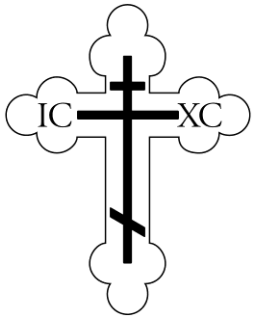
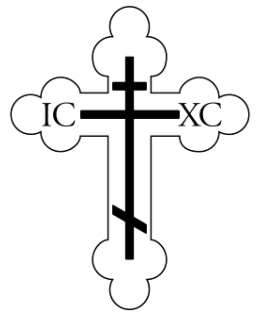


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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 23, 2020

Meatfare Sunday - The Last Judgment

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to

his deeds” (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God’s mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book *Great Lent* (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love; it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ’s brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt. 25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt. 25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat until Pascha, though eggs and dairy are permitted every day in the coming week.

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 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 – Kontakion of the Last Judgment

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, //
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

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 3 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 146)

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,
His understanding is beyond measure!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8.8 - 9.2

Brethren, food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25.31-46

Jesus said to His disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Carlos Abila

Charles Swallow ('68)

Ev.Mem Maria Svetcha ('33)

Josef Jolevski ('74)

Sergei Pugach ('42)

Leon Kiriluk (2015)

Health & Salvation:

Archpr. Peter

Jonathan

Paula

Pr. John

Matthew

James

Pr. Gregory

Gail

Joanne

Mat. Beverly

Maria

Michael

Pr. Christopher

Stacy

Joseph

Mat. Jennifer

Jeramie

Kathleen

Andrew

Olivia

Paul

Gideon

Parker

William

Dn. Nicholas

Barbara

Frederick

Kevin

Thomas

Janet

Jon

Jessica

Lea

Tanya

Eduardo

Hania

Jovan

Christine

James

Julia

Nicholas

Gerald

Warren

Natalie

N.Ill. Koen

Carol

Barbara

Miriana

Tom

Kristin

Nadia

Elizabeth

Linda

Charlene

Tina

Phyllis

Milka

Brittany

Kay

Daniel

Jennifer

Fred

Russell

Lennox

Larry

Brendan

Laila

Rollie

Benjamin

Paula

Joseph

William

Melissa

Mark

Alexa

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

At communion today, we will sing this hymn from Vespers:

Tone 8 stichera – For the Last Judgment

Woe, to you, O my darkened soul!

Your life is stained by depravity and laziness;

your folly makes you shun all thought of death.

How complacent you remain!

How can you flee the awesome thought of Judgment Day?

When will you change your way of life?

On that day your sins will rise against you.

What will your answer be then?

Your acts will condemn you; your deeds will expose you.

The time is at hand, O my soul.

Turn to the good and loving Savior!

Beg Him to forgive your malice and weakness, as you cry in faith:

“I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against You,

but I know Your love for all mankind.//

O good Shepherd, call me to enjoy Your lasting presence on

Your right hand!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our **newly installed parish council**. God give you strength and wisdom for the year ahead.

For **Bible Study** this week, the last until after Pascha, read Deuteronomy 31-34.

Plan to stay after coffee hour next week for **Forgiveness**

Vespers: We enter Great Lent together, asking for the Lord’s strength and forgiving one another every offense.

For Great Lent, the **women’s book group** will read **The First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journal through the Canon of St. Andrew**, by Frederica Mathewes-Green. Lunch and discussion will follow the 10am Presanctified Liturgy on the last day of Lent: Friday, April 10 (Western Good Friday).

Our church will host **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** this year for Northwest Indiana. Vespers is at 5pm with a dinner to follow. **Archimandrite Alexii Altschul** will be our guest Homilist. He is a convert to Orthodoxy, who served as a parish priest in Kansas City until the death of his wife. He became a monk on the Holy Mountain before returning to found Holy Archangel Michael & All Angels Skete in Weatherby, Missouri.

Our **Spring fashion show** “Tropical Paradise” will be Sunday, Mar 22 at Avalon Manor. Doors open at Noon with the Bake Sale. Luncheon is at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$40.00 and NOT available at the door. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, so please be generous with basket donations (\$150.00 value), cash donations, checks (to PTVM Church), or Scrip to help defray the cost of the baskets that are raffled at the end of the show. Baskets and donations are due Sunday, Mar 1. Please see Elizabeth Pedersen, Sherry Mizamakoski, Rosemary Velasquez, or Nada Buczek for tickets and information.

For the month of March, O-Club is putting together **Easter Dinner Baskets** for the Ross Township food pantry. We need the following items: Canned vegetables, boxed potatoes (+gravy if mashed), and cake icing.

The **Ladies’ Sodality** is collecting old but intact **eyeglasses** to be distributed by the Lions Club to those in need.

The Church’s January **financial statement and minutes** from the January meeting of the Parish council are available for viewing in the narthex.

To PTVM: “Thank you for the card and gift while during the first part of my recovery from surgery. I am grateful for you!”
- Dn Nicholas Denysenko

Mark your calendars:

Feb 26: Last **Bible Study** until after Pascha @ 7pm

Feb 27: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am

Mar 1: **Forgiveness Vespers** after coffee hour

Mar 2-5: **Great Canon of St. Andrew** Monday-Thursday @ 6pm

Mar 4: **Presanctified Liturgy** @ 10am

Mar 6: **Presanctified** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 6pm

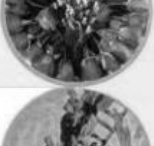
Mar 8: **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** at our Church @ 5pm

Mar 22: **Spring Fashion Show** at Avalon Manor @ 1pm

Last week’s offerings to the Lord: \$2,245

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2020

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th		<i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16th		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 1st FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th		<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 5th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 12th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 17th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 19th NO FASTING!		<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Glory to God for all things!