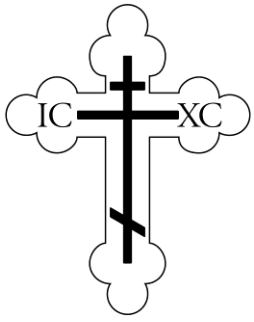
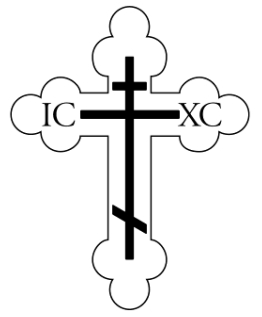


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



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Hall: (219)730-4698
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219)384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Confession available before or
after services.

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

July 12, 2020

Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra St. Michael of Maleinus

The Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilarion were natives of the village of Kallippi, near Ancyra, and they suffered during the time of a persecution under the emperor Trajan (98-117). St Proclus was put under arrest first. Brought before the governor Maximus, he fearlessly confessed his faith in Christ. The governor decided to compel the saint to submit himself to the emperor and offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. During his tortures, the martyr predicted to Maximus that soon he himself would be compelled to confess Christ as the true God. They forced the martyr to run after the chariot of the governor, heading towards the village Kallippi. Exhausted, St Proclus prayed that the Lord would halt the chariot. By the power of God the chariot halted, and no force could move it from the spot. The dignitary sitting in it became petrified. The martyr told him that he would remain unmoving until such time as he would sign a document with a confession of Christ. Only after this could the chariot continue on its way with the governor.

The humiliated pagan took fierce revenge on St Proclus. He commanded that Proclus be led out beyond the city, tied to a pillar and shot with arrows. The soldiers, leading St Proclus to execution, told him to give in and save his life, but the saint said that they should follow their orders.

Along the way to the place of execution, they met Hilarion, the nephew of St Proclus, who with tears embraced his uncle and also confessed himself a Christian. The soldiers seized him, and he was thrown into prison. The Martyr Proclus prayed for his tormentors and surrendered his soul to God beneath a hail of arrows.

St Hilarion was brought to trial and, with the same courage as St Proclus, confessed himself a Christian. After tortures he was sentenced to death. They tied the martyr's hands and dragged him by his feet through the city, wounded and bloody, and then they beheaded him three days after the death of his uncle, the holy Martyr Proclus. Christians buried them together in a single grave.

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 4 – Troparion for Sts. Proclus and Hilary

Your holy martyrs Proclus and Hilary, 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 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 2 – Kontakion for St. Michael

By your deeds you withered the arrogance of the flesh;
through enlightenment you gave wings to your agility of spirit.
You were revealed as a dwelling place of the Trinity,
Whom you now clearly behold.//
Blessed Michael, unceasingly pray for us all!

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 4 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom have You made them all!

Epistle: Romans 10.1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord

Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 8.28 – 9.1

At that time, when Jesus had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."

And He said to them, "Go."

So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So, He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Alice Sutko

Pr.Dn. Gregory Norris

Mark Gulab

John Sutko

Mat. Nadine Brown

Health & Salvation

Met. Theodosius

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Carol

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Ev.Mem. Simeon Barna ('44)

Peter Ozersky ('44)

Vera Zinkovick ('72)

Maria Cowsert (2017)

Brittany

Jennifer

Lennox

Laila

Paula

Melissa

Jonathan

Matthew

Gail

Maria	Joanne	Daniel
Stacy	Michael	Joanna
Jeramie	Joseph	Myah
Olivia	Kathleen	Michael
Parker	Paul	Wanda
Barbara	William	Prudence
Thomas	Frederick	Clay
Jessica	Janet	Ann
Eduardo	Lea	Janice
Christine	Hania	Carl
Nicholas	James	Victoria
Natalie	Nadia	Dushawna
Barbara	Milka	Daniel
Kristin	Daniel	Elizabeth
Linda	Brendan	Anthony
Phyllis	William	Janet
Kay	Kara	Daryl
Fred	Nathan	Diane
Larry	Sharon	Carla
Rollie	Michael	Susan
Joseph	John	Claudia
Mark	Vern	N.Ill. Brandi
Alexa	Olga	N.Ill. Aria
Paula	Mark	
James	Jerry	

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have entered “phase three” of **reopening the Church**. We can have up to 60 persons at one time, maintaining distance between groups. Our older members and those with complicating health conditions are still encouraged to take advantage of weekday Liturgies, which will continue. The next of these will be **tomorrow @ 10am for the feast of Sts Peter and Paul**.

