

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:**For Health of:****Sub Deacon Edward**, offered by the Dawson Family**For Memory of:****Christopher Dawson**, offered by the Golden and Dawson Families**Olga Romanofsky**, mother of Andrew. Offered by the Romanofsky family**Readings:****Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6** (*3rd Sunday of Great Lent, Adoration of the Cross*)**Mark 8:34-38; 9:1** (*3rd Sunday of Great Lent, Adoration of the Cross*)

Brethren, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy** – 10:00 AM
 (Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)
 (General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

2nd through 8th grades – 9:30 AM (No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.)

Preschool through 1st grades meet immediately after communion every Sunday.

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **We are serving the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday** evenings at 6:30 pm during Great Lent. This liturgy is the solemn Lenten Vespers with Holy Communion added to it. Fasting for Presanctified Liturgy should begin after consumption of lunch.
- Each Sunday afternoon during Great Lent, the New Jersey Deanery holds a **Lenten Vespers Service** open to everyone. This year the schedule for NJ Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers includes:
 - **Today**, Sunday March 31, 4:00 pm – SS Peter and Paul, South River, NJ
 - Sunday April 7, 4:00 pm – St Spyridon Church, Perth Amboy, NJ
 - Sunday April 14, 4:00 pm - Holy Cross, Medford, NJ (with Archbishop Michael)
- Donations are needed for the Sisterhood's Paschal basket to be raffled off on Sunday April 14th. Please see the sign-up sheet posted downstairs to volunteer to bring an item. Tickets for the basket raffle cost \$1.00, and each parishioner is asked to sell 10 tickets. Tickets are now available, please see Tammy Zimmerman or Linda Dantine.

Reminders:

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org Upcoming bulletins can also be sponsored by using the signup sheet at the candle stand. If using the signup sheet, please give two weeks' notice.
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

The lives of the saints remembered today can be read at:
<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2019/03/31>

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

*Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;
 it has mysteriously been quenched by the wood of the Cross!
 The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;
 for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell:
 "Enter again into paradise."*

Kontakion — Tone 7

Rest of St Innocent the Metropolitan of Moscow the Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to the Americas (transferred to April 1)

Saint Innocent (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, Saint 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 [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) Saint Innocent met with Saint Nicholas the Apostle to Japan (February 3), sharing with him his spiritual experience.

A remarkable preacher, Saint 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, Saint 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 36/37:23).

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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Temporary Rector
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Glory to Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

*O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance.
 Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians,
 over their adversaries.
 And by virtue of Your Cross / preserve Your habitation!*

Troparion — Tone 4

On this day the Church remembers:

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT • Rest of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to the Americas (1879). Veneration of the Cross. St. Hypatius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Gangra (ca. 336). Rest of St. Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1461). Ven. Hypatius the Healer, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Ven. Apollonius, Ascetic, of Egypt (4th c.). Hieromartyr Abdas, Bishop of Persia, and Martyr Benjamin the Deacon (418-424). Ven. Hypatius, Abbot of Rufinus in Chalcedon (ca. 446). Appearance of the "IVERON" (IBERIAN) Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos. *(Note: The service for St Innocent is transferred to April 1.)*

March 31, 2019

Tone 3 of the Octoechos

Week 7 of the Lenten Triodion
 3rd Sunday of Great Lent