

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)

5657 Lindley Ave. Tarzana, CA 91356. Church Office: (818) 881 - 1123

stinnocenttarzana.org

Fr. Yousuf Rassam

June 1st, 2025

Today's commemorated feasts and saints:

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. Martyr Justin the Philosopher and those with him at Rome: Martyrs Justin, Chariton and his wife, Charity, Euelpistus, Hierax, Peon, Valerian, and Justus (166 A.D.). Ven. Dionysius, Abbot of Glushitsa (Vologdá – 1437). Ven. Agápit, Unmercenary Physician, of the Kiev Caves (11th c.).



AN "ICON" IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Just like a picture, an icon can capture the essence of a moment with greater clarity than the written word. It can teach a story instantly. Today we turn our attention to the icon of the FEAST DAY OF THE ASCENSION. If we look at the Book of Acts 1:1-12, we see that the iconic depiction of the holy day carefully follows this scriptural account. The main focus of the icon is Christ Himself, Who was taken up into heaven as His Apostles watched. He is shown in such a way that it is impossible to determine whether He is LEAVING the earth or RETURNING to it. Angels appeared soon after He ascended, saying: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus Who was taken up from you into heaven will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

The Mother of God is also shown prominently in the Ascension icon. Church Tradition tells us that she was present for this joyous event, as well as for the Feast Day of Pentecost. While the Apostles seem to be perplexed by what they have just witnessed, the Theotokos wears an expression of peace on her face, fully comprehending the deep mysteries of her Son's Birth, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. Unlike the Apostles, she is not looking upward into the sky, but rather towards us in prayerful serenity. Note also that the Apostles are depicted without halos, a further symbol of their continued lack of understanding of the moment.

The icon of the Ascension certainly expresses the concept of Christ reigning over His Church. We, His followers, must embark on His Command to "go and teach all nations."

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

SCHEDULE ALL SERVICES LIVE STREAMED.

Matins Gospel: John 21: 1 – 14 (*10th Matins Gospel*)

This Week's Epistle: Acts 20: 16 – 18, 28 – 36 **Gospel:** John 17: 1 – 13

Reader: James

Today 9:30 am Liturgy.

Wednesday 6:30 pm Moleben – Kontakion of the Ascension

Friday 6:30 pm Panikhida, Soul Saturday

Saturday **5:30 pm Vigil – Pentecost**

Sunday **9:30 am Liturgy, Kneeling Vespers. Pentecost**

Next Week's Epistle: Acts 2: 1 – 11 **Gospel:** John 7: 37 – 52, 8: 12 (*Pentecost*)

Reader: Andrew

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 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

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)

Stere & Maria Caratăs

Vigil – Golgotha II (\$7.00 /wk)

Stere & Maria Caratăs

Vigil – Prothesis (\$7.00 /wk)

Stere & Maria Caratăs

- Broncă: Gabriela, Robert, & Carmen Iuliana. Good health, & help in need. Repose: Tasie.

- Sogokon: for the health of Zoya, Vladimir, Irina, Anastasia, Vladimir, Vladimir.

7th Sunday and Week of Pascha. The seventh and last week of the 50 days until Pentecost. On this Sunday we remember the fathers of the First Œcumenical Council which met on Ascension in 325 AD. We are also celebrating, through Friday) the post-feast of the Ascension. Mitigated fasting on Wednesday and Friday (wine & oil). Such mitigated fasting applies on all remaining Wednesdays and Fridays until Pentecost.

Next week is the Feast of Pentecost. Plan to attend Vigil and the Festal Liturgy and the kneeling prayers!

Pentecost Decoration next Saturday, 3-5 pm.

Adult Education will take place Wednesday after the Moleben.

Thanks to God for all who labored to clean, sing, read, fix, hide eggs etc. for our Pascha celebration, and also the visit of the Icon.

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

Fr Yousuf and family thank you for your prayers.

Lectionary. The Church Lectionary during the Paschal period reads Acts and St. John's Gospel.

Coffee Hour, This Week: Taco lunch June Birthdays **Next Week:** SOSI

USEFUL INFORMATION

Donations We now have a [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly/give?c=1324837) 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>.