The **O-Club** has begun assisting a new ministry: **MAKS Bags** was cofounded by our own Liz Wysocki to provide newly-placed **foster children with backpacks** full of essential and comfort items to help them adjust on their first night away from home. You can support this effort with an alms donation and/or by bringing in items from the list posted in the Narthex.

In September, **iconographer John Jurewicz** will begin work on a series of frescos in our Church of scenes from the Life of the Theotokos. This project is being sponsored by the **St. Clement's group**. The first icon will be **our feast-day, the Protection of the Virgin Mary**, on the west wall of the nave above the door. It has been the intention of the parish council for some years to have this icon done **in memory of Fr. Thomas Brown**, our former rector, as a token of our parish's appreciation for all of **Mat. Nadine's** work for our parish in the years since his passing. In the wake of her own recent passing, the council has decided to dedicate it to the both of them. Donations in any amount toward the icon may be made in their memory.

For **Bible Study** this week, read Acts 16-17.

Message from Elizabeth Wysocki: **Everyone is invited to Shaun's High School graduation Open House**. Come help us celebrate Shaun with yummy food and live entertainment Saturday, August 1, 2-6pm. RSVP by July 25 at 219-381-7591.

The annual **Golf Outing** has been scheduled for August 22. Information is available in the narthex.

Our **Fashion Show** has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 9. Lunch will be served at 12pm. Please contact Elizabeth Pedersen, Sherry Mizimakoski, or Nada Bucek if you need to return tickets or buy new ones.

Mark your calendars:

Jul 13: **Divine Liturgy @ 10am** for the Holy Archangel Gabriel

Jul 14: **Hall Committee @ 6pm**
Parish Council @ 7pm

Jul 20: **Divine Liturgy @ 10am** for the Holy Prophet Elijah

Aug 9: **Fashion Show at Avalon Manor @ 11pm**

Aug 22: **Annual Golf Outing**

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$3,610

Programs or Relationships?

a reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

I cannot stress how important it is that family life is the main place where Christian formation takes place. The epistle reading from Romans for last Sunday speaks to this theme:

But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification (Romans 6:17-19).

The first part of Romans Chapter 6 focuses on the reality of baptism; we die through the cross to the Old Adam of sin leading to death, and put on the New Adam, Christ, in the power of newly resurrected life in Him. The second half of the chapter speaks to how this new life in Christ is lived by the Spirit in the body. Once we were slaves to sin, and now we are becoming slaves to righteousness. With the same zealotry we pursued a sinful life, we are now with that same zealotry called to live a righteous, Godly life.

What Baptism has given us is the freedom to choose the path we are called to follow. The problem with this path is we can't always see what lies before us on that path, as it may disappear into the fog. We can only see the next few steps ahead of us and nothing more. Therefore, it is tempting to return to the past that we have been freed from, because we know how things will go. We may be miserable, we may be unhappy, but it is predictable. With freedom comes taking risks and taking responsibility for our choices. We don't know how things will turn out. The past can make us victims, where we are not to blame. Whereas when we live in the freedom of our new life in Christ, it enables us to become responsible for our actions and to realize our true humanity.

So the process of Christian formation consists of the need to "yield our members to righteousness for sanctification." The formation of Christ in the life of parents and their children is ongoing and never ending.

I often get a lot of “how to...” questions when it comes to helping one’s child to embrace Christ and the faith of the Orthodox Church. The answers are not to be found in a methodology or snap answers that have an immediate impact. Everything has to do with the quality of relationships parents nurture with their children, and the quality of relationships a family has with their parish and their parish priest. Is there an ongoing process of living an ascetical life through prayer and fasting? Is it motivated by hunger for a righteous way of living and to renounce those things that hinder the life of Christ being formed in us? This all is motivated by love, humility and repentance, and parents need to be living examples of this to their children. Baptism and Chrismation are sacraments that speak to the communal reality of the Church. We are not saved as individuals, who live in isolation from each other. We are saved as persons in communion with each other through Christ and His Holy Church.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

With love in Christ,

+Paul

Glory to God for
all things!