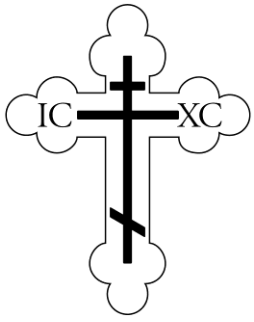
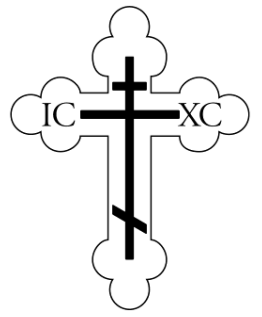


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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.**

November 11, 2018

Holy Martyrs Menas, Victor, and Vincent St. Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours

The Life of St. Martin of Tours

St Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours, was born at Sabaria in Pannonia (modern Hungary) in 316. Since his father was a Roman officer, he also was obliged to serve in the army. Martin did so unwillingly, for he considered himself a soldier of Christ, though he was still a catechumen.

At the gates of Amiens, he saw a beggar shivering in the severe winter cold, so he cut his cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. That night, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to the saint wearing Martin's cloak. He heard the Savior say to the angels surrounding Him, "Martin is only a catechumen, but he

has clothed Me with this garment.” Martin was baptized soon after this and reluctantly remained in the army.

Two years later, the barbarians invaded Gaul and Martin asked permission to resign his commission for religious reasons. The commander charged him with cowardice. St Martin demonstrated his courage by offering to stand in the front line of battle, but without a weapon. The next day, the barbarians surrendered without a fight, and Martin was allowed to leave the army.

He traveled to various places during the next few years, spending some time as a hermit on an island off Italy. He became friendly with St Hilary (Jan 14), bishop of Poitiers, who made Martin an exorcist. After several years of the ascetic life, St Martin was chosen to be bishop of Tours in 371.

As bishop, St Martin did not give up his ascetic lifestyle, and the place where he settled outside Tours became a monastery—the first in France. He conversed with angels and had visions of Sts Peter and Paul and of other saints. He is called the Merciful because of his generosity and care for the poor, and he received the grace to work miracles.



After a life of devoted service to Christ and His Church, the saint fell ill at Candés, a village in his diocese, where he died on November 8, 397. He was buried three days later (his present Feast) at Tours.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Your Cross You destroyed death.

To the thief You opened Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.

And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,

to proclaim that You are 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

and deliver us from every form of evil.

By entreating Christ, your Son and our God//

that He may save our souls.

Tone 8 – Troparion for St. Martin

In signs and miracles you were renowned throughout Gaul.

By grace and adoption you are a light for the world, O Martin,

blessed of God.

Almsgiving and compassion filled your life with their splendors,

teaching and wise counsel were your riches and treasures,//

which you dispense freely to those who honor you.

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind 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 8 – Kontakion for the Martyrs

Today the Church honors those who fought the good fight and

died for their faith:

the victorious Menas, the noble Victor, and the ascetic Vincent.

The Church glorifies their divine struggle and cries out with love:

“Glory to You, O Christ, Lover of mankind!”

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: Ephesians 2.14-22

Brethren: Christ Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Gospel: Luke 10.25-37

At that time, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Jesus, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

So he answered and said, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:	Ev.Mem. Helen Sawochka
N.Dep. Archpr. Joseph Martin	Gregory Sobal
Vaso Popovich	Evdokia Pilnock
Rick Lawton	Aleax Kiwak
Edward Nachoff	William Sitko

Health &	Priest	Kimberly
Salvation:	Christopher	Gail
Protopres. George	Mat. Jennifer	William
Mat. Anna	Andrew	Jovan
Archpr. Peter	Gideon	Charles
Archpr. William	Kevin	Barbara
Mat. Jean Bass	Jon	Theodore
Priest John	Tanya	Michael

Julia	Diane	Darlene
Warren	Madelin	Mira
Loretta	Villian	Kristin
Gilbert	Deborah	Mitchel
Carol	Jovan	Brittany
Peter	Claudia	Roger
Janie	John	Tina
Tom	Joey	Benjamin
Elizabeth	Carisa	Juliana
Tina	Natalia	Lennox
Adam	Elizabeth	Laila
Myah	Tom	
Margaret	Alexander	

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

The children will take a 2nd collection today to provide Christmas gifts to a local family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Order forms for the **Thanksgiving bake sale** are available in the narthex.

