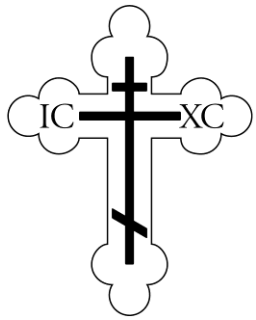
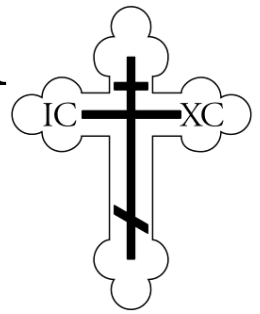


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



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



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(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219)384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before or
after Vespers or by appointment

Welcome visitors!
Please join us in the
parish hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of the Triodion: The Last Judgment

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,
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 – Prokeimenon of the Last Judgment (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

The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him: “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. Erin Brady

Nicholas Lile

Leo DuMoulin

Protopr. Daniel Hubiak

Vern Orr

Jeffrey Smith

Blythe

Ev.Mem. Nicholas Kapoff ('45)

Peter Timchuk ('54)

Nicholas Zeha ('57)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Margaret

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Tom

Tina

Jennifer

Gail

Stacy

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Christine

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Brendan

David

Sharon

Michael

Janie

Tanya

Christopher

Nina

Renee

Carissa

Cynthia

John

Olga

Mark

Jerry

Michael

Anthony

Janet

Daryl

Diane

Carla

Susan

Timothy

William

Paul

Joseph

Linda

Claudia

Elizabeth

Snezana

Nathan

Kara

Ryan

Thomas

Carol

Christine

Jon

Zoey

Dominic

Declan

Hudson

Ayden

Hyland

Jason

Ted

James

Pamela

Erin

Alexander

Ronald

Theodore

Robert

Craig

Chuck

Scott

Mark

Christine

Dale

Pauline

Mary

Jessika & family

Timothy

Lisa

Lois

Michael

Ivanka

Irina

Janice

Ken

Debbie

Jacqueline

Dara

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are again welcome to the hall after Divine Liturgy today for **coffee and light refreshments!**

We continue to take precautions during the health crisis. Everyone except celebrants and choir must be masked and maintain distance between groups. Those seeking to limit their exposure to large groups are encouraged to take advantage of **weekday services** with lower attendance.

Before venerating the Cross, I would ask our **newly elected council members** to please come forward and be formally installed.

Tomorrow begins **Cheesefare week**, the last days of eating dairy according to the fasting rule of Great Lent. Next Sunday is **Forgiveness Sunday**. Plan to stay after coffee hour for the Rite of Forgiveness and start Lent off on the right foot.

For **Bible Study** Wednesday, read **1 Kingdoms (1 Samuel) 26-31**.

Next Sunday, March 14, begins **Daylight Savings Time**. Please remember to set your clocks forward.

Mark your calendars:

Mar 3: **Bible Study** on Zoom @ 7pm (Last until after Pascha)

Mar 14: **Rite of Forgiveness** following coffee hour

Mar 15: **Clean Monday** (Beginning of Great Lent)

Mar 15-18: **Great Canon of St. Andrew** in 4 parts @ 6pm each night

Mar 19: **Presanctified Liturgy** @ 10am

Mar 23: **Parish Council** meeting @ 7pm

Mar 25: **Vesperal Liturgy for the Feast of Annunciation** @ 6pm

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$24,198 (\$21,009 from a bequest)

A Message from the Holy Synod for the Start of Great Lent

*Let us all joyfully begin the sacred season of abstinence;
And let us shine with the bright radiance of the holy
commandments of Christ our God,
With the brightness of love and the splendor of prayer,
With the purity of holiness and the strength of good courage.
So, clothed in raiment of light, let us hasten to the Holy
Resurrection on the third day,
That shines upon the world with the glory of eternal life.*
(Matins of Monday of the First Week)

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, Dearly Beloved:

We are preparing to pass through the gates of the Great Paschal Fast which will lead us through a season of life-giving repentance to the celebration of the Feast of feasts, Holy Pascha. We enter this season around the same time that society marks the one-year anniversary of the global outbreak of the coronavirus. The pandemic placed a heavy burden on us, not only during last year's Lenten journey and Paschal celebrations but throughout the remainder of the year, to the present day.

