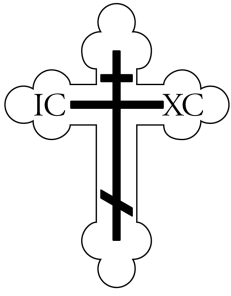
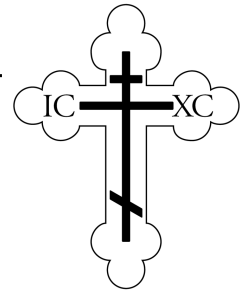


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219) 384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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 29, 2018**  
**Martyr Callinicus of Gangra**

**Today we baptize Joseph Erpelding**  
(The Baptismal Liturgy follows a slightly different order)

**The Meaning of Baptism**  
by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Baptism is the sacrament of forgiveness, not because it operates a juridical removal of guilt, but because it is baptism *into Jesus Christ*, who is the Forgiveness. The sin of all sins—the truly "original sin"—is not a transgression of rules, but, first of all, the deviation of man's love and his alienation from God. The man prefers something—the world, himself—to God, this is the only real sin, and in it all sins become natural, inevitable. This sin destroys the true life of man. It deviates

life's course from its only meaning and direction. And in Christ this sin is forgiven, not in the sense that God now has "forgotten" it and pays no attention to it, but because in Christ man has returned to God, and has returned to God because he has loved Him and found in Him the only true object of love and life.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle: Romans 6.3-11; 1 Corinthians 3.9-17**

Brethren, do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just 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 together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this: that our old humanity was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, consider yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and someone else is building upon it. But let each one take care how he builds on it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on the foundation endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as

through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

**Gospel: Matthew 28.16-20; 14.22-34**

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

At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

<b>Repose:</b>	Gerald
<b>N.Dep.</b> Radosava Delich	William
Sophie Rosca	Jovan
Priest Michael Prevas	Charles
Helen James Long	Barbara
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Dimitri Lushtina	Theodore
Boris Traikoff	Nada
John Umenkin	Olive
Nicholas Homanakoff	Mary
Kazmira Svetanoff	Michael
Gregory Dorochoff	Julia
Vangel Kristoff	Warren
Olga Moroz	Mary
Anex Shendruk	Loretta
<b>Health &amp; Salvation:</b>	Willy
Protopresbyter George	Gilbert
Matushka Anna	Joseph
Archpriest Frederick	Carol
Matushka Carol	Peter
Priest Phillip	Janie
Khouria Kathryn	Diane
Kevin	Tom
Jon	Elizabeth
Tanya	Infant Adam
Kimberly	Infant Benjamin
Gail	Infant Juliana
	N.II. infant Joseph

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

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

#### **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 4 – Troparion for St. Callinicus**

Your holy martyr Callinicus, O Lord,  
through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from  
You our God.  
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,  
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons//  
Through his intercessions, save our souls!

#### **Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and  
resurrect Adam.  
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,  
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly  
Merciful One!

#### **Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. Callinicus**

You worthily inherited joy on high, O Callinicus,  
for aflame with love for Christ you bravely endured the fire.  
As you stand before Him,//  
never cease to intercede for us all!

#### **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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the **Newly-Illumined Joseph**, his parents, and his God-parents!

The **Ladies' Sodality** will be canning peppers tomorrow, July 30. If anyone would like to help, meet at the hall at 9am.

We will kick off the **Dormition Fast** (Aug 1-14) with a Supplication service to the Theotokos this Wednesday, Aug 1 @ 6pm in the presence of our diocese's reproduction of the wonderworking Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God.

This Friday through Saturday our sister parish, Descent of the Holy Ghost in Merrillville, is holding its annual **Junior Youth Campout Retreat** in Hobart. It is not too late to sign up. Pick up their flyer in the narthex.

Our **Rummage Sale** will be on Friday, August 10. Please *mark* your donations and deposit them in the church school rooms. Pick up a few flyers in the narthex to hang around town.

Fr. Jacob & Mat. Jenna are hosting a Labor Day open house cook-out from 12-8pm for parishioners and friends. 10343 Nicklaus St., Winfield. Please stop by if you can.

A **women's book group** will begin meeting Monday, Sept 10 @ Mat. Jenna's home, 7:30-9pm. First book will run for 8 weeks: *How to be a Sinner* by Peter Bouteneff. Contact Mat. Jenna if you are interested in joining.

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:

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

Aug 5: Great Vespers for the **Transfiguration of our Lord** following coffee hour.

Aug 6: Divine Liturgy for the **Transfiguration of our Lord @ 9am**

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

Aug 10: **Rummage Sale**

Aug 14: **Lamentations for the Theotokos @ 6pm**

Aug 15: Divine Liturgy for the **Dormition of the Theotokos @ 9am**

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

**Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:**

General Fund: \$1672

Mortgage: \$573

***Talking about Hard Issues***

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

It has been three months since I began issuing weekly reflections on themes related to acceptance and sanctity of life. What does this have to do with our daily church and family life? I wrote these reflections primarily for parents. You have the awesome responsibility to form your children in the Orthodox Christian Faith.

One of the things that bring great sadness to me is the polarizing nature of the world in which we live. There is tremendous intolerance of others in the public sphere between the so-called "Conservatives" and "Liberals." The judgmental nature of any discussion is alarming. No one can speak with others. It seems people love to disagree and only delight in finding fault with each other. "There has to be a winner and that has to be me, not the other guy." I have never seen any person say to someone who is discussing an issue in which there is disagreement: "You have made a good point, maybe I need to rethink my position."

What is even more disconcerting is seeing Orthodox clergy and lay people engaging in this type of behavior on the Internet. In fact, most of the unfruitful discussions happen in postings on the Internet. So I wrote these reflections in an attempt to present a more wholistic view of life that I believe can only be found in the Church. In the Church it is not always "either/or." There are times it can be "both/and." Parents: when you speak with your children, refrain from using polarizing rhetoric in helping your children make sense of

what is going on with regard to the contemporary issues you deal with as a family. My introductory reflections on acceptance and unconditional love were an attempt to show how we might learn to live “in the world” while realizing at the same time we “are not of the world.”

We pray in the Liturgy that our Hierarchs “in peace, safety, honor, health and length of days... rightly divide the word of Your truth” and discern what is false from what is true. Seeking the truth is not necessarily a popularity contest. Sometimes the Church takes stands on things that will not agree with the overall sentiment of public opinion. So we need to pray that our hierarchs will be able to have frank, open discussions on the many “hot button” issues of today with the aim of discerning what is false from what is true. That is our job.

Glory to God for all things!