

2011  
17th Annual

**The Eagle River Institute** of Orthodox Christian Studies, sponsored by Saint John Orthodox Cathedral, is held each summer August 1-5, and offers sixteen hours of college-level instruction in a variety of Orthodox topics, including Theology, History, Liturgy, Spirituality, and Scriptural Studies. While the primary aim of the Institute is to offer ongoing Christian instruction to Orthodox Christians in Alaska, it is also open to any who wish to attend, and each year the Institute has been enriched by those who have travelled from outside of the state to attend.

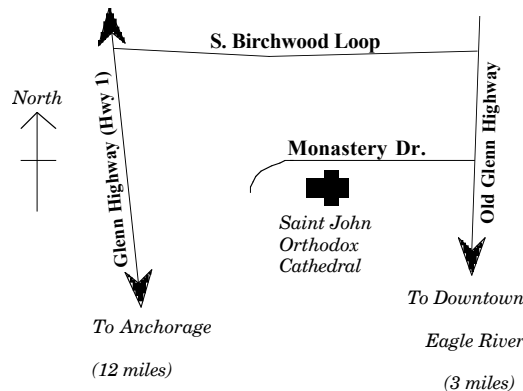
**St. John Orthodox Cathedral** is part of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese in North America, led by Metropolitan PHILIP. The Cathedral and 55 acres of church land are situated at the base of the Chugach Mountains, 12 miles outside Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. The facilities of the Cathedral include St. John's School, the St. James House, and St. Sergius of Radonezh Chapel. The sessions of the Institute are structured so as to allow time during the day for those who wish to take advantage of local attractions such as hiking, fishing, or sightseeing.

**Lodging, Meals and Transportation are the responsibility of the participants.** The Anchorage International Airport is a 40-minute drive from Eagle River. In addition to the many hotels in Anchorage, Eagle River has a Microtel Inn (907) 622-6000 and several fine restaurants in the downtown area. A limited amount of lodging is also available on the Church property; please call (907) 696-2002 for more information. A simple meal will be provided between sessions for out of town guests. Childcare can also be arranged for a small fee.

Most Americans are familiar with Catholicism and Protestantism, but few know much about **the Orthodox Church**. At the same time, many Orthodox Christians today are desiring to learn more about their Faith. The Eagle River Institute aims to contribute locally to addressing these needs and to the general building up of the Orthodox Church in Alaska and in North America.

**Directions from Anchorage to St. John's**

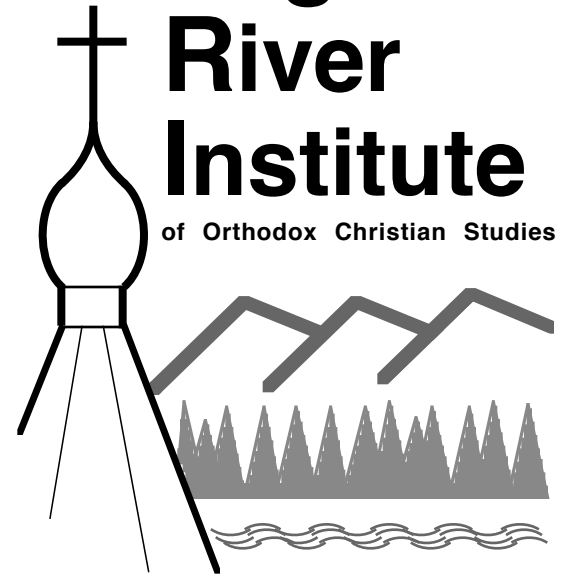
- Take the Glenn Highway (Hwy 1) North out of Anchorage.
- Go approximately 12 miles past Muldoon Road (last overpass on the way out of Anchorage).
- Exit onto South Birchwood Loop and turn right (toward mountains).
- Go to end and turn right onto Old Glenn Highway.
- Turn right onto Monastery Drive (first road to right).
- The Cathedral is one half-mile down Monastery Drive.



*A reason to visit Alaska  
this summer...*

# Eagle River Institute

of Orthodox Christian Studies



**August 1-5, 2011**

**Father Sergius**

*"Sanctify Those Who Love  
the Beauty of Your House"*

*and*

**Deacon Ezra Ham**

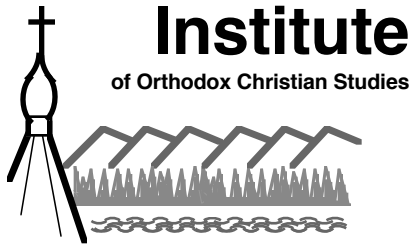
**Has God Become**

**Irrelevant in the 21st Century?**

Sponsored by Saint John Orthodox Cathedral  
P.O. Box 1108, Eagle River, Alaska, 99577  
stjohnalaska.org (907) 696-2002  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

out of town guests. Conference can also be arranged for a small fee.

