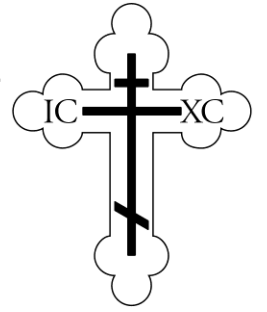
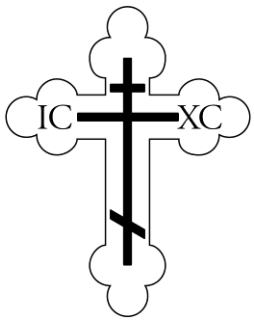


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America

8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
www.ptvm.com

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before or  
after Vespers or by appointment

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

## July 31, 2022

# St. Eudocimus of Cappadocia

## Forefeast of the Procession of the Cross

Saint Eudocimus, a native of Cappadocia (Asia Minor), lived in the ninth century. He was the son of the pious Christians Basil and Eudokia, an illustrious family known to the emperor. The righteous life of St Eudocimus was devoted to pleasing God and serving his neighbor. Having given a vow to remain unmarried and chaste, he avoided conversation with women and did not look at them. He would speak only with his own mother, whom he greatly respected. The emperor valued his virtue and talents, so he appointed St Eudocimus as governor of Chorziane, Armenia. Fulfilling his duty as a servant of God, St Eudocimus governed the people justly and with kindness. He concerned himself with the unfortunate, and with orphans and widows, and he was a defender of the common people.

Eudocimus pleased God by his blameless life, and the Lord called him at age 33. Lying on his deathbed, St Eudocimus gave final instructions to place him in the grave in those clothes in which he would meet death. His attendants buried him as he had instructed them. Right after the death of St Eudocimus, miracles took place at his grave. Many sick people were healed, and the news of the miraculous healings spread.

After 18 months, the mother of St Eudocimus came from Constantinople to venerate his relics. She gave orders to remove the stone, dig up the ground, and open the grave. Everyone beheld the face of the saint, bright as if alive, altogether untouched by decay. A sweet fragrance came from him. After a certain time, the relics of St Eudocimus were moved to Constantinople and placed in a Church built by the parents of the saint.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell,  
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

### **Tone 1 – Troparion of the Cross**

O Lord, save Your people,  
and bless Your inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Your Cross,//  
preserve Your habitation!

### **Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion**

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,  
illumined 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 4 – Troparion for St Eudocimus**

He Who called you from earth to heaven  
keeps your body unharmed after death, holy Eudocimus;  
for you lived a sober and holy life  
and did not defile your flesh;//  
so with boldness intercede with Christ that we may be saved!

#### **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

When Christ God the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//  
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

#### **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 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)**

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

#### **Epistle: Romans 15.1-7**

Brethren: We who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 9.27-35 (Sunday)**

At that time, Jesus departed from there, and two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**New Dep.** Brandon Mosak

Helen Wein

Maria Helen

**Ev.Mem.** Nikita Nepsha ('21)

Simeon Matuszak ('49)

Agnes Bagrukovich ('77)

Nicholas Tetarchik ('89)

**Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Anne

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Tom

Jennifer

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Mark

Jerry

Joseph

Linda

Claudia

Carol

Snezana

Ryan

Nathan

Kara

Djuro

Dominic

Declan

Hudson

Ayden

Hyland

Jason

Ted

James

Pamela

Alexander

Ronald

William

Wanda

Ivanka

Aaron

Karen

Sandra

Linda

Jim

John

Martha

Mark

Michelle

Irene

Michelle

Erika

Luke

Jo	Janie	Nada
Stephanie	David	Mark
Mary Ann	Sharon	Catherine
Robb	Tanya	Aaron
Desiree	Renee	Brad
Hanna	Carissa	Courtnie
Jaroslava	Ashton	Marley
Andrew	Doris	Caleb
Andrew	Laura	Miette
Vadim	Duane	Iris
Hanna	Elizabeth	Charlotte
Alex	Karen	Solomon
Carl	Alexa	Rafa
Laura	Miriana	Gabriel
Chrisan	Olga	Ebony
Janice	Richard	Peggy
Gerald	Klaudia	Sue
Olga	Nicodemus	

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

### **Special Petitions at the Augmented Litany:**

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Your peace and Your mercy in the midst of the great suffering of Your people. Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of the Church, so that by Your goodness, peace may return to all peoples; O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

We also pray You, O Lord our God, to remember and have mercy on our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Russia and Ukraine, who are involved in violent conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Following veneration of the cross, we will serve the **3-year memorial for Fr. George Havrila**.

There is **no Bible Study this week**. Instead, we will pray the **Supplication Service to the Virgin Mary** in honor of the Dormition

Our first **Women's Book Club** meeting will be this Thursday, August 4th at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. We will meet every other Thursday evening. We are reading *Bringing Jesus to the Desert*. For anyone that is still interested in signing up, please see Matushka Jenna or Tiffany O'Day.

