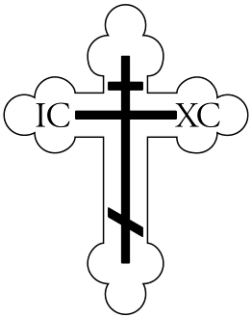


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
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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.

June 30, 2024 Sunday of All Saints

THE ORDER OF THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

*Prayers of exorcism are read over the initiate, and the sponsor makes the profession of faith on their behalf at the threshold to the nave. They then process to the middle of the nave where the baptismal font and Gospel have been prepared. There Liturgy begins as usual. Special Petitions are added to the **Great Litany**. The **baptismal waters** are then consecrated and the **Oil of Gladness**. The initiate is anointed on the head, heart, shoulders, ears, hands, and feet. At each, the people respond: "**Amen!**" The initiate is then **baptized**. **Psalm 31** is read. The newly-illumined is given the baptismal garment, and we sing:*

Tone 8 – Troparion of Vesting

Grant unto me the robe of light,
O Most Merciful Christ our God,
who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment!

*Then the **Beatitudes** with the **Little Entrance**. We sing the **Hymns of the Day** while the initiate finishes dressing.*

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Troparion of All Saints

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,
Your Church has been adorned with Your martyrs' blood shed
throughout all the world.
She cries to You, O Christ God:
“Send down Your bounties on Your people,//
grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of All Saints

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.
By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace//
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

*The priest anoints the newly-illumined in the middle of the Church with Holy Chrism: first on the head, then the eyes, the nostrils, the lips, the ears, the heart, the hands, and the feet, saying each time: “**The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit!**” and each time the people respond: “**Amen!**” Then the priest leads a procession thrice around the baptismal font, as we sing:*

Instead of the Trisagion:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ:
Alleluia! (3x)
Glory... now and ever...
Have put on Christ: Alleluia!
As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ:
Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for All Saints (Psalm 67)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Tone 3 – Baptismal Prokeimenon (Psalm 26)

The Lord is my light and my Savior; / whom shall I fear?

Epistle: Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2 (All Saints)

Brethren: Through faith, the Saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not receiving deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, and by chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, because God had provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 6.3-11 (Baptism)

Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried, therefore, with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ,

being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 10.32-33, 37-38; 19.27-30 (All Saints)

The Lord said to His disciples, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?"

So, Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Matthew 28.16-20 (Baptism)

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. John Cutean	Serge Zochalski ('54)
Ev.Mem. Michael Kadashov ('14)	Dimitry Vasileff ('57)
Vuya Bakich ('16)	Teresa Kulick ('59)
John Skaluk ('45)	Samuel Radivan ('75)
Peter Kuwaski ('52)	

Health & Salv.	Archpr. Peter	Pr. Gregory
Priest Jan & St.	Mat. Cynthia	Mat. Beverly
Theodosius Parish	Hierom. John	Pr. Patrick

Mat. Anne	Ashton	Natalie
Mat. Catherine	Michael	Elizabeth
Kevin	Chris	William
Jon	Nina	Linda
Tanya	Carissa	Margaret
Jovan	Duane	Linda
Rollie	Elizabeth	Jennifer
Claudia	Olga	Diane
Paul	Klaudia	Chris
Carol	Tom	Erin
Snezana	Diane	Gavin
Ryan	Brandi	Jude
Nathan	Joyce	Miriam
Kara	Galina	Ephraim
Djuro	Thomas	Irina
Paula	Diane	Cyan
Christopher	Stephanie	Alla
Karen	Cindy	Gregory
Alexandra	Nathaniel	Joseph
Jonathan	Tamara	Michael
Christine	Dennis	George
Zoey	Maria	Daniel
Dominic	Elizabeth	Ivanka
Declan	Jonah	Simeon
Hudson	Jamie	Lupka
Ronald	Kyleigh	Vangel
Mary Ann	Lauren	Jovan
Dara	Kyle	Cveta
Jaroslava	Mark	Terry
Andrew	Christopher	Elijah
Andrew	Betty	Erin
Vadim	William	John
Hanna	Grace	Caroline
Viktor	Janet	Aiden
Gerald	Sarah	Marco
Christine	Angela	Basil
Olga	Lauren	Emmelia
Janie	Jack	Marley
Sharon	Melissa	
Tanya	Carolynn	
Renee	Nicholas	

To add a name to our parish prayer list, please give it 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 the victims in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine. 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, 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.

