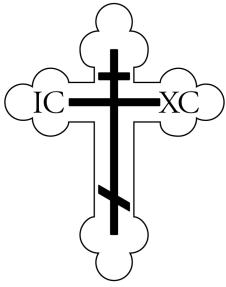
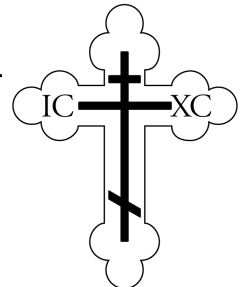


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
www.ptvm.com

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.**

July 15, 2018
Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils
Holy Prince Vladimir, Enlightener of Russia

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion

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

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

Thou didst capture hell, //
not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. //

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 8 – Troparion for the Fathers

Most glorious are You, O Christ our God!

You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Vladimir

You were like the merchant who sought the fine pearl, O Vladimir,
Distinguished in your rule

and seated on the high throne of Kiev, the mother of cities,
which has been saved by God.

Sending envoys to the royal city to investigate the Orthodox
faith and put it to the test,

you found Christ, the Pearl without price,

Who chose you as a second Paul,

and Who shook off your blindness of soul and body in the holy font.

Therefore we your people are here celebrating your falling asleep.//

Beseech that our authorities and God-loving people may be saved.

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,

shattering its gates as Almighty,

resurrecting the dead as Creator,

and destroying the sting of death.

Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//

and we all cry to Thee:

“O Lord, save us!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion for the Fathers

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’ doctrines have
established one Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//
it defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 8 – Kontakion for St. Vladimir

O all-glorious Vladimir, in old age having imitated the great
Apostle Paul,

You abandoned striving after idols as childish wisdom,

and as a fully grown man you adorned yourself with the purple
of divine baptism.

Now standing before Christ the Savior with rejoicing,//

Beseech Him that our authorities and God-loving people may
be saved.

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

Epistle: Galatians 1.11-19; Romans 15.1-7

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not a human invention. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak and not 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: John 17.1-13; Matthew 9.27-35

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You gave Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

When Jesus departed from there, 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

Repose:

N.Dep. Radosava Delich

Sophie Rosca

Priest Michael Prevas

Theodore Milenkoff

Helen James Long

Ev.Mem. Maria Cowsert

Mary Vasil

Bertha Kowal

Katie Uzeloc

Mary Kunze

Konstantin Dzhaikovich

Clif Adeleman

Health & Salvation:

Protopresbyter George

Matushka Anna

Archpriest Frederick

Matushka Carol

Priest Phillip

Khouria Kathryn

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

Gerald

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Nada

Olive

Mary

Michael

Julia

Warren

Mary

Loretta

Willy

Gilbert

Charlene

Joseph

Carol

Peter

Janie

Infant Adam

Infant Benjamin

Infant Juliana

Blessings for:

Nicholas Korzow

Steve and Cindy Julovich

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a **Panikhida** after Liturgy today for Maria Cowsert.

“O” Club, the **alms and outreach** arm of our Church, meets this Sunday during Coffee Hour. Meetings are **OPEN** to all parish members. Please join us!

Thank you to all who prepare and support our Coffee Hours. **“O” club** donates the money collected at Coffee Hour to worthy causes outside our own walls. During the months of July & August we are collecting for the **Winfield Food Pantry**. Next Sunday, July 22, will be the blessing of bread in honor of **St. Clement of Ochrid**. Following Liturgy, we will also **bless automobiles**.

The **Hall Committee** has begun a top-to-bottom appraisal of the assets and functioning of the Hall. We need volunteers for a **count and clean-up day Saturday, July 28**. Work starts at 9am. Lunch fellowship will be provided for all present at 12pm. In addition, if anything in the kitchen belongs to you and you would not like it to disappear, please collect it before July 28.

Women’s Sodality is canning peppers. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule to order yours.

Please **check the old directory** in the vestibule to ensure your contact info is up to date. We are printing new ones soon.

If you shop Amazon.com, **support our Church** by linking your Amazon account through their Smile program. Go to smile.amazon.com and search for “Protection of the Virgin Mary Church.” If you need help, ask Fr Jacob or Lesley Richards

Mark your calendars:

July 28: **Hall Count and Clean-up @ the Church, 9am**

July 29: **Baptismal Liturgy** for Joseph Richards; Fr Peter Bodnar concelebrating

August 10: **Rummage Sale**; item drop-off begins August 5

October 14: **Fashion Show** at Avalon Banquet Hall

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General: \$2,837.00

Mortgage: \$933.00

On Reaching Out to Others

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul (continued from last week)

“And as Jesus was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’ And he said to Him, ‘Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth.’ And Jesus, looking upon him, loved him, and said to him, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ At that saying his countenance fell, and he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions” [Mark 10:17-22].

Here we encounter a man who ran up and knelt before Jesus, only to walk away from Him after hearing His response. To date, I was concerned that my notes might be coming across as “Four Easy Steps to Unconditional Love,” or “Follow This Formula and All Will Be Well.” Obviously, this is not the case. Why do some people accept and embrace Christ and others turn away?

It is a bit mind boggling to read in the lives of the saints that often the martyrs' persecutors would repent and become followers of Christ. Yet at the same time, there are many accounts of people who, when faced with holy lives and the demonstration of God's power through miracles, only become more determined to intensify their hatred and persecution of Christians, to the point of seeing to it that they are slain.

St. John the Baptist's father, Zachariah, is told by the archangel Gabriel that he will not be able to speak because he asked, “How shall I know this?” concerning whether his barren wife Elizabeth would give birth. No such thing happens to the Virgin Mary when she asks the same question of Gabriel regarding

giving birth without having known a man. “How can this be?” she asks. Peter denies Christ and weeps bitterly and is reconciled to Christ; Judas betrays Christ and hangs himself in despair after realizing that he betrayed “innocent blood.”

I wish to offer a few additional thoughts for further reflection. None of us can know the heart of another person or what is “going on” with him or her. That is why we are called not to judge others. We don’t know their whole story. Faith is not a formula; it is a great mystery concerning God the Father, Who reveals Himself to us in the person of His Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Savior Himself tells His disciples in John 15 “if they hated me, they will hate you.” So as much as we go about striving to love others unconditionally, we shouldn’t be surprised if that unconditional love is not always reciprocated. Our Lord didn’t seek to win a popularity contest. His ministry on earth came to an end by dying a criminal’s death on a cross. “Cursed is anyone who is hung on a tree” (Gal. 3:13). Yet this scandal of our Lord’s death on the cross delivers us from death and points to our own resurrection in Him. This is the mystery of our Baptism into His death and resurrection into newness of life. Perhaps the best way to make sense of this issue is to look at the parable of the Sower of the Seed in the eighth chapter of Luke. This is a wonderful explanation of how different people respond of the sowing of the Word of God and the Good News in different ways. All we must do is continue to scatter the seed.

Glory to God for all things!