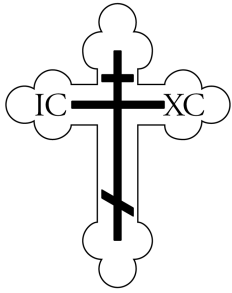
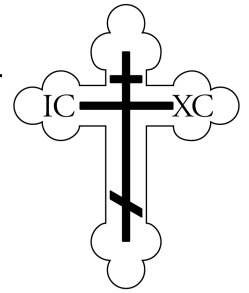


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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(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 22, 2018

**Myrrhbearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene
Hieromartyr Phocas of Sinope**

AN EXCERPT FROM THE LIFE OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE:

When the Apostles departed Jerusalem to preach to all the ends of the earth, Mary Magdalene also went with them. A daring woman, whose heart was full of reminiscence of the Resurrection, she went beyond her native borders and preached in pagan Rome. When many did not believe that Christ is risen, she repeated to them what she had said to the Apostles on the radiant morning of the Resurrection: "I have seen the Lord!"

Tradition relates that Mary Magdalene even visited the Emperor Tiberias. She brought him a red egg as a symbol of the Resurrection into new life with the words: "Christ is Risen!" Thanks to Mary Magdalene, the custom of exchanging paschal eggs on the day of the Radiant Resurrection of Christ spread among Christians over all the world.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

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
And deliver us from every form of evil.
By entreating Christ, your Son and our God//
That He may save our souls.

Tone 1 – Troparion for St. Mary Magdalene

By keeping His commandments and laws, holy Mary Magdalene,
you followed Christ, Who for our sake was born of the Virgin,
and in celebrating your most holy memory today,//
we receive forgiveness of sins by your prayers.

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Phocas

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,
you became a successor to their throne.
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine
contemplation, O inspired one of God;
by teaching the word of Truth without error, you defended the
Faith, even to the shedding of your blood.//
Hieromartyr Phocas, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended,
shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 3 – Kontakion for St. Mary Magdalene

Standing before the Cross of the Savior,
suffering with the Mother of the Lord,
the most glorious Mary Magdalene
offered praise with tears.

She cried out: “What is this strange wonder?

He who holds the whole creation in His hand chooses to suffer.//
Glory to Your power, O Lord!”

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. Phocas

The Master established you as a brilliant sun,
shining on all the faithful, glorious hieromartyr Phocas.
He has accepted your life, faith and contest as myrrh,//
for He is rich in mercy.

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: 1 Corinthians 1.10-18

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been reported to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you.

What I mean is that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who

are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel: Matthew 14.14-22

When Jesus went out, He saw a great multitude, and He was moved with compassion for them and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him saying, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the multitudes.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Radosava Delich

Sophie Rosca

Priest Michael Prevas

Theodore Milenkoff

Helen James Long

Ev.Mem. Maria Cowsert

Priest John Meyendorff

Priest John Voytilla

Nicholas Kyuc

Michael Shendrick

William Romanchek

Margaret Lash

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
Joseph
Carol
Peter
Janie
Infant Adam
Infant Benjamin
Infant Juliana

Blessings for:
Bogy & Sherry Mizimakoski

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

BLESSING OF BREAD IN HONOR OF ST. CLEMENT OF OCHRID (JULY 27)

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Clement

By words you guided nations toward faith in God.

By works you kindled for yourself an all-blessed life.

By signs you wondrously guide those who draw near in faith
toward a divine and ungrieving life,
bearing a torch at evening.

Therefore we celebrate your divine memory,

O Clement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following Liturgy today, we will do the annual **blessing of 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.

The **Ladies' Sodality** will be canning peppers on Monday, July 30. If anyone would like to help us cut them and/or prepare the brine, meet at the hall at 9am. Thank you!

We will kick off the **Dormition Fast** (Aug 1-14) with a Supplication service to the Theotokos on Wednesday, Aug 1 @

6pm in the presence of our diocese's reproduction of the wonderworking Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God.

