 3:00PM (10/24)</div>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Great Martyr Demetrius</p>	<p>27 <i>fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adult Class</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Basil the Great</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>On Mercy and Justice 7:00 pm</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daily Vespers 6:00 pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF at Clemson University 7:00 pm</i></p>	<p>29 <i>fast</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Confessions</i> Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>

Fellowship and Coffee Hour: Sundays immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Church School: Continues on Sundays before Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am prompt (no church school on Oct 17th)!!!

Confessions on Saturdays following Great Vespers (as noted above) and before Tuesday Great Vespers at 5:00 pm

On October 20th, at 7:00 pm we will co-host an evening of Orthodox Liturgical and Folk Music by the Credo Quartet at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Look for more information in an upcoming weekly bulletin.

A Word from the Desert

It is love that shows who is the true shepherd, for by reason of love the Great Shepherd was crucified.

~~~ St John Glimacus, *ad Pastorem 5*

*Continued from page 1*

Metropolitan Innocent brought the light of Christian faith to the Aleutians, Koloshes, Kurils, Eskimo, Kenai, Chugaches, Kamchadals, Oliutores, Negidales, Mongols, Samogirs, Golds, Gulyaks, Koryaks, Tungus, Chukcha, Yakutians, and Kitians.

The preaching of the gospel was a primary achievement in the life of Metropolitan Innocent and occupied a special place in his apostolic service. The metropolitan had a great homiletic gift and was 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." He never missed an opportunity to preach and talk to people and tirelessly instructed his clergy to do the same.

St. Innocent is also commemorated on March 31, the day of his repose. He died on Holy Saturday of 1879 and had his desire to be buried during Bright Week fulfilled. Having obeyed the will of God all his life, and not wanting any flowery eulogies given at his funeral, he left behind a theme for the sermon to be preached at his funeral: "The steps of a man are from the LORD, and he establishes him in whose way he delights" (Ps 36/37:23).



◊ Holy St Innocent, pray to God for us!

'From the Rising to the Setting of the Sun...'



*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, is formally greeted at the beginning of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on his visit to St John of the Ladder on September 26<sup>th</sup>.*

### Metropolitan Jonah's Visit His Beatitude's talks are available for download here:

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

Church and Family Life

@ St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

The Struggle for Inner Peace

@ Furman University's Daniel Chapel

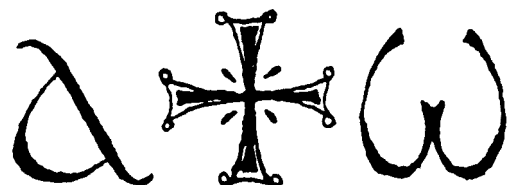
Questions and Answers

@ Furman University's Daniel Chapel's  
Garden Room



### 2010 Financial Snapshot

|                          | Income   | Expenses |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>YTD (thru August)</b> | \$98,333 | \$90,667 |
| <b>August</b>            | \$12,600 | \$10,996 |
| <b>YTD Charity</b>       | \$14,328 | \$12,270 |



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

▪ **ALMS SUNDAY**

October 10<sup>th</sup> is our Alms Collection Sunday. Please remember to bring foodstuffs and personal items for United Ministries. Baskets are in the vestibule as you enter the church. These items and money collected support the following (among other occasional) charitable needs: **United Ministries, OCMC Missionaries Floyd and Ancutsa Frantz, two St Vladimir's Seminarians, the Carolinas Deanery fund, a widowed priest's wife and her two children.** Thanks to all who continue to give so generously to our outreach efforts!

**UPCOMING ---'SMALL GROUP' MEETING & CHURCH SCHOOL**

\* A 'Small Group' Fellowship is meeting monthly in the Spartanburg area for those parishioners interested. It is a time for fellowship, food, and spiritual growth, and to encourage and strengthen community. The group meets once a month on Friday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All members are participate by hosting, leading, and discussion. Come and see if it is for you. The next meeting will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Contact Brent Kaseman for more info (864 578 8821).

\* **CHURCH SCHOOL CONTINUES!!!**

Church School continues in October at 9:00 am (immediately preceding Divine Liturgy --- no church school on October 17<sup>th</sup>). Church school is offered in 4 classes: preschool/1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, and middle and high school. This year's theme is **The Pentateuch**. For more details, or if you have any questions or concerns, email or contact Mat Barbara ([barlyburch@gmail.com](mailto:barlyburch@gmail.com) or 864 554 5292).

**Δ Reminder and a Hearty 'Thank You'!**

**October Fellowship and Goffee Hour**

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| October 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Team 5 |
| October 10 <sup>th</sup> | Team 6 |
| October 17 <sup>th</sup> | Team 7 |
| October 24 <sup>th</sup> | Team 8 |
| October 31 <sup>st</sup> | Team 1 |

**Celebrating Anniversaries and Birthdays in October**

Tori Gich (1<sup>st</sup>), Ian Sucin (2<sup>nd</sup>), Samuel Gich (2<sup>nd</sup>), Yvonne Hymna (4<sup>th</sup>), Jaye Levitsky (5<sup>th</sup>), George and Helen Kaminsky (5<sup>th</sup>), Deb Goyle (8<sup>th</sup>), Tikhon and Sharon Pichai (8<sup>th</sup>), Liza Godonoaga (9<sup>th</sup>), Ed Webb (11<sup>th</sup>), James Riddle, Sr (13<sup>th</sup>), Kyra Zhang (16<sup>th</sup>), Christine & Jason Davis (22<sup>nd</sup>), Kyle & Miriam Little (22<sup>nd</sup>), Andrew O'Shaughnessy (23<sup>rd</sup>), Sharon Pichai (24<sup>th</sup>), Joshua and Gassandra Kaseman (25<sup>th</sup>), Tikhon Pichai (28<sup>th</sup>), Mira Pichai (29<sup>th</sup>), Scott Davis (30<sup>th</sup>)



**From the Feast of St Innocent**

Peoples of two continents, of diverse languages and customs, through you rejoice today in the mystery of the fiery tongues at the fall of that cursed tower of human pride which had kept in enmity all nations of the earth until they were swept up into the net of faith, worshipping the consubstantial Trinity.

*(from the Aposticha of the Feast)*



**St. John of the Ladder**



**Orthodox Church in America**

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VRev Fr Marcus C Burch, Rector  
Rev Fr Thaddaeus Werner, Assistant

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**Schedule of Services**

Vespers, Wednesday, 6:00 pm  
Great Vespers, Saturday, 6:00 pm  
Divine Liturgy, Sunday, 9:30 am

**"Whatever is obtained as a result  
of long and persistent prayer will remain."**

~~~ St John of the Ladder, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* ~~~



PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

October 2010