# Eagle River Institute



**August 1 - 5, 2011**

**Cost: \$50 per "Track"**

**(No Charge for High School and College Students)**

Registration will take place on August 1.  
For more information  
or travel or lodging needs, write or call:

St. John Orthodox Cathedral  
P.O. Box 1108 Eagle River, Alaska 99577  
(907) 696-2002  
(e-mail: StJohnERI@aol.com)

Audio recordings will be made available by  
"Orthodox Christian Cassettes"  
2919 N. 56th Street  
Springdale, AR 72762  
e-mail: occassette@aol.com



**Father Igumen  
Sergius**



**Deacon Ezra  
Ham**

## **Track 1 - Has God Become Irrelevant in the 21st Century?**

**Deacon Ezra Ham**

Deacon Ezra Ham serves Saint Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He has an MDiv in New Testament studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and an MA in History from the University of Central Oklahoma. Deacon Ezra also currently serves as adjunct Professor of History, Ancient and Medieval Humanities at UCO. His recent book *These Things We Believe: the Orthodox Defense of Reasonable Christian Faith* was published by Regina Orthodox press in 2008.

4 Sessions

- 1) Functional Atheism
- 2) I Believe in One God
- 3) Maker of Heaven and Earth
- 4) Adam and Eve

## **Track 2 - "Sanctify Those Who Love the Beauty of Your House"**

**Father Sergius**

Fr. Igumen Sergius, current Abbot of St. Tikhon's, America's oldest Orthodox Monastery, converted to Orthodoxy in the mid-90's and joined St. John of Shanghai Monastery in 1998. After receiving an M.Div from St. Tikhon's Seminary, Fr. Sergius continued on at St. Tikhon's as the head of the Music Program. He was ordained Priest in 2008 and elected Abbot of the Monastery in 2009. He has traveled extensively in recent years, giving talks, retreats and leading the St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir for nearly a decade. His current music projects and other work can be seen online at [www.orthodoxtwopartmusic.org](http://www.orthodoxtwopartmusic.org)

4 Sessions

- 1) The Importance of Beauty in Orthodoxy:  
How Beauty Will Save the World
- 2) Beauty and the Restoration of the Soul
- 3) The Value of Monasticism  
in the Contemporary World
- 4) Liturgical Living: Music for Transfiguration

## **2011 INSTITUTE SCHEDULE**

**Sunday - July 31**

6:15pm Paraklesis

**Monday - August 1**

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 1" - Session 1

Dinner Following

(7:00pm, Daily Vespers)

7:30pm - 9:30pm "Track 2" - Session 1

**Tuesday - August 2**

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 1" - Session 2

Dinner Following

(7:00pm, Daily Vespers)

7:30pm - 9:30pm "Track 2" - Session 2

**Wednesday - August 3**

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 1" - Session 3

Dinner Following

(7:00pm, Daily Vespers)

7:30pm - 9:30pm "Track 2" - Session 3

**Thursday - August 4**

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 1" - Session 4

Dinner Following

(7:00pm, Daily Vespers)

7:30pm - 9:30pm "Track 2" - Session 4

**Friday - August 5**

7:00pm - Reception of Rt. Rev. Bp. JOSEPH

Great Vespers with Litaia

8:30pm - 9:30pm Final Session

### **"Participation and Integration"**

This informal session will be held on the last day of the Institute. It provides participants the opportunity to discuss the material presented in both tracks and to discover ways to apply what they have learned to their own lives.

**Saturday, August 6**

**Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord**

9:00am Matins, 10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Ordination of Subdeacon Matthew Howell to the Holy Diaconate, Salmon lunch immediately following, 7:15pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, August 7**

9:00am Matins, 10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Ordination of Deacon Thomas Frizelle to the Holy Priesthood.

**OTHER EVENTS**

**Sunday, Monday, Tuesday — Aug 7 - 9**

Annual Pilgrimage to Kodiak and Spruce Island, home of St. Herman of Alaska. For more information, visit: [stjohnalaska.org/institute](http://stjohnalaska.org/institute), or call the Church Office: 907-696-2002