Troparion, Ascension – Tone 4

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing, they were assured, / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

Troparion, The Holy Fathers – Tone 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith! // O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Kontakion, The Holy Fathers – Tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology; // great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

Kontakion, Ascension – Tone 6

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, and unite earth to heaven, / Thou didst ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: // “I am with you, and no one will be against you!”

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, “I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior’s words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor’s sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ’s Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)]. He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today’s Feast, he is referred to as “the thirteenth Apostle.”

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.”

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius.

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline.

The First Ecumenical Council is also commemorated on May 29.

Of our charity, remember in your prayers:

June 1st, 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 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, Mircea,

Gayle Anne; Lana; Lyudmilla Malakhova.

Our Parish

Jelica, Zharko, Milanka

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; Zachary; Jacqueline; Garreth, Hannah, James

Antonio, Cassandra, Vivienne, Josephine; Matthew; Herbert, Eric, Nicholas.

Abraham & Nicole; Daniel, Darya, & Camren

Orion

Igor & Luda

Nikolina

Jovanna & Ilja

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:

June 1st, 2025

Newly Departed Anatoly Pol'shin +May 28, 2025

daughter Yana

Newly Departed Natalia Novek +May 20, 2025

sons Alexander & Dmitri

Newly Departed Stoyanka

Krassimira

Newly Departed Zoya, + May 9, 2025.

Artom

Newly Departed Irene Gregory

HVM Cathedral & Sisterhood

Newly Departed Matka. Eleanor Margitich

Fr. Lawrence Margitich & family, DoW

Newly Departed Andrei

Newly Departed Audrey Anderson, + April 16, 25.

Bruce Anderson, Subdcn. Polycarp & Marquelle Anderson

Newly Departed Natasha Norton, + April 1, 25.

Alexander Rob Norton

Newly Departed Matka. Mary Shafran, + April 1, 25.

Paula & Ludwig Koerte

Newly Departed Kh. Christina O'Grady, + April 1, 25.

Fr Patrick O'Grady

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

Christia, Marina, John & family

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

Nathalie, Tamara, Marina, Michael & family

+ May 30: Archbishop John (Shahovskoy) 1989. + June 1: Priest Glicherie Moraru, 1973; Abbess Anna (Ropenack), 1995;

Priest Timotei Popovich, 2000; Matka. Anna Voytilla, 2011; Dr Richard West, 2014.

OCA

Atanas Djananov

Veska Djananova & family

Matushka Tresja Denysenko

Deacon Nicholas & Sofia Denysenko & family

Edward Pogyor

Eleanor Pogyor & family

Subdeacon Patrick Bernard Wilson

Diane, Victoria, Nicholas, & Stephen Wilson & family

Germogen & Olga Stephanenko

Larissa, Tatiana

Matushka Priscilla Shipley +Sep 10, 2023

Fr Ian Shipley & family, DoW

Valentina

Irina Jackson

Cor Brevet Delabruinene

Natalya Slusar Nosa & family

Rodney Lake + May 20, 2021.

son-in-law & daughter Thaddeus & Jacqui Wojcik

Paul Prybyla. +Jan, 10, 2021

Manya & family

Nicholas Vasiliev Davidovich, +October 12, 2022

Barbara Johnson

daughter Nancy Smollen

Stanislava

daughter Milena; family

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

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

Nun Seraphima (Anna Kremenetskaya)

Konstantin, Taissia, Vladimir, Ioann Kremenetsky

Nun Nonna (Verna Harrison)

Igor

Lola Macrina

Edward Michael & Joan Sutyak

Tamara, Christina, Michael, Anne & family

Leon & Claudine Snyder

daughters Laura & Carol, & family

Dmitri

Boris

David

Mitred Archpriest Ian & Matka. Nina MacKinnon, DOW

Deacon Hennok Soot, Matushka Mariamna Soot,

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

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

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

Alla Slobdoskaya

Anne Lewandowski

+ Raissa Dulian

Marina, Alexandra, Petr, Boris, Tatiana.

+Margarita Maximova

Hieromonk Vonifaty, Schemanun Savva, Priest Anatoly + Sep 9, 22; Monk Aristokliyi 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

son Wade Aiden Greer, Fr Yousuf

Basil Rosiczka