The topic for **Fellowship Night** and **Faith Enrichment** this week will be "Liturgy and Worship."

Women's Sodality meets this week Tuesday at 10am in the Hall.

Advent begins this Thursday, Nov 15. Make a plan for how you and your household will prepare for our Lord's coming.

As the holidays approach, remember that purchasing your gift cards through our Scrip program is an easy way to support the ministry of our Church.

Mark your calendars:

Nov 14: **Fellowship Night** – Potluck @ 6pm followed by teaching and Small Compline @ 7:30pm

Nov 15: **Faith Enrichment** – Morning Prayers @ 10am followed by teaching and potluck @ 11:30.

Nov 21: **Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple** – Vespers
Tuesday night @ 6pm; Liturgy Wednesday @ 10am

Nov 22: **Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy** @ 9am

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,121

Mortgage: \$968

“Will You Also Go Away?”

A reflection by His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

This question, which Christ asks His disciples, is a challenge to those who would follow Christ. The Lord is asking if the Apostles are willing not only to leave their nets, but to follow Him into the new life that He offers; whether they are willing to lose their earthly life so that they might gain the life of paradise; whether they will remain in their biological existence which ends in death or follow Him into the resurrection. He is asking whether they are able to confront their own mortality by voluntarily following Him to the Cross and to death. It is Peter who offers an answer in the form of his own question: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And yet that same Apostle would shortly deny that he even knew this man with a Galilean accent.

Of the rational beings created by Him and honored with the dignity of free-will, some are His friends, others are His true servants, some are worthless, some are completely estranged from God, and others, though feeble creatures, are His opponents. —St. John of the Ladder, 1.1

Is this not where we often stand in our own life? Sometimes we are with Peter in his moment of certainty and other times with him in his moment of doubt; sometimes we turn to God with deep prayer and other times we hide away in fear; sometimes we are strong in the practice of the virtues and other times we become enslaved to our own passions. The turmoil taking place in the depths of our heart is also reflected in the world around us, a world that is desperately seeking immortality but only ever attaining a false shadow of eternal life, mistaking

the pleasures, luxuries, and comforts of this world for eternal joy, consolation, and love.

What is our own response to, our own commitment to, our own obedience to, the words of life offered by the Lord? When we are confronted by the deep questions of life—Who am I? What is the purpose of my existence? Who is my neighbor? How should I live my life?—Do we run to the One who has the words of eternal life or do we fall back on our own human understanding? Do we have the courage to take up our Cross and follow Christ? Or are we sometimes tempted to also “go away?”

In the eyes of the world, the worth of a human life is often established by what one has accomplished to further civilization, by what fame one has brought to one’s name, or by what fortune one has amassed. Many of us may be disappointed when we reflect upon our own life, wondering if we have accomplished anything substantive or worthwhile.

Our earthly time may slip by quickly—hours, days, weeks, and years—but we nevertheless can experience the fullness and timelessness of Christ’s love, life, and light within all of those chronological intervals, even as we draw closer to our own death. In Holy Week, we experience something truly eternal, triumphant, and life-giving as we walk with the Lord through His Passion, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial. And then on Pascha and throughout Bright Week, time is further transfigured as we experience the glory of the single Eternal Day of Resurrection for eight earthly days. Experiences like these are available to us at every moment in the Church if we choose to “not go away” but to actively pursue the Lord, to seek out the healing that He offers us, regardless of the difficulties (which are unavoidable) and no matter what the temptations (which are ever present) of a world which seeks to mask the ugliness of death through a false and superficial façade. To do this, we must lay aside our proud reliance on our own strength and place all our trust in God’s divine grace and in the community of the Church. We must, in a word, understand that we are already dead, having been buried with Christ in baptism. And yet, like Lazarus, we are alive once again, having been raised by Christ.