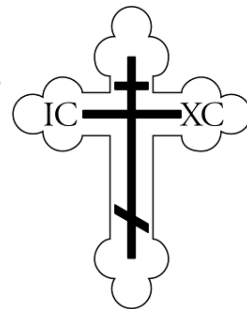
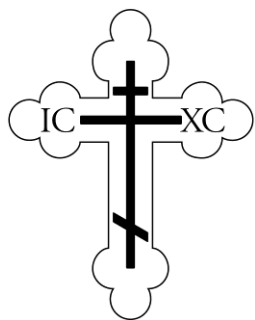


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



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

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.**

## February 5, 2023

### Afterfeast of

# The Meeting of the Lord Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day." She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:  
"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!"

### **Tone 1 – Troparion for the Meeting of the Lord**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!

From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,  
enlightening those who sat in darkness.

Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,

you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of our souls, //

Who grants us the Resurrection!

### **Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Publican and Pharisee**

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!

Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!

Let us cry to our Savior:

“Have mercy on us, //

O only merciful One!”

### **Tone 1 – Kontakion for the Meeting of the Lord**

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb  
and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.

Now You have come and saved us through love.

Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, //

O only Lover of Man!

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Tone 1 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)**

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

### **Tone 3 – Prokeimenon for the Afterfeast (Luke 1)**

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

### **Epistle: 2 Timothy 3.10-15**

My Son: You have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

## **Gospel: Luke 18.10-14**

Jesus said this parable to His disciples: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

“And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

<b>New. Dep.</b> Thomas Mosak	Mary Belkow ('80)
Bish. Tikhon Fitzgerald	Milan Delich ('89)
Terry Tutterow	Ann Wolotka ('94)
Archpr. Theodore Panchak	Dorothy Christoff ('98)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Michael Saganovich ('61)	Zakaria Mitrovich (2006)
Naido Kvachkov ('64)	

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Carol	Sandra
Archpr. Peter	Snezana	Linda
Mat. Cynthia	Ryan	Jim
Archpr. John	Nathan	John
Pr. Patrick	Kara	Martha
Mat. Anne	Djuro	Mark
Dn. Nicholas	Dominic	Michelle
Kevin	Declan	Irene
Jon	Hudson	Michelle
Tanya	Ayden	Erika
Jovan	Hyland	Luke
Tom	Jason	Jo
Jennifer	Ted	Stephanie
Rollie	James	Mary Ann
Joseph	Pamela	Robb
Nadia	Alexander	Desiree
Joseph	Ronald	Jaroslava
Linda	Ivanka	Andrew
Claudia	Karen	Andrew

Vadim	Alexa	Cora
Hanna	Miriana	Brandi
Alex	Olga	Joyce
Carl	Richard	Paul
Laura	Klaudia	Galina
Chrisan	Nicodemus	Helen
Gerald	Nada	Kathleen
Olga	Mark	Rachel
Janie	Catherine	Martha
David	Aaron	Stephanie
Sharon	Dale	<b>N.III. Bradley</b>
Tanya	Ebony	Courtney
Renee	Peggy	Marley
Carissa	Sue	Caleb
Ashton	Victoria	Miette
Doris	Janet	Iris
Laura	Tom	Charlotte
Duane	Wilma	Solomon
Elizabeth	Jerry	Rafael
Karen	Penelope	Gabriel

\*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**

For **Bible Study** tomorrow night, read **2 Ezra 3-6**

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

This Friday the **Church School is throwing a movie night** in the parish hall. At 5:30 the littles will enjoy a game in the hall while **altar servers and new handmaidens** have a short practice session in the Church. Pizza and movie at 6:15.

Our **Parish Annual Meeting** will be held after Divine Liturgy on February 12. The agenda and reports are being posted to the parish website ([www.ptvm.com/annual-reports/](http://www.ptvm.com/annual-reports/)). Hard copies are available for pick-up in the Narthex.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Feb 8: **Guys' Night Out** at Maxim's Lounge @ 6pm

Feb 9: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am  
**Women's Book Group** @ 6pm

Feb 10: **Church School movie night & altar server retreat** @ 5:30pm

Feb 12: **Annual Parish Meeting** & potluck lunch after Divine Liturgy

Feb 18: **Memorial Divine Liturgy** for Saturday of Souls @ 10am

Feb 26: **Forgiveness Vespers** @ 1pm

Feb 27: **Clean Monday** (Great Lent begins)

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,235**

## **On the Publican and the Pharisee** **by St. Cyril of Alexandria**

Our virtue must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless, and free from all that can bring reproach. For what profit is there in fasting twice a week, if doing so serves only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and makes you supercilious and haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions, and boast about it: but in another way you provoke God's anger: by condemning others for not doing the same as yourself. You are puffed up, not waiting on the crown of righteousness which comes by divine decree, but rather you heap praises upon yourself. "For I

am not," he says, "as the rest of mankind." Moderate yourself, O Pharisee! "Put a door to your tongue, and a lock." You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. No wrestler ever crowns himself, but awaits the decision of the referee. Lower your pride: for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although you fast, because of your puffed-up mind it will not avail you.

Your labor will go unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with perfume. Even according to the Law of Moses, a blemished sacrifice could not be offered to God, for it was said, "Of sheep and ox offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish." Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God say, "This is not the fast that I have chosen." You offer tithes: but you wrong in another way Him Whom you would honor, in that you condemn other men. This is an act foreign to the mind that fears God: for Christ even said, "Judge not, and you shall not be judged: condemn not, and you shall not be condemned." And one also of His disciples said, "There is one Lawgiver, and Judge: why then do you judge your neighbor?" No man because he is in health ridicules one who is sick for being laid up and bedridden: rather he is afraid, lest he become himself the victim of similar ailment. Nor does any man in battle, because another has fallen, praise himself for having escaped from misfortune. For the infirmity of others is not a fit subject for praise for those who are in health. Such then was the state of the self-loving Pharisee.

But what of the publican? He stood, it says, "afar off," not even venturing, so to speak, to raise up his eyes on high. You see him abstaining from all boldness of speech, as having no right, and smitten by the reproaches of conscience: for he was afraid of being even seen by God, as one who had been careless of His laws, and had led an unchaste and dissolute life. You see also that by his external manner, he accuses his own depravity. For the foolish Pharisee stood there bold and broad, lifting up his eyes without scruple, bearing witness of himself and boastful. But the other feels shame at his conduct: he is afraid of his Judge, he smites upon his breast, he confesses his offences, he shows his malady to the Physician, he prays that he may have mercy. And what is the result? Let us hear what the Judge says, "This man, He says, went down to his house justified rather than the other."

Restrain not yourself then from saying, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." Remember Him Who says by the voice of Isaiah, "Declare

your sins first, that you may be justified." Remember, too, that He rebukes those who will not do so, and says, "Behold, I have a judgment against you, because you say 'I have not sinned.'" Examine the words of the saints. For one says, "The righteous is the accuser of himself in the beginning of his words." And another again, "I said, I will confess against myself my transgression to the Lord: and you forgave the iniquity of my heart."

Glory to God for  
all things!