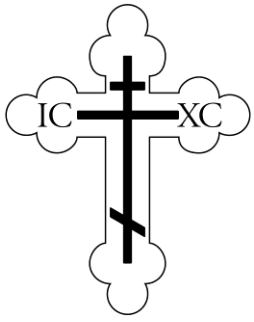
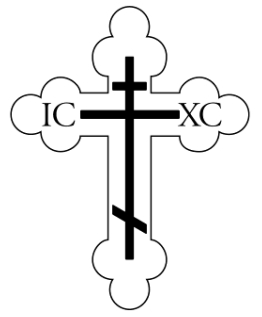


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219) 384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confessions are heard before or
after Vespers or by appointment.

**Welcome visitors!
Please join us in
the parish hall after
Divine Liturgy for
coffee hour.**

December 2, 2018

The Prophet Habakkuk († 7th cent. B.C.)

Excerpts from the Prophecy of Habakkuk

2:2-4

The Lord answered and said:

“Write the vision

And make it plain on tablets,

That he may run who reads it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time;

But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.

Though it tarries, wait for it;

Because it will surely come,

It will not tarry.

Behold the proud,

His soul is not upright in him;
But the righteous shall live by faith.”

3:2

O Lord, I have heard Your speech and was afraid;
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years!
In the midst of the years make it known;
In wrath remember mercy.

3:12-19

You marched through the land in indignation;
You trampled the nations in anger.
You went forth for the salvation of Your people,
For salvation with Your Christ.
You struck the head from the house of the wicked,
By laying bare from foundation to neck.
You thrust through with his own arrows
The head of his villages.
They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me;
Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret.
You walked through the sea with Your horses,
Through the heap of great waters.
When I heard, my body trembled;
My lips quivered at the voice;
Rottenness entered my bones;
And I trembled in myself,
That I might rest in the day of trouble.
Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
The Lord God is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer’s feet,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:
Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.
Deliver us from every form of evil
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//
that He may save our souls.

Tone 2 – Troparion for the Prophet Habakkuk

We celebrate the memory
of your Prophet Habakkuk, O Lord;
through him we beseech You://
“Save our souls!”

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Hell became afraid, almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced
with You, //
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 8 – Kontakion for the Prophet Habakkuk

Divinely eloquent Habakkuk, you announced to the world the
coming forth of God from the south; from the Virgin.
Standing on the divine watch, you received a report from the
radiant Angel:
“You proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ to the world!”
Therefore in gladness we cry out to you://
“Rejoice, splendid adornment of the Prophets!”

Tone 3 – Patronal Kontakion

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,
And with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.
Angels and bishops worship.
Apostles and prophets rejoice together, //
Since for our sake she prays to the eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 6.10-17

Brethren: Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel: Luke 18.18-27

At that time, a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’”

And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

So, when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow

Me.” But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?”

But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Joseph Huddleston

Kadee Huddleston

Brandi Vail

Swayzee Hite

Rhylie Hite

Marshall Hite

Health &

Salvation:

Protopr. George

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. William

Mat. Jean

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

William

Daniel Hite

Archpr. Joseph Martin

Vaso Popovich

Rick Lawton

Ev.Mem. Paul Kowal

Andrew Danzik

Nicholas Lobach

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Michael

Julia

Warren

Loretta

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Myah

Margaret

Diane

Madelin

Villian

Deborah

Jovan

Claudia

John

Joey

Carisa

Natalia

Elizabeth

Tom

Alexander

Darlene

Mira

Kristin

Mitchel

Brittany

Jennifer
David
Roger
Tina

Chris
Sheila
Brandon
Benjamin

Juliana
Lennox
Laila

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will take a special collection as you exit the sanctuary for Vickie Mitrovich's cousin Sheila, who last week lost her husband, two daughters, three grandchildren and everything she owned in a tragic house fire in Logansport, IN. She and her son Brandon must now rebuild their lives.

The Thanksgiving bake sale raised a remarkable \$3,028. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work!

Thanks also to the many volunteers who came yesterday to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas season.

This coming Saturday our Church School will purchase St. Nicholas gifts for a needy family. Everyone is welcome! We will meet at Church at 9 a.m., then on to shopping, lunch back at the Church, and wrapping the gifts.

Our teachers are beginning to prepare the children for the annual Yolka production on Dec. 30. Children with parts need to be in Sunday School regularly to practice!

The 2019 parish directory is being finalized. Last call to update with your new contact info. Forms are in the narthex.

As the holidays approach, remember to **purchase your gift cards through Scrip** (available during coffee hour). Also, if you shop on Amazon, start at **smile.amazon.com** and select "Protection of the Virgin Mary Church" as your charity of choice. These are easy ways to support the ministry of PTVM.

Mark your calendars:

Dec 5: Great Vespers @ 6pm for **St. Nicholas Day**

Dec 6: Divine Liturgy for **St. Nicholas Day** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 10am

Dec 8: Church School buys and wraps **St. Nicholas gifts** for families in need.

Dec 12: **Fellowship Night** @ 6pm

Dec 13: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,128

Mortgage: \$303

“The Family Prayer Rule: A Starting Point”

A reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

I would like to offer the following as a possible “Family Prayer Rule” for daily use. It is a simple outline, as a prayer rule is like an accordion — one may keep it short and condensed, or one may add more by stretching it out. In any instance, it is better to be consistent than to shoot for what one cannot reach. Each family should discern what is or is not possible, given its schedule. And please discuss this with your parish priest before implementation.

Morning Prayers. (This may be harder to arrange given individual and family schedules, but I offer it nonetheless.)

Begin with “Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers....”

- *Trisagion Prayers, the Lord's Prayer*
- *Morning Prayer to the Holy Trinity*
- *Morning Prayer by St. Basil the Great*
- *If there is time, family members may offer intercessions for the living and faithful departed*
- *Conclude with “Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers...”*

If this can't be done as a family in the morning, perhaps it would work better individually.

Evening Prayers. (This should be easier to do as a family)

Begin with “Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers...”

- Trisagion Prayers, the Lord’s Prayer*
- Penitential Troparia, “Have mercy on us...Glory...Lord have mercy on us...Now and ever...Open the gates...”*
- Evening prayer for forgiveness of sins; “O Lord our God, in Your goodness and love...”*
- Ask forgiveness of one another*
- Conclude with, “Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers...”*

All of the above and more can be found in the Ancient Faith pamphlet titled “Building a Habit of Prayer,” available online at <https://orthodoxchristianebooks.com/building-a-habit-of-prayer/>.

And don’t forget — a prayer rule is like an accordion. The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

With love in Christ,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!