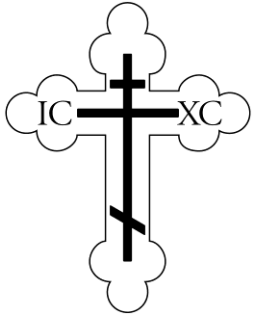
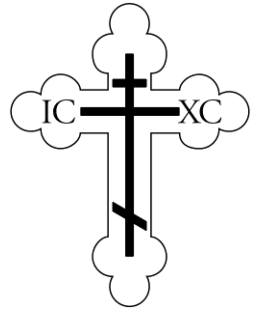


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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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 3, 2019

Afterfeast of the Presentation of the Lord Sts. Simeon the God-receiver & Anna the Prophetess

Today the Church continues to celebrate an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forty days after His birth the Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child did not enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time, the mother came to the Temple with the child to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time, the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St. Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St. Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32). St. Simeon then said to the Most Holy Virgin: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

Also at the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St. Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem” (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

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 of the Feast

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!

From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.

Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,

you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection!

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 3 – Kontakion for the Saints

Let the godly pair be praised together:

Simeon the Righteous and Anna the Prophetess, well-pleasing
to God.

They became witnesses of the incarnate Lord
when they saw Him as an infant./.

Together they worshipped Him.

Tone 1 –Kontakion of the feast

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb
and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.

Now You have come and saved us through love.

Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,
O only Lover of Man!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1.15-17

My son: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 15.21-28

At that time Jesus departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. ArchPr. John Mason

Richard Smith

Jeanine Andjelich

Mary Shocaroff

Ev.Mem. John Gruchyk (99)

Health & Salvation:

Protopr. George

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. William

Mat. Jean

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Michael

Kateryna Gruchyk (99)

Anna Waluszko (99)

Minnie Danaowsky (92)

Slavco Julovich (88)

Peter John Shakula (2015)

Julia

Warren

Loretta

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Myah	Paul	Benjamin
Margaret	Alexander	Juliana
Diane	Darlene	Joseph
Madelin	Mira	Cathy
Villian	Kristin	Laurie
Deborah	Mitchel	Lennox
Claudia	Brittany	Laila
John	Jennifer	Richard
Carisa	David	Paula
Natalia	Roger	Christopher
Elizabeth	Tina	Brian
Tom	Chris	Jennifer

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. Christopher and Mat. Jennifer Moore fly to Korea with their boys this Tuesday to begin their **missionary** assignment. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Bishop Paul will be with us next week! Here is the schedule:

Saturday, Feb 9

10am: Breakfast at the Church followed by kids' "show and tell" time with the bishop.

1pm: Altar Server rehearsal for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

3:30: Parish Council meets w/Bishop @ Wysocki home

6pm: Great Vespers followed by a reception

Sunday, Feb 10

9:30: Arrival and greeting of Bishop Paul

10am: Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

1pm: Catered Lunch

Annual reports are now available in the narthex for the **annual meeting on 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.

We are recycling many old liturgical and music books. If anyone would like to take some home, they are available for a limited time in the narthex (vestibule).

Mark your calendars:

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

Feb 13: Fellowship Night @ 6pm

Feb 14: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

Feb 17: Parish Annual Meeting

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,785

Mortgage: \$236

Children and the Divine Liturgy by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

Kids get antsy, bored, and restless. It is not uncommon to see parents remove kids from church because they have become too disruptive. Parents may come late to Church, so their children won't have to be there as long. They often bring toys with them to church to keep them quiet. The problem with these approaches is that they do nothing to help children connect with worship and to pay attention to what is going on. I would like to address this issue and talk about some things parents can do to help their children in this area.

To begin, I believe it is in our created being to worship, regardless of age. It is in our "spiritual DNA" to give glory to the One Who made us. So, what can be done to connect our kids to worship in the Orthodox Church? The first thing that can be done is to attend the Liturgy weekly. Young children take in what is around them. As we accommodate them, they learn to adapt to the world in which they live. There is a difference between a three-year old child who has been taken to church regularly since Baptism, and one who is brought to

church only three or four times a year. The latter is more likely to have difficulty because he or she is reacting to an environment they do not fully trust. They are not being “bad” or misbehaving; rather, they are reacting to a strange situation.

But simple attendance at services is still no guarantee that a child will embrace worship. If we are going to help young children to get in touch with their God-given desire to give Him glory, we, as adults, need to be attending Church with that same desire. Worship is supposed to be an encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. But when we come to church after the sermon, bring toys, and spend a lot of time in the narthex, this serves only to pacify the child while making others happy that they no longer hear the noise. These activities don't help connect a child to worship. When I hear the “holy noise” of children in Church, it makes me very happy because it tells me the parish has a future. We should be worried when we no longer hear that noise! So what can a parent do as they come to church on a regular basis? Here are some suggestions.

Stand up front when you come to Church: When you position children in the front of the church, they are able to see more clearly what is going on in the service.

Feel free to move around in the Church: Instead of removing children from church because they are noisy, walk around with them in the nave and show them the church. This is a very good thing you can do with children between three to twelve months old. Young children will drink this up and love it. This is not avoidance; this is encounter. Let them see, let them touch the icon, kiss the icon yourself, and eventually your child will kiss it.

Appropriate items to bring with you to Church: I have no problem with parents who bring coloring books with biblical or liturgical themes. Coloring quiets children's souls and allows them to listen to what is happening on another level. Whatever items are brought to church, they should be relevant to worship and have a Christian theme. However, there are certain times during which children need to stop

and focus on the service. Have them pay attention to the Little Entrance, the Scripture readings, the Sermon, the Great Entrance, the Creed, the consecration of the Bread and Wine, and the Lord's Prayer. Encourage your children to sing along with the choir's responses to the service. Be an example and sing along with the choir as well! Remind them when they should be making the sign of the Cross during the service. As children get older, encourage them to get involved as greeters, in distributing the bulletin and passing the collection tray, or in singing with the choir.

Is there a time when it is appropriate to remove a child from the service? This should always be a last resort, after all other attempts that I have suggested above don't seem to be helping. The noise and the disruption of the child needs to be of such a magnitude that it is clearly rebellious in nature and mean spirited. Most parents will know when that point has arrived. When a child is removed, he or she needs to know that he or she is being disciplined for inappropriate behavior in church. I don't think they need to be spanked, but neither should their time in the narthex be a time for fun and amusement. Put your child on "time out" (if he or she is developmentally able) and use the occurrence as a learning experience. Explain to your child that he or she must sit there until he or she can tell mom or dad that he or she will be good in church. You may need to define "good" by describing appropriate behavior. I would also encourage people in our church who don't have to deal with children to be tolerant and merciful in their attitude when children become disruptive.

I would be glad to further discuss this topic with parents who have concerns in this area. I realize we are doing the best we can with what talents God has given us.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!