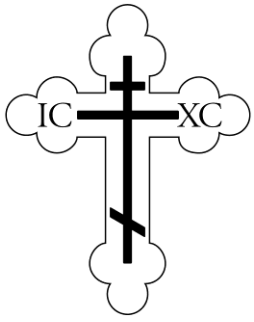
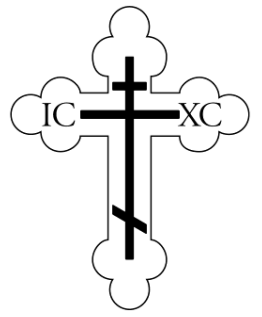


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



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(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
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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.**

April 7, 2019 Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

*On Sundays of Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy
of St. Basil the Great, which may be found on page 101 of the
newer black Liturgy books.*

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 1 – Troparion for St. John

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

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 St. John

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,//
O our father and teacher John.

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: Hebrews 6.13-20

Brethren: when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Ephesians 5.9-19 (for St. John)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth; finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore, He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 9.17-31

At that time, one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

Jesus answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."

Then they brought him to Jesus. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?"

And he said, "From childhood. And often it has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Immediately, the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Matthew 4.25-5.12

Great multitudes followed Jesus – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Anthony Leone
David Envall
Anatol Meuch

Ev.Mem. Maria Moroz ('22)
Maxim Moroz ('22)
Harry Alekseychuk ('85)

Health & Salvation:

Protopr. George
Mat. Anna
Archiman. Cyril
Archpr. Peter
Archpr. John
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 | Chris | Brian |
| Paul | Benjamin | Jennifer |
| Alexander | Juliana | Janet |
| Darlene | Joseph | Nicholas |
| Kristin | Cathy | Kevin |
| Mitchel | Laurie | Barbara |
| Brittany | Lennox | Thomas |
| Jennifer | Laila | Allyson |
| David | Richard | Daniel |
| Roger | Paula | Albert |
| Tina | Christopher | |

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday **Descent of the Holy Ghost** will hold their **annual fish dinner** following Liturgy @ 12:30pm. Adults: \$15. Students: \$7. Under 7 free. Call 980-0374 to reserve seats.

Cleaning day to prepare the Church for Holy Week and Pascha will be on **Lazarus Saturday** (April 20) this year. Divine Liturgy is at 10am, followed by a **children's procession** and **pancake breakfast**. Then the children will **make palms** while the adults beautify the church. If you appreciate beauty, come and help!

O-Club is hosting a **Trivia Night fundraiser** at St. Mary's Center on Friday, May 3 to support Meals-on-Wheels and its other outreach endeavors. Flyers are available in the narthex. Please take a few and help us spread the word! Come and play, or sign up as a volunteer to help us make it as fun and successful as possible.

Orders for the **Pascha bake sale** are needed by this Wednesday. Forms are in the Narthex.

Mark your calendars:

Apr 9: **Sodality** meeting @ 10am
Hall Committee meeting @ 6pm
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm

Apr 10: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 6pm**

Apr 11: **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete @ 10am**

Apr 12: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am**

Presanctified Liturgy at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 6pm

Apr 20: **Lazarus Saturday:** Liturgy @ 10am, followed by pancake breakfast and making palms/cleaning church

May 3: **O-Club Trivia Night** to benefit Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana

Jun 1: **Annual Golf Outing**

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$2,100

Mortgage: \$433

Obedience and Trust

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and 'No' mean 'No.' For whatever is more than these comes from the evil one.

- Matthew 5:34-37

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall under condemnation.

- James 5:12

Last week I quoted Ephesians 6:1-4, which ends with this verse: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." We often speak of children needing to obey their parents, but do we ever spend time addressing this verse? How might parents provoke their children to anger resulting in rebellion? Or what if they obey but it comes with resentment and anger? Are the expectations for obedience realistic? Are parents expecting something from their children that they cannot give? Children are told to be obedient, but are parents

modeling the very behavior that their children are expected to discontinue? The worst example I can give is a parent who physically disciplines a child for physically striking out at his or her sibling; or a parent who in the evening screams at his or her child to be quiet, settle down, and go to sleep. Parents are not to model the very behavior kids are told to stop. If that is the case, then at least they should likewise be examples of repentance and ask of the child forgiveness for providing a poor example. This is where emotions play a funny place in parenting. We should not react to children, parenting them strictly with our emotions. But, at the same time, when parents see their children doing something that is not good for their well-being, their emotions become the very force that drives them to correct their children out of love for their well-being.

I began with the quotes from James and Matthew to highlight the words, "Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no." If parents want their children to be obedient, then this passage from Matthew is crucial. The bottom line is that parents need to enforce the expectations they have for their children. Do not beg for a child's obedience; do not repeat the request over and over if it is not heeded. If one's yes means yes, or no means no, then after one warning or reminder, a parent needs to enforce what their child is being directed to do. The child's activity needs to be directed to what they need to do, and if not, then mom or dad needs to stop whatever their child is doing until they are ready to comply. If this can happen with children in family life, it will help to build consistency, stability, and promote an obedience based on trust.

Next week I will reflect on obedience one last time. I will focus on the Cross; this is where obedience, trust, and love all come together in this once-and-for-all, life-creating act of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive me a sinner. The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

+Paul

Glory to God for all things!