Our **Rummage Sale** will be on Friday, August 10. Please *mark* your donated items for sale and deposit them in the church school rooms. Nothing too heavy for one person to lift. Anything left after Friday will be donated to charity.

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." Ask Fr Jacob or Lesley Erpelding for assistance.

Mark your calendars:

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

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

Aug 1: Start of the Dormition Fast; **Supplication to the Theotokos @ 6pm**; Frs Alexander Koranda and Alin Munteanu concelebrating; light refreshments after

Aug 8: **Supplication to the Theotokos @ 6pm**

Aug 10: **Rummage Sale** all day in the Hall

Aug 15: Festal services for the **Dormition of the Theotokos**

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

Today's Offering Bread was prepared by Elizabeth Pedersen

On the Sanctity of All Life

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

It is not unusual for people to take competing stands on matters related to sanctify of life. For example, there are those who identify as pro-life, calling for the overturn of Roe vs. Wade, but who see no problem with supporting the death penalty. Other people hold the opposite view. They are pro-choice but against the death penalty. It concerns me when I hear people emphasizing or stressing the sanctity of some lives while denying the importance of others.

In recent years, there has been much conversation about school shootings, the global refugee crisis resulting from the war in Syria, and racism, in addition to other issues. The hot button issue today is the current administration's policy enforcing the separation of children from their parents who cross the U.S. border illegally. All of these are sanctity of life issues.

There is a recent article entitled "Pro-Life Means Pro-Social Justice" on the blog *Public Orthodoxy* by Jesuit priest James Martin, in which he advocates for a wholistic approach to Sanctity of Life concerns. There is much in his short reflection with which I agree, but after reading it, it struck me that something was missing. For example, in addition to being pro-life, Father Martin says, "I support anything that helps a person live a full, healthy and satisfying life, in every part of the world." This sounds good to me, but is this how we are to understand our lives? He speaks of supporting equal pay for all, universal health care, affordable housing, humane work environments and many other things—all good things to work towards. But are these things obtained solely by engaging in a political process?

The recent Epistle and Gospel readings from Sunday, June 17 shook me up in a good way. St Paul in Romans 5:1-4 says: *Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.*

And in Matthew 6:25,32-33 Jesus tells us: *Do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you **need** them all. But seek **first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.*

Both readings say important things about our lives in this world as Orthodox Christians. First, there is something about

suffering that works towards our salvation—making us whole, complete, and human. St. Paul says we are to rejoice in our sufferings because of how God allows them to be used to help us to become patient (a determination to joyfully see things through even when things seem bad). This, in turn, builds character in us, resulting in a hopeful disposition. Walking the pathway of acquiring the virtues of the Kingdom can only happen when we anchor our lives in this peace, given to us in Christ through faith in Him.

This is clearly expressed in the gospel reading. Jesus commands us not to be anxious about our lives and not to think of them in terms of pursuing and obtaining things as ends in themselves, as if they will make us content. To seek these things apart from seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness will only make us more anxious and more preoccupied with wanting what other people have. Since our heavenly Father knows we need these things, Jesus assures us that if we make seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness our number one priority, the things we **need** to live in this world will be given to us as well. (Notice I said “need,” not “want.”)

I apologize if I am not coming across in a clear and cohesive manner. This is difficult stuff to articulate. My point is that we needn't give up on engaging in a political process to effect certain changes in the world in which we live. However, if we put our hope solely in that process we will not find peace or find true contentment. We need people of good will in this world. We need to be transformed! This only comes about by seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness, and seeing and believing in the Church as the “Re-creation of Creation,” made so by our Lord's live-giving death on the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead. So whatever change we advocate in this world needs to be seen from this perspective.

But we live in a fallen world in which people do not seek His Kingdom. What does that mean for us? I hope to follow up on this next week.

Glory to God for all things!