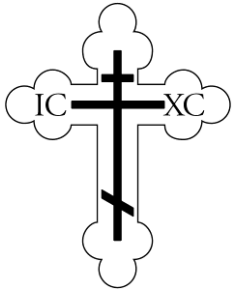
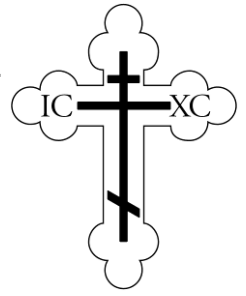


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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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 a
pancake breakfast.

August 19, 2018 **Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary** **Holy Martyr Andrew the General**

The Story of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Virgin Mary:

At the time of her blessed falling asleep, the Virgin Mary was at Jerusalem. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord, and here she offered up fervent prayer. In one such visit, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and announced her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge, the Archangel gave her a palm branch.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay. After the prayer, the Most Holy Virgin offered incense, and John heard a voice from Heaven closing her

prayer with the word "Amen." They understood the voice to mean the speedy arrival of the Apostles and the Disciples.

Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. Saint John, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin's repose was at hand. Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld Her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard her prayer and fulfilled her heart's desire, and she began speaking about her imminent end.

Then came the third hour, when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The holy Disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering praise to God. She prayed in anticipation of Her demise and of the arrival of Her longed-for Son and Lord. Suddenly, the inexpressible Light of Divine Glory shone forth, before which the blazing candles paled in comparison. Descending from Heaven was Christ, the King of Glory, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers, together with the souls of the Forefathers and the Prophets, who had prophesied in ages past concerning the Most Holy Virgin Mary. Rising from her bed to meet the Lord, she bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave her soul into the hands of her Son and God.

The holy Apostles Peter, Paul, James and others of the Twelve carried the funeral bier upon their shoulders, and upon it lay the body of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Saint John went at the head with the resplendent palm-branch from Paradise. The other saints and a multitude of the faithful accompanied the funeral bier with candles and censers, singing sacred songs. This solemn procession went from Sion through Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane. When the procession reached the Garden, then amidst the weeping and the wailing began the last kiss to the all-pure body. Only towards evening were the

Apostles able to place it in the tomb and seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. Through the wise providence of God, the Apostle Thomas was not to be present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down at the tomb and with bitter tears asked that he might be permitted to look once more upon the Mother of God and bid her farewell. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit him the comfort of venerating the holy relics of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven.



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 1 – Troparion for Dormition

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.

In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life O Mother of Life, //

and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 5 – Troparion for St. Andrew

You renounced the glory of earthly rank
and inherited the Kingdom of Heaven;
you adorned your incorruptible crown as with beautiful stones.
You led an army of martyrs to Christ,
and with the Angels in the never-fading light
you found Christ the never-setting Sun.
Together with those who suffered with you,
holy General Andrew,//
ever pray to Him that He may 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 St. Andrew

Standing before the Lord in prayer like a star near the sun,
you were filled with ineffable joy beholding your desire: the
treasure of the Kingdom.
You sing without ceasing to the immortal King
together with the Angels throughout the ages.//
With them, General Andrew, unceasingly pray for us all!

Tone 2 – Kontakion for Dormition

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her
intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life,//
she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal
womb.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins

according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19.16-26

Now behold, a man came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

When His disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Marian Havrila

Radosava Delich

Ev.Mem. John Hommuko

Peter Evanoff

Tomea Gerogieff

Health & Salvation:

Protopresbyter George

Matushka Anna

Archpriest Frederick

Matushka Carol

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

Gerald

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Nada

Olive

Mary

Michael

Julia

Warren

Mary

Loretta

Willy

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Diane

Tom

Elizabeth

Infant Adam

Infant Benjamin

Infant Juliana

N.III. infant Joseph

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Janice Scherer

David May

Sam Tanaskoski

Zack & Jennifer Luskey

Nancy Klaja

Olga Puskos

Nancy Strezovski

Demetrius & Cynthia Damaskos

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Memorial for Radosava Delich will be served following the veneration of the cross.

Sodality is hosting a **pancake breakfast** following Liturgy today. Visitors are complementary.

On Tuesday, Aug 21 @ 7pm Bishop Paul will hold an interactive Livestream discussion on Family Life entitled "Who teaches Our Children?", moderated by Fr Jacob. www.midwestfamily.org

On Sunday, Aug 26 the "O" Club is sponsoring a **Summer Pool Party** at the home of Tom & Brenda Mosak in Crown Point. Everyone is welcome. RSVP with a side dish in the narthex.

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.

Church School begins Sept 9. Please help us plan by registering your children on the form in the narthex.

A **women's book group** will begin on Sept 10 meeting Mondays @ 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.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 26: **Parish Pool Party @ Mosaks'** after Liturgy

Sept 3: **Labor Day open house @ Van Sickles'**, 12-8pm

Sept 8: Divine Liturgy for the **Nativity of the Virgin Mary @ 9am**

Sept 9: First day of **church school**.

Sept 30: Parish **Feast-Day celebration** (moved from Oct 1)

Oct 1: Divine Liturgy for the **Protection of the Virgin @ 9am**

Oct 14: **Fall Fashion Show** at Avalon Banquet Hall after Liturgy

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$2,784

Mortgage: \$425

Today's prosphora bread was offered by:

Elizabeth Pederson

Praying on the Run

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me! O Lord make haste to help me!

Is there another way prayer can be incorporated into a busy schedule? Too often we equate prayer with standing before an icon corner with a prayer book and reciting prayers. While this is certainly an aspect of keeping a prayer rule, there is more to it than that.

I often think of the many people in the Gospels who found the Lord's favor with few words. The woman with the issue of blood approaches Jesus to heal her without saying a word. She touches the hem of His garment (Luke 8:43-44). The blind man Bartimaeus cries to Christ, "Have mercy on me Son of David." Jesus draws near to him due to his persistence and asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus replies, "Master, let me receive my sight" (Mark 10:46-52).

So prayer is not about how many words one offers. It is having faith in Christ that He will respond to one's plea. The one quality shared by Bartimaeus and the women with the issue of blood was their determination to persevere when all the circumstances surrounding them would have told them to give up. The woman had been ailing for 12 years and been to all kinds of doctors—to no avail. The crowd ridicules Bartimaeus when he cries out to the Lord to have mercy on him. Yet that doesn't stop him.

I started this reflection by quoting Psalm 70:1. It is a short verse that can be easily memorized and recited repeatedly throughout the day. There are other Psalm verses that one can look up and memorize as well. Of course, there is the well-known "Jesus Prayer" that can be said in its entirety or shortened. But for any prayer to be effective, it needs to be founded upon a thirst and hunger for our Lord.

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for Thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

So for a family to be an icon of a little church at prayer, it needs to be founded on these words from Psalm 42. If we are not hungry for God and if we are not seeking Him, even when discouraged by others, then it doesn't matter how long or short our prayers are, or whether they are offered before one's icon corner, or whether one finds oneself on the run. So how do we cultivate a hunger for God in our family life and routines?

Glory to God for all things!