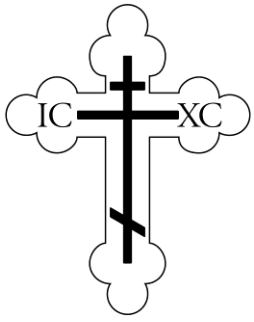
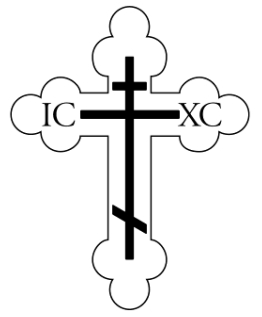


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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
coffee hour.**

February 10, 2019

Zacchaeus Sunday

Holy Hieromartyr Haralambos of Magnesia

The Paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday, the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to a sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to

make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

After the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of the Lord, it is said that Zacchaeus was a disciple of the holy Apostle Peter, who afterwards ordained him Bishop of Caesarea. His memory is also celebrated on April 20.

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 our 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 St. Haralambos

You became a firm pillar in the Church of Christ, wise Haralambos,
a lamp of everlasting light to the world.
Well known to the world through your martyrdom,
you dispelled the dark night of idolatry.//
Boldly intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls!

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion

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

Tone 4 – Kontakion for St. Haralambos

You rose from the East like a star, Hieromartyr Haralambos,
and enlightened the faithful with the brightness of your miracles.//
Therefore, we honor your holy contest.

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 Timothy 4.9-15

My son Timothy: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Until I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbyters. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Gospel: Luke 19.1-10

At that time, Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. ArchPr. John Mason

Richard Smith

Jeanine Andjelich

Mary Shocaroff

Ev.Mem. Vasili Lavrov (1920)

Stoyan Svetanoff (1957)

Anna Kvachkoff (1963)

Andrew Disanko (1963)

Peter Cidylo (1964)

Samuel Uzeloc (1980)

Victoria Darosky (1988)

Leon Kiriluk (2015)

Eugenia Kiriluk (2018)

Alice Erbesti (2018)

Health & Salvation:

Protopr. George

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Michael

Julia

Warren

Loretta

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Myah

Margaret

Diane

Madelin

Villian

Deborah

Claudia

John

Carisa

Natalia

Elizabeth

Tom

Paul

Alexander

Darlene

Mira

Kristin

Mitchel

Brittany

Jennifer

David

Roger

Tina

Chris

Benjamin

Juliana

Joseph

Cathy

Laurie

Lennox

Laila

Richard

Paula

Christopher

Brian

Jennifer

Janet

Nicholas

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

“I thank you, brethren, that you have restored my spirit, which longs to pass over to a new and everlasting life!”

- St. Haralambos to the soldiers torturing him

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome **Bishop Paul**! It is a rare blessing to have him lead us in worship this morning. Please join him and us for lunch in the hall after the veneration of the cross.

This evening @ 7pm Bishop Paul will again be live online taking questions about family life. Tonight's topic is **Making Friends, Loving Enemies: Helping our kids navigate an unorthodox world**. For more information, visit www.midwestfamily.org or pick up a flyer in the Narthex.

Annual reports are now available in the narthex for the **annual meeting next Sunday February 17**. Please read these reports before the meeting and bring any questions you have to the meeting. There will be a potluck lunch before the meeting.

St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church is hosting a **Trivia Night** on February 24 from 4-7pm at the Moose Lodge in Chesterton. For more information, pick up a flyer in the Narthex.

Mark your calendars:

Feb 13: **Fellowship Night @ 6pm**

Feb 14: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Feb 17: **Parish Annual Meeting**

Feb 24: **St. Elizabeth's Trivia Night: Moose Lodge in Chesterton @ 4pm**

Mar 11: **Clean Monday**—the beginning of Great Lent

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$2,409

Mortgage: \$503

**Marriage: The Backbone of the Family
by His Grace, our Bishop Paul**

“For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband” (Ephesians 5:31-33).

Since I began these weekly reflections, I have written about families, and particularly on the relationship between children and their parents. However, I have neglected one thing: the relationship between husband and wife. I began with the above quote because it sets a tone for what marriage is to be: an icon of Christ's love for the Church. A family cannot be an icon of a little church unless the relationship between husband and wife is an icon of Christ's love for the Church.

I say the above because at times family life can become too “child-centered.” The priority is making one's own children happy and doing what is done for their sake. This is fine, so long as the health and the stability of the marriage is not sacrificed for the purpose of making one's children happy. How often have we heard stories of marriages in trouble, in which a decision is made to not divorce for the sake of the children in the family? This puts the child in charge of the marriage. Yet when parents do get divorced, children are immediately told, “it is not their fault.”

Many children go to therapy because they have been “identified” as having problems. “Fix my kid and all will be well.” Yet in some cases, when a therapist gets to know the family system, the child's problems are symptoms of

dysfunction in the marriage. Until that is addressed, the child's issues don't get resolved. When a child is the "identified problem" who needs counseling, he or she serves a purpose of keeping the family together. He needs to be the problem so that the marital issues don't get addressed. This is why individual therapy in these cases will not be helpful.

So, I would encourage parents to periodically talk about the state of their marriage with their priest. It is good to take an inventory and ask if there are healthy boundaries between children and their parents. Are parents making time for themselves? Do they periodically go out on a date? Do they find the time to pray together? Is marriage and family life child-centered or Christ-centered? The two are not the same. If there is a need for marital counseling, the parish priest might be able to help a couple see that and seek the necessary help.

There are other areas to explore with regard to family life. In the weeks to come I will write further on such issues as single parent family life and reconstituted families – when two people remarry and bring their own children into the marriage.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!