*After the Prayer of the Ambo, at “Blessed be the name of the Lord...” the newly-illuminated comes forward with the sponsors to receive **Ablution and Tonsure**. Then we conclude the Liturgy as normal.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** tomorrow read 1 Corinthians 11-13.

Mark your calendars:

July 1: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

July 9: **Men’s Breakfast** at Bob Evans Valpo @ 7:15am

July 20: **Catechism Class @ 4:30pm**

July 21: **Blessing of Vehicles** after Divine Liturgy

July 26: **Blood Drive 12-6pm**

July 28: **St. Clement Summer Picnic** after Divine Liturgy

Last Week’s Gifts to the Lord: \$3,342

Sermon on the Feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God by His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

We are fortunate that the Mother of God, in her great love for us, has given us so many feast days on which to celebrate her grace,

her protection, her role in our salvation, and her motherly love. We celebrate the events of her life, her Conception and Nativity, Entrance into the Temple and Annunciation, her Meeting in the Temple and her Dormition. We also celebrate her Protection with its own special feast. More than this, the entire year's calendar is adorned with celebrations of her holy images, so that rarely do a few weeks pass without a feast day dedicated to the Theotokos. For us in the Orthodox Church in America, certainly one of the most special and beloved of these sacred icons celebrated each year is her Tikhvin icon.

The original Tikhvin icon, kept in Chicago for so many years before being returned home two decades ago, was exceptionally well-traveled. Painted, according to holy Tradition, by the Apostle and Evangelist Luke, she went from Jerusalem to Constantinople in the fifth century. Taking up residence in the Queen of Cities, she dwelt in the Church at Blachernae for nearly a millennium. However, miraculously, in the late 1300s, she began to appear at different locations near Novgorod the Great before settling in Tikhvin.

These extensive travels of the original Tikhvin Icon serve to remind us of two realities: that the Mother of God is with us, no matter where we are in the world; and that the Mother of God is with us, no matter where we find ourselves in historical time.

In Alexander Blok's poem "The Twelve," the figure of Our Lord appears at the end, clad in white, just out of reach of the ragtag revolutionary mob:

*With gentle step, above the storm,
In the scattered, pearl-like snow,
Crowned with a wreath of roses white,
Ahead of them—goes Jesus Christ.*

In a similar way, the Tikhvin Icon seems to have always kept one step ahead of history's disasters and tumults, escaping the Muslim conquest of the Holy Land, the fall of Constantinople, and the predations of the Soviets.

Because Christ's kingdom belongs to the future age, it cannot be touched by the ravages of time. Likewise, the protection of the Mother of God is omnipresent and invincible. Love is stronger than death, and her love for her children cannot be overcome by mortality. No matter the circumstances in which we find ourselves, she is watching over us. She prays for our bodily needs, certainly,

but her protection is ultimately oriented towards the one thing needful: salvation and eternal joy in her Son Jesus Christ. God is with us, as the prophet proclaims, and he is with us through his Incarnation: he is with us through his Mother.

Though the kingdom of Christ is not subject to history, to time, to death, it is nevertheless revealed amid the changes of this mortal world. And so, the Theotokos also reveals herself to us in many times and places, in many holy icons, and in so doing she always points us toward her Son. The Tikhvin icon belongs to a class of icons called Hodegetria, “She Who Shows the Way.” As we can see, she is gesturing with her hand toward her Son, pointing us away from the perishing world and its follies and towards the Eternal One, whom she cradles in her arm.

Therefore, as we celebrate the Tikhvin icon, the apostolic masterpiece, the inheritance of Byzantium, the treasure of Russia, the joy the Chicago, we are called to encounter, not an historical artifact, but eternity in the moment, God in the present, salvation in the now. No matter where or when we find ourselves, no matter our troubles, no matter our grief, no matter our pain, our sorrow, our sighing—no matter what, God is with us, coming to us through his Mother, she who is the gate facing east, the gate of the dawn.

And so today, now, in this place, at this pilgrimage, we turn to our most holy and most pure Lady with our prayer:

Most holy Theotokos, loving mother of us wayward and erring people, through thy Tikhvin icon shine upon us with the light of Christ.

Mother of Immanuel, Mother of the God-man, make the scales of earthly cares to fall away from our eyes. Grant us to perceive, amidst things fallen and perishing, the gladness and hope of eternity.

O Mother of the Light, never let us forget that we have seen the true Light, which the darkness of this passing world cannot overcome.

O most holy Lady, help us so that, with senses purified, we might behold, even in this age, the glory of the kingdom that has no end: the kingdom of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of his Father and his all-holy Spirit, to whom are due all dominion and adoration, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Glory to God for all things!