On May 1, 2020, we, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, issued a Pastoral Letter and a set of Directives to guide the Church in a gradual re-opening of our parishes, missions, and institutions. At that time, we expressed our common longing for the restoration of full liturgical and parochial life, and we understood that such restoration could take some time. One year later, our sentiments are conveyed in our recently-issued *Encyclical of Hope*, in which we offer our gratitude for the prayers, patience, and sacrificial efforts of the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Church during these difficult times.

Since last March, much has changed. The Church has responded in a unified manner to the pandemic by voluntarily accepting various safety restrictions for the protection and well-being of our brothers and sisters and our neighbors. The preliminary work that the Holy Synod called for last year has been

accomplished with great success, and it is evident that our parishes and institutions have adapted to the difficulties while maintaining fidelity to the fundamental and necessary liturgical and pastoral activities of the Church.

Some may argue that this adaptation was a capitulation to civil authorities or medical experts, or that it was an expression of faithlessness or fear. We propose, rather, that the Church as a body—the Body of Christ—responded with Christian love, long-suffering patience, and increased mercy in the midst of very difficult and painful circumstances. The members of this body have been stretched—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—through the very same ascetical effort that we strive for during Lent. In many ways, the trials of the pandemic have helped us to face the very realities that all must face: loneliness, suffering, isolation, our passions, and death.

Even in the midst of these trials, we have observed the sacrificial and creative efforts of our clergy, monastics, and faithful as they sought to maintain the integrity and beauty of our liturgical and pastoral life. Our initial restrictions may have seemed overly strict; however, the intent of those restrictions was not to diminish the glory of the Church or to “shut things down,” but rather to pave the way for an orderly re-opening and the full restoration of Church life.

Now we give thanks to God, because it seems that the rate of COVID-19 infections is decreasing across the United States, Mexico, and Canada. While we must remain vigilant, we look forward to the gradual, careful, and deliberate restoration of full liturgical and parochial life. We therefore re-affirm the following:

- The substance of the May 1, 2020 Synodal Directives remains in place. Their implementation is overseen by the diocesan bishop who is entrusted with the spiritual and pastoral care of his clergy, faithful, and monastics, protecting their well-being as he determines necessary, while always remaining of one mind with the Holy Synod.
- We must continue to adhere to the civil guidelines, beginning with those of our federal governments and then the particular and localized guidelines from the civil authorities, recognizing that there is a diversity from state to state, province to province, county to county, and even municipality to municipality. Civil authorities have largely been reluctant to

impose restrictions on the churches, but our communities are expected to respond in a way that is consonant with the public welfare. The Holy Synod, concerned for the health and well-being of all, intends to follow in the spirit in which those guidelines are given.

Finally, with the benefit of our experience during the past year, we encourage our faithful to take advantage of the blessing of the divine services of the Church in all care and safety, to continue to be vigilant, and to look to your bishop for guidance in this process. In this way, may we all greet the third-day Resurrection with faith, with hope, and with love.

With our paternal blessing and concern,

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington,
Metropolitan of All America and
Canada

+ Nathaniel
Archbishop of Detroit and the
Romanian Episcopate

+ Benjamin
Archbishop of San Francisco and
the West

+ Mark
Archbishop of Philadelphia and
Eastern Pennsylvania

+ Alejo
Archbishop of Mexico City and
Mexico

+ Melchisedek
Archbishop of Pittsburgh and
Western Pennsylvania

+ Irénée
Archbishop of Ottawa and the
Archdiocese of Canada

+ Michael
Archbishop of New York and New
York and New Jersey

+ Alexander
Archbishop of Dallas, the South
and the Bulgarian Diocese

+ Paul
Archbishop of Chicago and the
Midwest

Glory to God for
all things!