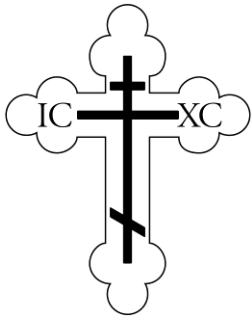
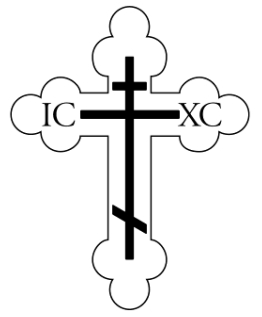


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



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(219)947-4748
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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.**

January 12, 2020

Afterfeast of Theophany

St. Sava of Serbia

Theophany celebrates the revelation of the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of our Lord. God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt 4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions. From the second century we have the testimony of St Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast. There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and St Gregory the Wonderworker.

In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany. St John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

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 1 – Troparion of the Feast

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
calling You His Beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself, //
and have enlightened the world, 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 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 8 – Kontakion for St. Sava

Your church glorifies you as its first great hierarch and the
Apostles’ companion, O ven’rable one.
Since you have boldness before Christ God,
Save us by your prayers from every tribulation, so that we
may cry out to you:
“Rejoice, O divinely-wise Father Sava!”

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Feast

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord,
and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us.
Knowing You, we sing Your praises:
“You have come and revealed Yourself, //
O unapproachable Light.”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Prokeimenon of the Afterfeast (Psalm 32)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us
as we have set our hope on You!

Epistle: Ephesians 4.7-13 (Sunday after Theophany)

Brethren: To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. For this reason, the Scripture says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 4.12-17 (Sunday after Theophany)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Carlos Abila

Archpr. John Kuchta

Ephrem Talley

Mary Dula

Mat. Nadia Metulynsky

Diane Rosco

Julia Karp

Archiman. Ephraim

Margaret Vogrin

Ev.Mem Maria Pillar ('13)

Stephen Tomashenko ('30)

Stoyan Lazaroff ('35)

Mary Marciniac ('77)

Fred Saporosky (2009)

Alexandra Honchar ('89)

Anatol Meuch

Dragan Lumbarkoski ('94)

Health &

Olivia

Mark

Salvation:

Parker

Alexa

Archpr. Peter

Melissa

Paula

Pr. John

Jonathan

James

Pr. Christopher

Matthew

Joanne

Mat. Jennifer

Gail

Michael

Andrew

Maria

Joseph

Gideon

Barbara

Rachel

Kevin

Thomas

Kathleen

Jon

Carol

Paul

Tanya

Jessica

William

Jovan

Eduardo

Michael

Julia

Christine

Frederick

Warren

Nicholas

Janet

Carol

Natalie

Lea

Tom

Barbara

Hania

Elizabeth

Kristin

James

Tina

Linda

Gerald

Brittany

Phyllis

N.Ill. Brian

Jennifer

Kay

N.Ill. Jeffrey

Lennox

Fred

Jennifer

Laila

Larry

Jerome

Paula

Rollie

Mariana

Stacey

Joseph

John

Jeramie

Martin

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

Instead of *"It is Truly Meet..."* we sing:

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable than the heavenly hosts.

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos;
even Angels are overcome with awe praising you.

But since you are good, accept our faith;
for you know our love inspired by God.

You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read Deuteronomy 1-4.

Next Sunday we celebrate a **Baptismal Divine Liturgy** for Koen Seelig. Prayers of initiation at 9:45. Liturgy at 10am as usual.

Every year following Theophany, **Orthodox Christian homes are blessed with the new holy water**. Make an appointment with Fr Jacob to have your home blessed this year. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Our **Spring fashion show "Tropical Paradise"** will be Sunday, Mar 22 at Avalon Manor. Doors open at Noon with the Bake Sale. Luncheon is at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$40.00 and NOT available at the door. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, so please be generous with basket donations (\$150.00 value), cash donations, checks (to PTVM Church), or Scrip to help defray the cost of the baskets that are raffled at the end of the show. Baskets and donations are due Sunday, Mar 1. Please see Elizabeth Pedersen, Sherry Mizamakoski, Rosemary Velasquez, or Nada Buczek for tickets and information.

