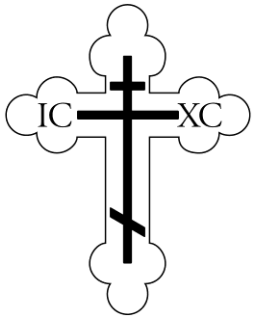
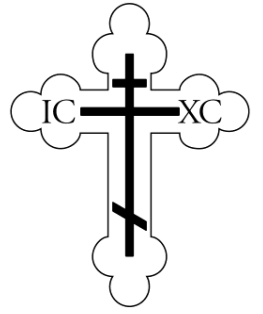


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## 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](mailto: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.**

# March 31, 2019

## Sunday of the Cross

### Rest of St. Innocent, Apostle to America

*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.*

Saint Innocent (born John Popov) was born on August 26, 1797 in the village of Anginsk in the Irkutsk diocese into the family of a sacristan. The boy mastered his studies at an early age, and by age seven he was reading the Epistle in church. In 1806 they sent him to the Irkutsk seminary. The Apostle of

America and Siberia proclaimed the Gospel “even to the ends of the earth.” His missionary service began in the year 1823. Fr. John spent 45 years laboring for the enlightenment of the peoples of Kamchatka, the Aleutian Islands, North America, Yakutsk, the Khabarov frontier, performing his apostolic exploit in severe conditions and at great risks to life.

During his time of endless travels, Fr. John studied the languages, customs and habits of the peoples, among whom he preached. His work in geography, ethnography and linguistics received worldwide acclaim. He composed an alphabet and grammar for the Aleut language and translated the Catechism, the Gospel and many prayers into that language. One of the finest of his works was the *Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven* (1833), translated into the various languages of the peoples of Siberia and appearing in more than 40 editions. Thanks to the toil of Fr. John, the Yakut people in 1859 first heard the Word of God and divine services in their own native language.

On November 29, 1840, after the death of his wife, Fr. John was tonsured a monk with the name of Innocent by St. Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow, in honor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk. On December 15, Archimandrite Innocent was consecrated Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kurile and Aleutian Islands.

A remarkable preacher, St. Innocent said, “Whoever abounds in faith and love can have mouth and wisdom, and the heart cannot resist their serving it.”

By the Providence of God on January 5, 1868, St. Innocent succeeded Metropolitan Philaret on the Moscow cathedra. Under the care of Metropolitan Innocent, a Missionary Society was created, and the Protection monastery was reorganized for missionary work. In 1870 the Japanese Orthodox Spiritual Mission headed by St. Nicholas of Japan was set up, with whom St. Innocent had shared much of his own spiritual experience.

St. Innocent fell asleep in the Lord on March 31, 1879, on Holy Saturday, and was buried at the Holy Spirit Church of the Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra. He obeyed the will of God all his life, and he left behind a theme for the sermon to be preached at his funeral: “The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord” (Ps 36/37:23).

## 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 Cross**

O Lord, save Your people,

and bless Your inheritance!

Grant victories to the orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Your Cross//

preserve Your habitation!

### **Tone 7 – Kontakion for the Cross**

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;

it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.

The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;

for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell://

“Enter again into Paradise!”

*Instead of the usual Trisagion Hymn, we sing:*

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master,  
and Your holy Resurrection, we glorify.

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Epistle: Hebrews 4.14-5.6**

Brethren: Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses; He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You."

As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

## **Gospel: Mark 2.1-12**

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

# WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Anthony Leone  
David Envall  
Debra Caravana  
Anna Vahary

**Ev.Mem.** John Vozny ('46)  
Prokop Gabastik ('56)  
Olga Denysenko  
Michael Shendrick Sr.

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

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

Let us not be in doubt, O fellow humanity, concerning the hope of our salvation, seeing that the One who bore sufferings for our sakes is very concerned for our salvation. God's mercy is far more extensive than we can conceive; God's grace is greater than what we ask for."

- St. Isaac the Syrian

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Sunday evening was a beautiful Vespers and dinner with His Grace and faithful from around the Chicago deanery.

**Thanks go to Elizabeth Pederson and her crew** for making and presenting a delicious Lenten meal. This evening's Vespers will be hosted by Archangel Michael Church in Burbank, IL. If anyone would like to carpool over, let's make arrangements over coffee hour.

Following the veneration of the cross we will celebrate **40-day memorials for Anne Vahary and Debra Caravana** (Linda Svihra's cousin)

This Saturday we will celebrate the last **Memorial Liturgy** of Great Lent at our Cemetery Chapel and do a general blessing of the graves there. Please **write out a list of your departed loved ones** and bring them to the service to be remembered.

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.

Food collected in the month of April will go to the **Winfield Food Pantry**. Please leave donations by the church entrance.

Order forms for the **Pascha bake sale** are now available.

Please consider making an extra designated donation in the next couple of weeks for **decorating the Tomb for Pascha**.

## Mark your calendars:

- Mar 31: **Mission Vespers** at Archangel Michael Church in Burbank, IL @ 6pm
- Apr 3: **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts @ 6pm**
- Apr 5: **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts @ 10am**  
**Presanctified Liturgy** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 6pm
- Apr 6: **Memorial Liturgy** at St. Mary's Cemetery Chapel @ 10am
- Apr 7: **Mission Vespers** at Holy Resurrection Church in Palatine, IL @ 6pm
- Apr 20: **Lazarus Saturday:** Liturgy with children's procession @ 10am, then pancake breakfast and making palms
- May 3: O-Club **Trivia Night** to benefit Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana

## Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,852

Mortgage: \$143

## "Do I Have To?"

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

*"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:1-4).*

Obedience is an important virtue in the Orthodox Christian life. Our Lord tells us, "If you love me you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). But in today's secular society obedience is not a virtue. "No one can tell me what to do" or, "I did it my way." Our secular culture does not trust authority. Instead, we prize our rights as individuals to protect us from abuses of authority.

In family life Saint Paul tells children to “obey your parents in the Lord.” He tells parents “not to provoke your children to anger.” So how are we to understand obedience in the Orthodox Christian home? This is a good time to discuss this in light of the fact we just celebrated the feast of the Annunciation. The Most Holy Theotokos is, as the icon of the saved, the example of Christian obedience. “Lord, let it be to me according to Your word” (Luke 1:38).

On a simple level, obedience means to do what you are told. Yet how common is it for a child to tell his or her parent in anger, “Why do I have to do this?” The parent then may angrily respond, “Because I am your father (or mother) and I told you to!” Is this the only language children can understand? This is not the virtue of obedience. It might be a start to get us there. But there is something missing.

Can you picture Mary ever saying in anger to the Archangel Gabriel, “Why do I have to have this child?” only to hear Gabriel also angrily respond, “Because God told you to have it and you have to obey Him”? Can you ever imagine Jesus at Gethsemane in anger asking, “Father, why do I have to be crucified?” with the Father answering, “Because I am your Father, and I told you to, and you have to obey me!”

The virtue of obedience is formed in us over time as we seek to know Christ in the fullness of truth and to keep his commandments. Trust is the foundation upon which obedience is built. This virtue is especially relevant during the time of the Great Fast as we may learn to grow in obedience in a God pleasing manner. With the Sunday of the Cross coming up just after the Annunciation, both being the icons of Orthodox Christian obedience, I can’t think of a better time to further speak on this next week.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

# Glory to God for all things!