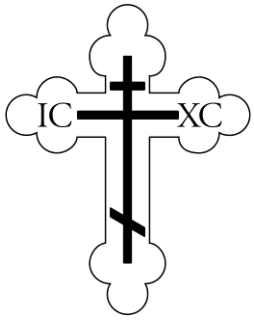
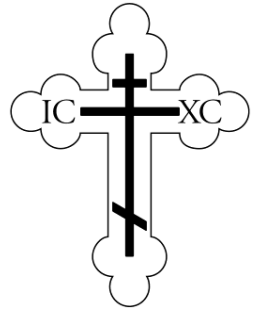


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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.**

January 20, 2019

St. Euthymius the Great; Sanctity of Life Sunday

Excerpts from the Life of St. Euthymius:

St. Euthymius the Great was a priestmonk from the city of Melitene in Armenia, entrusted at a young age with the supervision of the city's monasteries. This responsibility conflicted with his desire for stillness, so he secretly left the city and headed to Jerusalem. After venerating the holy shrines, he visited the Fathers in the desert. Since there was a solitary cell in the Tharan lavra, he settled into it.

The saint taught young monks to fix their thoughts on God while engaging in physical labor. "If laymen work in order to feed themselves and their families, and to give alms and offer sacrifice to God, then are not we as monks obliged to work to

sustain ourselves and to avoid idleness? We should not depend on strangers.”

God revealed to St. Euthymius the time of his death. After an all-night Vigil, he took the priests aside and told them that he would never serve another Vigil with them, because the Lord was calling him from this earthly life. All were filled with great sadness, but the saint asked the brethren to meet him in church in the morning. He began to instruct them, “If you love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15). Love is the highest virtue, and the bond of perfectness (Col. 3:14). Every virtue is made secure by love and humility. The Lord humbled Himself because of His Love for us and became man. Therefore, we ought to praise Him unceasingly, especially since we monks have escaped worldly distractions and concerns.

“Look to yourselves and preserve your souls and bodies in purity. Do not fail to attend the church services and keep the traditions of our community. If one of the brethren struggles with unclean thoughts, correct, console, and instruct him, so that he does not fall into the devil’s snares. Never refuse hospitality to visitors. Offer a bed to every stranger. Give whatever you can to help the poor in their misfortune.”

After giving instructions for the guidance of the brethren, St. Euthymius dismissed everyone but his closest disciple Dometian. He remained in the altar for three days, then died on January 20, 473 at the age of ninety-seven.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!”

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 the St. Euthymius

Rejoice, barren wilderness!
Be glad, sterile desert that has never known the travail of birth!
The man of desires, Euthymius, has multiplied your sons;
he has planted them in faith and piety.
He has watered them with the Holy Spirit;
they grow in self-denial and perfect virtue.//
Through his intercessions, Christ our God, preserve Your
people in peace!

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.
Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion for St. Euthymius

The wilderness rejoiced at your birth, holy Father Euthymius.
In your memory, it brings a harvest of joy through your many
miracles.
Pour the wonders on our souls as well and cleanse us from
our sins,//
that we may sing: “Alleluia!”

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: Colossians 3.4-11

Brethren: When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore, put to death your earthly members: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. But now you are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old humanity with its deeds, and have put on the new humanity, which is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created it, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Hebrews 13.17-21 – reading for St. Euthymius

Brethren: Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 18.35-43

At that time, it happened, as Jesus was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well."

And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Luke 6.17-23 – reading for St. Euthymius

At that time, Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Richard Smith

Jeanine Andjelich

Mary Shocaroff

Karen Peterson

Ev.Mem. Sergei Dyuk (1924)

Panteleimon Anastasoff ('15)

Maria Dorochoff (1936)

Paul Smovegen (1955)

Anna Krill (1958)

Madge Panchak (2000)

Health & Salvation:	Warren	Paul
Protopr. George	Loretta	Alexander
Mat. Anna	Gilbert	Darlene
Archpr. Peter	Carol	Mira
Archpr. William	Peter	Kristin
Mat. Jean	Janie	Mitchel
Pr. John	Tom	Brittany
Pr. Christopher	Elizabeth	Jennifer
Mat. Jennifer	Tina	David
Andrew	Adam	Roger
Gideon	Myah	Tina
Kevin	Margaret	Chris
Jon	Diane	Benjamin
Tanya	Madelin	Juliana
Kimberly	Villian	Joseph
Gail	Deborah	Cathy
William	Claudia	Laurie
Jovan	John	Lennox
Charles	Joey	Laila
Barbara	Carisa	Richard
Theodore	Natalia	Paula
Michael	Elizabeth	Christopher
Julia	Tom	Brian

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are recycling many old liturgical and music books. If any would like to take some home, they will be available for taking during coffee hour for a limited time.

Please arrange with Fr Jacob to **have your home blessed** between Theophany and the start of Lent (Mar 11). I have prepared a schedule for daytime blessings showing which days I will be in each local region. Please write your name down for a day in your region that you are available. Evening and weekend blessings will be done by appointment.

Mark your calendars:

Jan 21: Women's Book Group @ 7:30pm at Mat. Jenna's home

Jan 29: Great Vespers @ 6pm for the **Three Hierarchs:** Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom

Jan 30: Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the **Three Hierarchs**

Feb 9-10: Pastoral visit from His Grace, our Bishop Paul.

Feb 17: Parish Annual Meeting

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,588

Mortgage: \$543

Message on the Sanctity of Life by His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

To the honorable Clergy, venerable Monastics, and pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

For forty-six years, we have lamented the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States of America. And for forty-six years, those who consider life to be a sacred gift from God have gathered each January in Washington, DC and elsewhere in this nation to proclaim this most sacred gift. Created as we are in the very image and likeness of God, we turn to the One Whom we worship as the "Giver of Life" in thanksgiving for sharing His very life with "every man who comes into the world," even "from his mother's womb."

In our liturgical worship, we continuously acknowledge God as the "Bestower of Life." And in doing so, we recognize that His precious gift is imparted at the moment of conception—a reality underscored in Luke 1:41, in which we read that John the Baptist "leaped" in his mother Elizabeth's womb, rejoicing in her encounter with the Mother of God. It has become increasingly evident, however, that proclaiming the sanctity of life involves much more than lamenting the

legalization of abortion and protecting the unborn, crucial as these are.

While we so often speak of life “in the womb” and eternal life “beyond the tomb,” there are many related issues that are encountered “in between.” Our commitment to life of necessity extends to care for our infants, our infirm, our elderly—and ourselves. While expressing our concern and offering our prayers for the unborn, we are called to recognize that issues such as the opioid crisis, the cost of quality health care, capital punishment, the marked increase in addictions and suicide, to name but a few, are intimately connected to our recognition and proclamation of God’s gift of life.

Our Christian witness demands not only concern for the unborn, but a sense of responsibility to ensure that living a “life well lived”—seeking the blessedness to which we have been called—extends to the unborn and born alike. As we discern the will of God in our own lives, we are called to preserve and protect all life in recognition of God’s plan for His people on this earth and in anticipation of “the life of the world to come.”

As we mark this sorrowful anniversary, may we turn our attention to the “Giver of Life,” Who created us in His ever-abundant love. May we, each in our own way, proclaim His sacred gift. And may we embrace His will, that in all things He and He alone might be glorified as the “Fountain of Life” and the “Light of the world,” Who brings all mankind to that Kingdom which has yet to be fully revealed, but is already fully present in the life of His people, the Church.

With love in Christ,

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for all things!