The Ladies' Sodality will hold their annual **Rummage Sale** this year on Thursday and Friday, **August 11 and 12**. Parishioners are asked to donate their gently used items for sale. Items may be dropped off in the parish Library. Questions can be directed to Sodality president Mary Ann Bertram.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Aug 1: Beginning of the **Dormition Fast** (Aug 1-14)

Aug 3: **Supplication to the Virgin Mary @ 7pm**

Aug 4: **Women's Book Club @ 6pm**

Aug 5: **Festal Vespers for the Feast of Transfiguration @ 6pm**

Aug 6: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Transfiguration @ 10am**

Aug 10: **Supplication to the Virgin Mary @ 7pm**

Aug 14: **Lamentations for the Theotokos** after coffee hour ~ 1pm

Aug 15: **Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 10am**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,408**

# **Statement on Same-Sex Relationships and Sexual Identity**

**Issued by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America at the 20<sup>th</sup> All-American Council**

The Orthodox Church teaches that the union between a man and a woman in marriage reflects the union between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5). As such, marriage is by this reflection monogamous and heterosexual. Within this marriage, sexual relations between a husband and wife are an expression of their love that has been blessed by God. Such is God's plan for male and female, created in his image and likeness, from the beginning, and such remains his plan for all time. Any other form of sexual expression is by its nature

disordered, and cannot be blessed by the Church in any way, whether directly or indirectly.

That said, the Holy Synod of Bishops expresses its pastoral concern and paternal love for all who desire to come to Christ and who struggle with their passions, temptations, and besetting sins, whatever those might be. The Church is a hospital for the sick; Our Lord has come as a physician to heal those who are ailing. Imitating our Savior, who stretched his arms wide on the Cross, we welcome with open arms all who desire the life of repentance in Christ.

Over the course of recent years, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America have made numerous pronouncements affirming the Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality.

Metropolitan Tikhon, at the [18th All-American Council](#) in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 20, 2015, [in his opening address](#), stated that:

“... the Orthodox Church must continue to proclaim what she has always taught: that marriage is the union between one man and one woman and the Orthodox Church in America can in no way deviate from this teaching...”

Among the Holy Synod’s affirmations of the same teaching are the [“Synodal Affirmations on Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life,”](#) from the [10th All-American Council](#), Miami, Florida, taking place from July 26-31, 1992; the [“Synodal Reaffirmation of the SCOBA statement titled ‘On the Moral Crisis in our Nation,’](#)” issued May 17, 2004; and the synodal [“Statement concerning the June 26 US Supreme Court decision,”](#) issued June 28, 2015.

Therefore, in accord with the timeless plan of God our Creator, the unchanging teaching of Christ the Savior announced through his holy apostles and their successors, and the consistent witness of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, the Holy Synod affirms what the Scriptures clearly and plainly proclaim and the holy fathers unerringly confess, namely: that God made human beings in two sexes, male and female, in his own image, and that chaste and pure sexual relationships are reserved to one man and one woman in the bond of marriage.

As such, we affirm that sexual relationships are blessed only within the context of a marriage between one man and one woman. Motivated by love and out of sincere care for souls, we call those who suffer from the passion of same-sex attraction to a life of steadfast chastity and repentance, the same life of chastity and repentance to which all mankind is called in Christ.

We call upon all clergy, theologians, teachers, and lay persons within the Orthodox Church in America never to contradict these teachings by preaching or teaching against the Church's clear moral position; by publishing books, magazines, and articles which do the same; or producing or publishing similar content online. We reject any attempt to create a theological framework which would normalize same-sex erotic relationships or distort humanity's God-given sexual identity. The holy apostle Paul writes that such teachings will "increase to more ungodliness," and that such a "message will spread like gangrene" (2 Tim 2:16-17), misleading the faithful and inquirers seeking the truth.

Any clergy, theologian, teacher, or lay person who contravenes our directive thus undermines the authority of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America by disregarding the Holy Synod's consistent and unwavering teaching on these matters. We call on any such persons to cease their disruptive activities, which threaten the peace and tranquility of the Orthodox Church in America, cause scandal and uncertainty, and tempt those who struggle against their disordered passions to stumble. Consequently, those who teach these errors become participants in the sin of those whom they have tempted or whom they have failed to correct, and thus should seek remission of this sin in the mystery of holy confession. Those who refuse correction open themselves to ecclesiastical discipline.

Thus, we, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, conclude by once again affirming that all clergy, theologians, teachers, and lay persons of the Orthodox Church in America should teach nothing other than the fullness of the Orthodox faith, which is the fullness of the saving truth.

We remind our faithful and clergy that every person of goodwill is welcome to visit our parishes. However, reception into the Church, and continued communion in Christ at the sacred Chalice, is reserved for those who strive to live a life of repentance and humility in light of these God-given truths, conforming themselves to the commandments of God as the only path of salvation in Christ. All of us are sinners, but it is for precisely this reason that Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to "Repent and believe in the Gospel, for the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk. 1:15).

# Glory to God for all things!