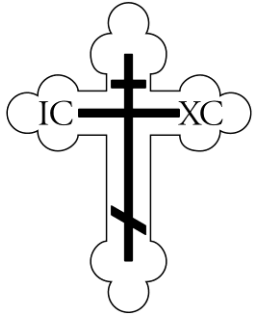
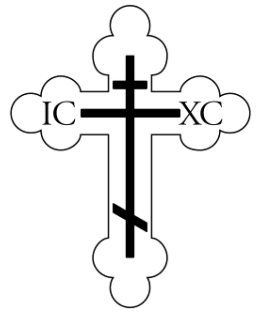


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## 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

Confession is available before or  
after Vespers or by appointment

# August 23, 2020

## Leavetaking of Dormition

**The account of the Dormition of the Theotokos from the Synaxarion:**

At the time of her falling asleep, the Virgin Mary was at Jerusalem. The Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulcher of the Lord, and here she offered up fervent prayer. In one such visit, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and announced her approaching departure from this life to eternal life.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay. After the prayer, the Most Holy Virgin offered incense, and John heard a voice from Heaven closing her prayer with the word "Amen." They understood the voice to mean the speedy arrival of the Apostles and the Disciples.

Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion, they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them

together. St John, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin's repose was at hand. Going in, they beheld her lying upon the bed and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard her prayer and fulfilled her heart's desire, and she began speaking about her imminent end.

Then came the third hour, when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering praise to God. She prayed in anticipation of her demise and of the arrival of her longed-for Son and Lord. Suddenly, she beheld the inexpressible Light of Divine Glory. Descending from Heaven was Christ, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers. Rising from her bed to meet the Lord, she bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave her soul into the hands of her Son and God.

The holy Apostles Peter, Paul, James and others of the Twelve carried the funeral bier upon their shoulders, and upon it lay the body of the Ever-Virgin Mary. St John went at the head. The other saints and a multitude of the faithful accompanied the funeral bier with candles and censers, singing sacred songs. This solemn procession went from Sion through Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane. When the procession reached the Garden, then amidst the weeping and the wailing began the last kiss to the all-pure body. Only towards evening were the Apostles able to place it in the tomb and seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. Through the wise providence of God, the Apostle Thomas was not to be present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down at the tomb and with bitter tears asked that he might be permitted to look once more upon the Mother of God and bid her farewell. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit him the comfort of venerating the holy relics of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven.

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

## **Tone 1 – Troparion for Dormition**

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.  
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.  
You were translated to life O Mother of Life, //  
and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

## **Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

Hell became afraid, almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with You, //  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

## **Tone 2 – Kontakion for Dormition**

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,  
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.  
For being the Mother of Life, //  
she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Tone 2 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)**

The Lord is my strength and my song;  
He has become my salvation!

## **Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos (Luke 1)**

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

## **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9.2-12 (Sunday)**

Brethren: 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.

My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the

Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.

If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

### **Philippians 2.5-11 (Dormition)**

Brethren: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Gospel: Matthew 17.14-23 (Sunday)**

The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

"The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

“So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

“So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’

“And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

### **Luke 10.38-42; 11.27-28 (Dormition)**

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me.”

And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!”

But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**N.Dep.** Barbara Gregorash

**Ev.Mem.** Timothy Kovaloff ('23)

Pauline Sheveleff ('36)

Sebastian Makarevich ('50)

Andrew Nepsha ('63)

Anastasia Parfeew ('72)

Harold German ('82)

Gary Martin (2006)

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Olivia	Jerry
Met. Theodosius	Parker	Michael
Archpr. Peter	Christine	Janice
Mat. Anne	Nicholas	Carl
Pr. Christopher	Natalie	Victoria
Mat. Jennifer	George	Dushawna
Andrew	Diane	Daniel
Gideon	Linda	Elizabeth
Kevin	Larry	Anthony
Jon	Rollie	Janet
Tanya	Joseph	Daryl
Jovan	Nadia	Diane
Julia	Daniel	Carla
Warren	Brendan	Susan
Tom	Sharon	Timothy
Tina	Michael	William
Brittany	Janie	Paul
Jennifer	John	Joseph
Gail	Vern	Claudia
Stacy	Olga	Tom
Jeramie	Mark	Beth

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

**Instead of *It is Truly Meet...* we sing this hymn for Dormition:**

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin:  
for birth-giving remains virginal, and life is united to death;  
a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,  
you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We continue to take precautions during the present **health crisis**. Everyone except celebrants and choir must be masked and maintain distance between groups. Our older members and those with complicating health conditions are encouraged to take advantage of weekday Liturgies. The next will be this Saturday, Aug 29 for the **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**.

For **Bible Study** this week read Acts 24-26.

**St. Mary's O-Club** will deliver meals to the **Merrillville Police Department** this Friday. Your donations marked "alms" continue to support our ministry of delivering meals to nursing home staff (and now first responders) to show our appreciation for their extraordinary service during the COVID pandemic.

**Thank you** to everyone who worked to plan and execute the **Golf Outing** yesterday. Everyone really went the extra mile to ensure that proper precautions were taken due to the pandemic. It was a wonderful day!

In two weeks, **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, **in memory of Fr. Thomas and Mat. Nadine Brown**. Donations in any amount toward the icon may be made in their memory.

Updated **parish directories** are available in the Narthex.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Aug 26: **Bible Study** via Zoom @ 7pm

Aug 28: **Great Vespers** @ 6pm

Aug 29: **Divine Liturgy** @ 10am for the **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**

Sept 5: Our turn to host **Feed the Flock** @ First Presbyterian Church in Merrillville

**Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$5,583**

## **A Sermon on the Dormition**

**by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann**

In August the Church celebrates the end of Mary's earthly life, her death, known as her Falling Asleep or Dormition, a word in which dream, blessedness, peace, calm and joy are all united.

Various stories, embellished with childlike love and tenderness, have come down to us from early Christianity, but

precisely because of their variety we are under no compulsion to defend the "historicity" of any one of them. On the feast of Dormition, the Church's commemoration and love are centered not on the historical and factual context, not on the date and place where this singular woman, this Mother of all mothers completed her earthly life. Wherever and whenever it occurred, the Church looks instead at the essence and meaning of her death, commemorating the death of the one whose Son, according to our faith, conquered death, was raised from the dead and promised us final resurrection and the victory of undying life.

Her death is best explained through the Dormition icon placed in the center of the church on that day as the focus of the entire celebration. The Mother of God has died and lies on her deathbed. Christ's apostles have gathered around her, and above her stands Christ himself, holding his mother in his arms, where she is alive and eternally united with him. Here we see both death and what has already come to pass in this particular death: not rupture, but union; not sorrow, but joy; and most profoundly, not death, but life. "After giving birth you remained a Virgin and after falling asleep you remained alive," sings the Church, gazing at this icon. "In giving birth you preserved your virginity, in falling asleep you did not forsake the world . . ."

The words of one of the deepest and most beautiful prayers addressed to Mary now come to mind. "Rejoice, bright dawn of the mystical Day!" (Akathist Hymn). The light which pours from the Dormition comes precisely from that never-ending, mystical Day. In contemplating this death and standing at this deathbed we understand that death is no more, that a person's very act of dying has now become an act of living, the entrance into a larger life, where life reigns. She who gave herself completely to Christ, who loved him to the end, is met by him at these radiant gates of death, and there at once death is turned into joyful meeting - life is triumphant, joy and love rule over all.

# Glory to God for all things!