

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Respecting the People We Teach

October 6 is the anniversary of the glorification by the Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America.

Saint Innocent, during his Alaskan years, served the Aleut people both as priest and teacher. He was a powerful preacher and a compassionate spiritual father, and by his priestly work he brought thousands to baptism in the Orthodox Church.

As a teacher, Saint Innocent always based his work on a sincere respect for the local people's way of life. He studied their traditions, customs and spoken languages. Then he created an alphabet and a grammar for the Aleut language. He translated the Gospel, many prayers, the catechism and church services into Aleut, and wrote them down so they would always be available to the people. As Orthodox Christians, the people could offer the Divine Liturgy in the languages they had always spoken.

Writing about the more recent history of Alaskan education in his "Conflicting Visions in Alaskan Education" (1997, Tlingit Readers, Inc), the state's former Poet Laureate Richard L. Dauenhauer (1942-2014) contrasts Saint Innocent's attitude toward the Alaskan native people with that of Protestant missionaries who came in the late 1800's. These English-speaking missionaries were convinced that native languages should be eradicated, since they didn't "merit perpetuation."

Children in the missionary schools were punished for speaking in their native tongues. Their teachers believed that the exclusive use of English was a necessary component of their effort to "elevate" their students. As Dauenhauer notes, it apparently never occurred to the missionaries to practice bilingual education, as the Russians had done. The fact that the natives had a high rate of literacy and that they already were Christian believers made no difference; they were literate in the wrong language and

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are:

Michael, Mary and Max Bakaletz, Genevieve Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

their Christianity (Orthodoxy) was not the right kind.

Both Saint Innocent and the Protestant missionaries encountered shamans, those men who were seen as mediators between the human world and the spirit world, and who were enabled to heal sickness and solve community problems with the special knowledge they were given. Saint Innocent knew of their existence in his birthplace of Siberia. He was astonished by one elderly Aleut shaman who, despite no previous contact with Christians, had a good knowledge of Christian teaching. Writing home for advice, Saint Innocent was told to be humble and to remember that the Holy Spirit goes where and to whom the Holy Spirit wishes to.

In contrast, the Protestants almost hysterically condemned shamanism as purely evil and dangerous. One missionary wrote that the shaman's incantations should be regarded as crimes.

The Orthodox missionaries to Alaska based their approach to native languages and customs on the Book of Acts. That book records the stories of people from many cultures being accepted as Christians, and hearing the Word of God in their own languages. The men who followed its example remind us that respect, based on love, inspired the teachers in the first Christian Church, as well as the churches in Alaska and other places that came later.



Announcements

◆ Save the date: **Sat.- Sun. November 1st & 2nd:** His grace Bishop Michael will be visiting our parish with **Archpastoral visitation**, and he will also be a guest and a main speaker at the New Jersey **District Convention of the F.O.C.A.**, hosted by our "O" Club the same weekend at our church hall. Please plan to attend services on both days, and support our "O" Club by purchasing a patron or booster or by taking an ad in the convention adbook. If you would like more information, please see Bob or Betty Czech or any "O" Club member.

◆ Save the date: **Sat. November 8, 2014 - Annual Beefsteak Dinner** at the Assumption Church in Clifton, NJ. For reservations (due by Sun. November 2nd) call Barbara Polk at 973-473-3773

◆ A **luncheon** for members of the "O" Club and the **Women's Club** will be held on **Sunday, November 9**, at "Al Cavaliere" in Clifton.

◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, **November 11 & 12, 2014** at St. Peter and Paul Church in Endicott, New York. More information on our Diocesan website nynjoca.org.

◆ **Food Pantry** items are needed. Cans of soup, vegetables, fruits & cranberry sauce, stuffing & gravy, and turkeys will be needed to make up **Thanksgiving Baskets** for our neighbors in need. Or, if you prefer, you can give a monetary donation, and we will shop for you. Please bring in your donations by **Sunday, November 16th** to give us enough time to assemble the baskets and prepare them for distribution.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Nancy Filak** whose birthday is today, and **Daniel Kary**, whose birthday is this Friday. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



October 5, 2014

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2Cor. 6:16-7:1
Gospel: Lk. 6:31-36
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
5:30pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
9:00am - Divine Liturgy