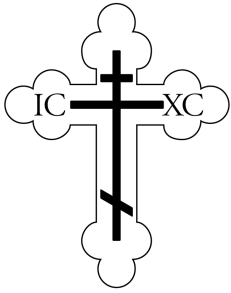
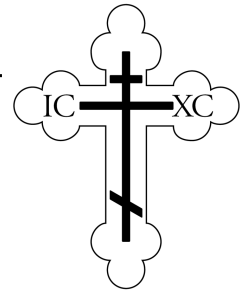


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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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.**

## August 26, 2018 Martyrs Adrian, Natalia, and those with them

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married for one year prior to their martyrdom and lived in Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). The emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. Then the denunciations began, and twenty-three Christians were captured in a cave near Nicomedia.

They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then brought before the Praetor, in order to record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the praetorium, watched as these people suffered with such courage for their faith. Seeing how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, he asked: "What rewards do you expect from your God for your suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards as we are not

able to describe, nor can your mind comprehend.” Saint Adrian told the scribes, “Write my name down also, for I am a Christian and I die gladly for Christ God.”

The scribes reported this to the emperor, who summoned Saint Adrian and asked: “Really, have you gone mad, that you want to die? Come, cross out your name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness.”

Saint Adrian answered: “I have not lost my mind, but rather have I found it.” Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Saint Natalia, knowing that her husband was to suffer for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian.

She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: “You are blessed, because you have believed in Christ. You have obtained a great treasure. Do not regret anything earthly, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds are pleasing to God.”

On the pledge of the other martyrs, they released Saint Adrian from prison to tell his wife about the day of his execution. At first Saint Natalia thought that he had renounced Christ and thus had been set free, and she would not let him into the house. The saint persuaded his wife that he had not fled from martyrdom, but rather had come to give her the news of the day of his execution.



They tortured Saint Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let your gods say what blessings they promise me, and then I shall worship them, but if they cannot do this, then why should I worship them?" Saint Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to pray to God for her, that they would not force her into marriage with a pagan after his death.

The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. Saint Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate on seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, asked the executioner to begin with him, and permit her to put his hands and legs on the anvil herself.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When the women Disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the Apostles:  
"Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen, //  
granting 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. Adrian and Natalia**

Your holy martyrs Adrian and Natalia, O Lord,  
through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns  
from You, our God.  
For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,  
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. //  
Through their intercessions, save our souls!

#### **Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

My Savior and Redeemer, as God,  
rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell, //  
and as Master He has risen on the third day!

#### **Tone 4 – Kontakion for Sts. Adrian and Natalia**

Martyr of Christ, Adrian,  
you kept the words of your godly and devoted wife Natalia in  
your heart. //  
With her you accepted every kind of suffering and obtained the  
crown of victory!

#### **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 16.13-24**

Brethren: Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren—you know that household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—that you submit to such as these and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore, acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.

Marán atha! O Lord, come!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Gospel: Matthew 21.33-42**

The Lord spoke this parable: “There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did the same to them. Then last of all he sent his Son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

<b>Repose:</b>	Kimberly
<b>N.Dep.</b> Marian Havrila	Gail
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Gregory Gormat	Gerald
	William
<b>Health &amp; Salvation:</b>	Jovan
Protopresbyter George	Charles
Matushka Anna	Barbara
Archpriest Frederick	Theodore
Matushka Carol	Olive
Kevin	Michael
Jon	Julia
Tanya	Warren

Mary  
Loretta  
Willy  
Gilbert  
Carol  
Peter  
Janie  
Diane  
Tom  
Elizabeth

Infant Adam  
Infant Benjamin  
Infant Juliana  
N.Ill. infant Joseph  
  
**Birthdays & Anniversaries:**  
Nickolas Ryan  
Elizabeth Coe  
Ken & Nada Buczek  
Janice Barancyk

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon, following coffee hour, the "O" Club is sponsoring a **Summer Pool Party** at the home of Tom & Brenda Mosak. Remember to bring your dish. See Tom or Nick Rozdelsky if you need directions.

Next Sunday, Sept 2, Fr. Christopher and Mat. Jen Moore of the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center** will give a brief presentation during coffee about their previous work as missionaries in Mongolia and their upcoming assignment to South Korea. A special collection will be taken to support their work.

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.

On Saturday, Sept 8, we celebrate the **Nativity of the Virgin** with Divine Liturgy @ 10am followed by a luncheon courtesy of the Women's Sodality.

Following lunch on Sept 8 will be a **Choir Retreat** with Fr Jacob and our new director, Matt Wells. Please let Matt know if you will attend. New choir members are welcome!

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

The **women's book group** begins on Sept 10. Books are ordered and will be available for pick-up next Sunday.



## Mark your calendars:

Aug 29: 9am Matins, 10am Divine Liturgy @ Descent of the Holy Ghost for the **Beheading of John the Baptist**

Sept 2: Fr Christopher & Mat. Jen Moore visiting for OCMC

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

Sept 7: Great Vespers @ 6pm for the **Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

Sept 8: Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the **Nativity of the Virgin Mary**;  
Choir retreat following lunch

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

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

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

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

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

General Fund: \$1,065

Mortgage: \$353

Today's prosphora bread was offered by Ivanka Tanaskoski.

## ***Fasting, Hunger, Desire, and Prayer***

A reflection by his Grace, our bishop Paul

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward He was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But He answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:1-4).*

Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights following his Baptism by Saint John. This has much to say about how fasting helps us to hunger for God and His Word. Because Christ was fully Man, His hunger for food after fasting for so long was real human hunger. Yet that desire for human food was transformed into a hunger for divine food, to partake of "every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." This divine food is life-giving and eternally satisfying.

We become indifferent towards prayer when our desires to feed our bellies, to pursue escapism/entertainment, and to seek sexual pleasure control our lives. In addition, being constantly on the run and busy may be a symptom of avoiding underlying anxieties and fears we are reluctant to address in our lives.

Fasting is important for us on several levels. First and most important, it helps to keep us in constant remembrance of what our Lord accomplished for us in His Holy Passion on the Cross, what He gave up for us, and what He endured for us. His suffering and death were voluntary; His redemptive act on our behalf was “the joy that was set before Him” (Hebrews 12:2). By our little acts of depriving ourselves of certain things for a while, we might begin to nurture a spirit of gratitude and thanks for what He has done for us.

Second, fasting helps us to get in touch with the passions that have gained control of our lives and to do battle with them. It helps us to realize that this battle can’t be won unless this misguided hunger is redirected to prayer and to seeking divine help. This is also a time to go to Confession and bring those struggles to Christ, to be witnessed by the priest. Our Lord, through the priest’s guidance, can then offer assistance to help you along the path of this spiritual warfare. This is why we fast.

But how are we to fast? In family life, how do you introduce fasting to young children as they grow up? How do you address fasting in public settings such, as schools, birthday parties, and other social events? I will share a few thoughts about how to fast reasonably and intentionally in our society in the coming weeks.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

+Paul

# Glory to God for all things!