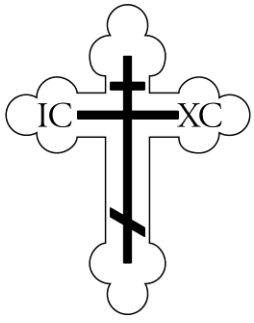


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.

July 21, 2024

Holy Prophet Ezekiel

Sts Simeon and John of Edessa

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the

Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (St Matthew), a lion (St Mark), an ox (St Luke), and an eagle (St John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all



the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service.

The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Babylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining

faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry.

Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

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 4 – Troparion for Sts Simeon and John

O God of our Fathers,
always act with kindness towards us;
take not Your mercy from us,
but guide our lives in peace//
through the prayers of Venerable Simeon and John!

Tone 2 – Troparion for the Holy Prophet Ezekiel

We celebrate the memory
of Your prophet Ezekiel, O Lord;
through him we beseech You://
“Save our souls!”

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Kontakion

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 2 – Kontakion for Sts Simeon and John

Let us praise the venerable Simeon
as an equal to the angels,
for he walked in the flesh upon the earth as a bodiless angel
shining forth to all as an example of the virtues;
and with him let us honor his companion,
the ever memorable and God-bearing Father John,//
for they ceaselessly pray to the Lord for us with faith and love!

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Holy Prophet Ezekiel

You have been revealed as a Prophet of God, wondrous Ezekiel,
proclaiming to all the incarnation of the Lord, the Lamb and Creator//
the Son of God, Who has ever revealed Himself.

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 3 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Epistle: Romans 6.18-23

Brethren: Having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 8.5-13

At that time, when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the

kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Dn. Roman Zaviyskyy
Ev.Mem. Theodore Pachapa ('30)
Anna Koval ('31)
Vasili Tranoff ('41)
Stanislava Shakula ('51)
Christine Grisuk ('51)

Vasil Hutka ('60)
John Moroz ('72)
Sonia Rast ('98)
Marian Havrila (2017)
Michael Marchuk (2019)
Protopr. George Havrila (2019)

Health & Salv.

Priest Jan & St.

Theodosius Parish

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Cynthia

Hierom. John

Pr. Gregory

Mat. Beverly

Pr. Patrick

Mat. Anne

Mat. Catherine

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Rollie

Claudia

Paul

Carol

Snezana

Ryan

Nathan

Kara

Djuro

Paula

Christopher

Karen

Alexandra

Jonathan

Christine

Zoey

Dominic

Declan

Hudson

Mary Ann

Dara

Jaroslava

Andrew

Andrew

Vadim

Hanna

Viktor

Gerald

Olga

Janie

Sharon

Tanya

Renee

Ashton

Michael

Chris

Nina

Carissa

Duane

Elizabeth

Olga

Klaudia

Tom

Diane

Joyce

Galina

Thomas

Diane

Stephanie

Cindy

Nathaniel

Tamara

Dennis

Maria

Elizabeth

Jonah

Jamie

Kyleigh

Lauren

Kyle

Mark

Christopher

Betty

William

Grace

Janet

Sarah

Angela	Miriam	Elijah
Lauren	Ephraim	Erin
Jack	Irina	John
Melissa	Cyan	Caroline
Carolynn	Alla	Aiden
Nicholas	Gregory	Marco
Natalie	Joseph	Basil
Elizabeth	Michael	Emmelia
William	George	Marley
Linda	Daniel	Ryan
Margaret	Ivanka	George
Linda	Simeon	Edward
Jennifer	Lupka	Charles
Diane	Vangel	Rosemary
Chris	Jovan	Carol
Erin	Cveta	
Jude	Terry	

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, please go out to your cars and open a door to prepare for our **annual blessing of vehicles** in memory of the Holy Prophet Elijah (July 20).

After the vehicle blessing, we will serve the **7-year memorial for Marian Havrila** and the **6-year memorial for Fr. George Havrila**.

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read 2 Corinthians 4-7.

Next Sunday is our **annual Summer Picnic in honor of St. Clement of Ochrid**. We are planning to have a water slide for the kids to enjoy, so please bring your swimsuits and towels.

The **Women's Group** will have a **social event August 16** and their next **Book Club meeting August 29**. Please **RSVP** on the sign-up forms in the narthex.

Mark your calendars:

July 22: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

July 25: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

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

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

Aug 1: **Start of the Dormition Fast** (until Aug 15)

Aug 2: **Supplication to the Virgin @ 6pm**

Aug 5: **Festal Vespers for Transfiguration @ 6pm**

Aug 6: **Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration @ 10am**

Aug 7: **Supplication to the Virgin @ 6pm**

Aug 9: **Supplication to the Virgin @ 6pm**

Aug 14: **Great Vespers with Lamentations for the Virgin @ 6pm**

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

Aug 16: **Women's Group hangout** in Winfield @ 5pm

Aug 29: **Women's Book Club @ 6pm**

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$1,839

Glory to God for all things!