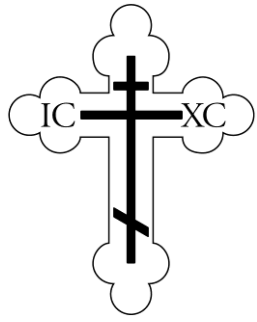
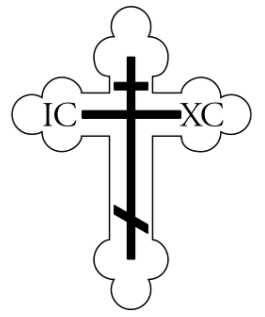


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



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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.**

August 4, 2019

The Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus (c. 250 A.D.)

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus and Antoninus, lived in the third century. They were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the pagan emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the gods. The seven youths were denounced by informants and summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ. Their military belts and insignia were taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign.

The youths fled and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor, upon his return, ordered the entrance of the cave to be sealed with stones, so that the saints would perish. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

Eventually the persecutions against Christians ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said, "How can there be a resurrection of the dead when there will be neither soul nor body, since they are disintegrated?" Others said, "The souls alone will have a restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even their dust would not remain."

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated discovered the stone construction and opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord then woke the youths from their sleep, and, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed, they sent Iamblicus to buy bread for them in the city. Iamblicus paid the merchant in coins bearing the image of the emperor Decius, and he was detained, as someone who might be concealing a horde of old money. They took him to the city administrator, who was also the Bishop of the city. Hearing the answers of the young man, the bishop perceived that God was revealing some mystery through him, and went with other people to the cave.

At the entrance to the cave, the bishop found the metal plaques with the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from

their long sleep, was demonstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead.

Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection. The relics of the Seven Youths remained in that cave and were venerated by pilgrims until crusaders in the thirteenth century brought them to Marseille, France, where they still reside in the Abbey of St. Victor.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell,
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illumined 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 Seven Holy Youths

Your seven holy martyrs, O Lord,

through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns
from You, our God.

For, having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//

Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion

When Christ God the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His
mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God
of all.

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Seven Holy Youths

The Seven Holy Youths renounced the perishing comforts of
this world,
preferring the eternal things of Heaven.
They were incorrupt after death and rose from the dead
and buried the snares of the devils.//
O Faithful, let us then honor them, singing a hymn of praise
to Christ!

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

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

∇ To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle: Romans 15.1-7

Brethren: We who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of

the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Alleluia verses (Psalm 90)

- ∇ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God!
- ∇ He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge! My God, in whom I trust!”

Gospel: Matthew 9.27-35

At that time, Jesus departed from there, and two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” And their eyes were opened.

And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!”

But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Pr. George Havrila	Eugenia Zaharenko ('17)
Michael Marchuk	Vasily Shepit ('44)
Mary Ann Wysoki	Mary Krisko ('79)
Alice Radivan	Helen Saptorsky (2016)
John Bogdalik	Anatol Meuch
Ev.Mem. Rose Rakotovich ('12)	Leon Timothy Barich

Health &	Elizabeth	Shaun
Salvation:	Tina	Gail
Mat. Anna	Adam	Maria
Archpr. Peter	Brittany	Snezana
Archpr. John	Jennifer	Barbara
Pr. John	Lennox	Thomas
Pr. Christopher	Laila	Carol
Mat. Jennifer	Paula	Jessica
Andrew	Alvin	Eduardo
Gideon	Kenneth	Christine
Kevin	Anna	Tom
Jon	Justin	Nicholas
Tanya	Nika	Natalie
Jovan	Leo	Barbara
Julia	Melissa	Kristin
Warren	Jonathan	Linda
Carol	Matthew	Phyllis
Tom	Benjamin	Kay

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this Wednesday please read Genesis 32-35. There will be a light supper served at Bible Study this week, following the **Supplication to the Theotokos**.

The women's Sodality is **canning peppers** again this year. Reserve yours on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

South Haven food pantry for August and September

Our annual **rummage sale** is this week on August 8 & 9. Please leave your items for sale in the Sunday School rooms.

Our neighbor church, Trinity Free Methodist, is hosting the annual **Fam Jam** this Saturday on August 10. This is an opportunity for local outreach. In addition to having an informational booth at the event, our church is pitching in coats, shoes, and children's clothing left from our rummage sale. So please bring in as many of these items as you can.

The **women's book group** is holding a one-day potluck lunch discussion on **Saturday, August 17** beginning at 10am. The book is *Every Day Wonders: Stories of God's Providence* by Fr. Michael Oleksa, and it is now available in the bookstore for \$10. For more information, see Mat. Jenna.

Following coffee hour on **Sunday, August 18**, the O-Club will host an **end-of-summer parish picnic** at the home of John and Mira Lukas. There will be swimming and games for the kids. The main course will be provided. Please bring a side dish.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 1-14: **Dormition Fast**

Aug 5: Great Vespers for the **Feast of Transfiguration @ 6pm**

Aug 6: Divine Liturgy for **Transfiguration @ 10am**

Aug 7: **Supplication to the Theotokos @ 6pm**

Bible Study @ 7pm

Aug 8-9: **Rummage Sale**

Aug 10: **Fam Jam**

Aug 13: **Lamentations for the Theotokos @ 6pm**

Aug 15: 10am Divine Liturgy for the **Dormition of the Theotokos**

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$2,009

Let's Get Down to Basics, part 2

A reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

Last week I began a list of concrete ways families can make the invisible God visible in daily family life. This week, I am adding a few more items to that list. To make the invisible God visible in the Christian home:

11. Attend Vespers on Saturday and Liturgy on Sunday.
12. Remind and teach your children of the significance of the weekend services as being all about the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.
13. Stop making excuses for not attending services.
14. Observe and attend as many as of the Great Festal services as you can. These also point to the Death and Resurrection of Christ.
15. Commit your family to an act of Christian service at least once a month.
16. Embark on a pilgrimage to a monastery at least once a year.
17. As nice as church camps are for your children, do encourage your parish priest to start a family camp weekend involving parish families going to camp.
18. Attend services at a sister parish when she is observing her patronal feast day.
19. Have your children read a spiritually edifying book at least once every quarter of the year.
20. Make a point of discussing the Sunday gospel readings and your parish priest's homily with your children.

I think there are more items I can add to the list, so look for another ten items in next week's reflection.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!