Mark your calendars:

Jan 14: **Ladies' Sodality** meeting @ 10am
Hall Committee @ 6pm
Parish Council @ 7pm

Jan 15: **Bible Study** @ 7pm

Jan 16: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am

Jan 19: Annual **Pan-Orthodox Sanctity of Life Service** at Sts. Peter and Paul in Burr Ridge, IL @ 6pm

Feb 7: **50th anniversary celebration of Autocephaly** at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine, IL @ 6pm

Feb 8: Chicago Deanery **Celebratory Liturgy** at Sts. Peter and Paul in Burr Ridge, IL to commemorate the **OCA's Fifty Years of Autocephaly** @ 9:30am

Feb 9: **Annual Parish Meeting** after Divine Liturgy

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$3,195

Proclamation of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America

To the beloved clergy, venerable monastics, and pious laity of the Orthodox Church in America; to all Orthodox Christians sojourning in North America; to all men and women of goodwill!

We beseech our heavenly Father, the Author of every good gift, to grant to everyone who hears and reads these words an outpouring of the great and manifold gifts of faith, knowledge, and salvation that can only be found in Him. Through the revelation of Him in the person of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, may our faith in Him become ever greater, our knowledge of him more profound, and may we all attain unto the salvation that He alone offers. From of old the great Prophet David has exhorted God's faithful people, "Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture (Ps 100.3)." Our Great God has created us, and made himself known to us, and we have become his people, the Church. While the members of our Church live and work in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, they and we are united with the men and women throughout the world and from all the ages who share the same Catholic faith that was delivered to the Apostles once for all time. On behalf of this faith we labor; for this knowledge we rejoice; to this salvation we hope.

In 2020, the Orthodox Church in America will celebrate the anniversary of two foundational events in her history: the reception of the *Tomos* of Autocephaly from the Venerable Russian Orthodox Church, and the canonization of Our Venerable Father Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska. We, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, give glory to God for these wonderful gifts that have allowed the Church to take root in North America, and invite all Orthodox Christians, indeed, every person of goodwill to join our Church in our celebrations.

The autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America also provides a moment for all Orthodox Christians to celebrate.

The venerable Russian Orthodox Church gave the *Tomos* of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church in America with the hope that this *Tomos* and the autocephaly it gave “might serve the good” of Orthodox Christians in North America. The Orthodox Church in America remains committed to this good, the canonical normalization of our common ecclesial situation in North America, as a mandate. And it is to this good, the promise of the unity of all Orthodox Christians, we hope, but also, in these fractured times, we put forward as a reason for all the Orthodox Churches in North America to *celebrate*. There is one flock, because there is one Church. With this in mind, the Holy Synod of Bishops welcomes all Orthodox Christians to celebrate together with the Orthodox Church in America by recommitting to Orthodox unity in North America.

In this coming year, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America is pleased to announce that these anniversaries will be marked by three Divine Liturgies concelebrated by the Holy Synod and guest hierarchs and clergy. The first will be at the Memorial Day Pilgrimage at St. Tikhon’s Monastery, May 25, 2020. The second will take place during the annual pilgrimage to Spruce Island, Alaska, August 9, 2020. The third will be at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Fall Regular Meeting of the Holy Synod, November 14, 2020. In addition to these Churchwide celebrations, dioceses and deaneries will also celebrate these anniversaries in different ways. We also look toward the publication of educational and liturgical works to mark these anniversaries.

Finally, we give thanks to God for His rich gifts he has bestowed upon us so that we might serve his glory: St. Herman, autocephaly, and the communion we have with all Orthodox Churches. We ask him to bless the Church we have been entrusted with as the Holy Synod, so that we might evermore praise, bless, and worship our One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Glory to God for all Things!