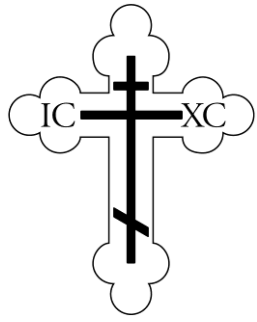
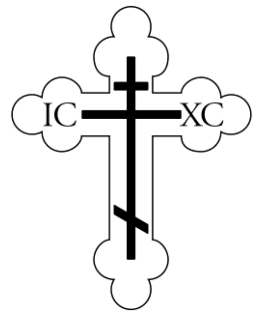


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## Orthodox Church



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



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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## November 17, 2019

### St. Gregory the Wonderworker, first Bishop of New Caesarea († c. 270 A.D.)

St. Gregory the Wonderworker was born in the city of Neocaesarea (northern Turkey) into a pagan family. Having received a fine education, from his youth he strived for Truth, but the thinkers of antiquity were not able to quench his thirst for knowledge. Truth was revealed to him only in the Holy Gospel, and so the youth became a Christian.

For the continuation of his studies, St. Gregory went to the Alexandrian Catechetical School, where the presbyter Origen taught. Origen was a famous teacher, possessing a

great strength of mind and profound knowledge. Afterwards, the saint wrote about his mentor: "This man received from God a sublime gift, to be an interpreter of the Word of God for people, to apprehend the Word of God, as God Himself did use it, and to explain it to people, insofar as they were able to understand it." St. Gregory studied for eight years with Origen and was baptized by him.

The ascetic life of St. Gregory, his continence, purity and lack of covetousness aroused envy among his pagan and sin-loving peers, and they decided to slander St. Gregory. Once, when he was conversing with philosophers in the city square, a notorious harlot came up to him and demanded payment for the sin he had supposedly committed with her. At first St. Gregory gently remonstrated with her, saying that she perhaps mistook him for someone else. But the profligate woman would not be quieted. He then asked a friend to give her the money. Just as the woman took the unjust payment, she immediately fell to the ground in a demonic fit, and the fraud became evident. St. Gregory said a prayer over her, and the devil left her. This was the beginning of St. Gregory's miracles.

The saint fled from the worldly affairs into which influential townsmen persistently sought to push him. He went into the desert, where by fasting and prayer he attained to high spiritual accomplishment and the gifts of clairvoyance and prophecy. St. Gregory loved life in the wilderness and wanted to remain in solitude until the end of his days, but the Lord willed otherwise.

Bishop Thedimos of Amasea, having learned of St. Gregory's ascetic life, arranged for him to be made bishop of his home town of Neocaesarea, where there were very few Christians. Having been consecrated, St. Gregory set off to his home city. The preaching of the saint was direct, lively, and fruitful. He taught and worked miracles in the name of Christ: he healed the sick, he helped the needy, he settled quarrels and complaints. At one time, during the construction of a

church, he commanded a hill to move and make room at the place of the foundation.

When a persecution against Christians began under the emperor Decius (249-251), St. Gregory led his flock to a faraway mountain. A certain pagan, knowing about the hiding place of the Christians, informed the persecutors. Soldiers surrounded the mountain. The saint went out into an open place, raised up his hands to heaven and ordered his deacon to do the same. The soldiers searched the whole mountain, and they went several times right past those praying, but they did not see them and gave up and went away. In the city they reported that there was nowhere to hide on the mountain, and no one was there. The informer was struck with amazement; he repented of his ways and became a fervent Christian.

St. Gregory returned to Neocaesarea after the end of the persecution. By his blessing, church Feasts were established in honor of the martyrs who had suffered for Christ. By his saintly life, his effective preaching, working of miracles and graced guiding of his flock, the saint steadily increased the number of converts to Christ. When St. Gregory first arrived as bishop, there were only seventeen Christians in Neocaesarea. At his death, only seventeen pagans remained in the city. One of his most famous converts was St. Macrina the Elder, who became the grandmother of St. Basil the Great.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

#### **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 8 – Troparion for St. Gregory**

You became worthy of your name\* through your way of life;  
through your vigilance in prayer and your constant works of mercy.

Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten  
our minds,//

that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

#### **Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

You descended into hell, O my Savior,

shattering its gates as Almighty,

resurrecting the dead as Creator,

and destroying the sting of death.

You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//

and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

#### **Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. Gregory**

You received the power to perform miracles,

frightening the devils and healing the sick through your  
wonderworking.

All-wise Father Gregory,//

your deeds truly entitle you to be called “Wonderworker.”

#### **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

## **Tone 5 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)**

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

## **Epistle: Galatians 6.11-18**

Brethren, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

## **Gospel: Luke 12.16-21**

Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: “The fields of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’

“So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’

“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have prepared?’

“So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

# WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Madeline Petri

Juliana Thiel

**Ev.Mem** Nikita Goliak ('39)

John Lashenik ('60)

Mary Brilla ('69)

Ivan Klikow ('78)

Nelly Hootnick ('93)

Eileen Swallow (2005)

Vera Mato

Anatol Meuch

**Health &**

**Salvation:**

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Carol

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Brittany

Jennifer

Lennox

Laila

Paula

Stacey

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Melissa

Jonathan

Matthew

Shaun

Gail

Maria

Barbara

Thomas

Carol

Jessica

Eduardo

Christine

Tom

Nicholas

Natalie

Barbara

Kristin

Linda

Phyllis

Kay

Fred

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Martin

Mark

Alexa

Paula

Alexandra

James

Joanne

Ronald

Michael

Joseph

Rachel

Kathleen

Paul

William

Michael

Frederick

Janet

N.Ill. Tasia

Jeffrey

Greta

Michael

Courtney

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **special collection** today is to help pay for **Christmas presents for a local needy family**, which the Church School will purchase and wrap on December 7.

Today we will serve the **memorial for Fr. Peter Rozdelsky**.

The **O-Club is meeting** today during coffee hour.

Bishop Paul will be live tonight @ 7pm to discuss "fasting as a family." Log on at [www.midwestfamily.com](http://www.midwestfamily.com).

At **Bible Study** this week, we will discuss Exodus 37-40.

Order forms for our **Thanksgiving Bake Sale** are due by **Nov 20**. Pick-up is next Sunday, Nov 24. Consider donating supplies or helping in the kitchen Nov 21-23.

We are now in the season of **Advent**, 40 days of intensive **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving** to prepare to receive the newborn Christ. This is also a good time to make a **confession**.

This month we are collecting for the **Winfield Food Pantry**.

For those planning an **end-of-year donation**, it would be a blessing for our treasurer to receive those in time to process before the holidays. Thank you!

## Mark your calendars:

Nov 19: **Hall Committee** meeting @ 6pm

**Parish Council** meeting @ 7pm

Nov 20: **Great Vespers** for the **Entry of the Theotokos** into the Temple @ 6pm

**Bible Study** @ 7pm

Nov 21: **Divine Liturgy** for the **Entry of the Theotokos** @ 10am

Nov 28: **Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving** @10am

Dec 7: **St. Nicholas** visits! Church School buys & wraps gifts for a local family @ 9am

**Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$2,394**

# The Logos' Seed in Us

A reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

*But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles. (Galatians 1:15-16)*

I preached on this verse several weeks ago and it has stuck with me ever since. Bear with me a moment as I share what St. Jerome said about this verse:

*If something is revealed to someone, that may be revealed to him which was not in him before; but if it is revealed in him, that is revealed which was previously in him and had been subsequently revealed ... from which it clearly appears that there is natural knowledge of God in all.*

As families go about living in this world and facing all kinds of situations among people that are different from what we are familiar with, it is important to remember this verse from Galatians and Jerome's comment on it. Christian revelation and the sacramental life in the Church is not hocus pocus magic. When God makes Himself known, it is not as if he was not there, and now He is. He has been there all along; we just never bother to go looking for Him in us. No matter how messed up we are, how distorted our lives are from what is good and true, this "natural knowledge of God in all" is never snuffed out in us. It is not eradicated.

We need to find a way in our relationships with people to start there, not with intellectual debates on issues. People want to be loved. They want to know that they are being heard, being understood, and being listened to. Might we begin with this when we encounter people that cause us at times to recoil from them because of whatever way they live?

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

# Glory to God for all things!