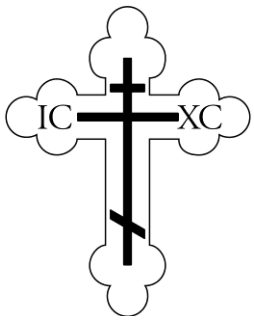
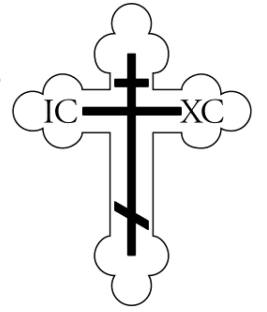


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
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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.

May 16, 2021

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women

The third Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers. This day commemorates when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint his body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. As the woman wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.

The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikodemos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in

linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses were there sitting opposite the sepulchre, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as St Luke says (24:10), who had followed Jesus during His earthly ministry, caring for the needs of the brethren. The Holy Myrrhbearers were the first to see the risen Lord and were given the honor of being the first to proclaim the Good News to others: the apostles.

Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Joanna, Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee, Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus, and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James and Joses. Today we also remember St Joseph of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple, and St Nikodemos, who together prepared our Lord's body for burial and laid Him in the tomb.



HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!
Through closed doors You came to Your Disciples, O Christ God.
Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit,//
by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Tone 2 – Troparion for Sts Joseph and Nicodemus

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 2 – Troparion for the Myrrhbearing Women

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: “The Lord is risen,//
granting the world great mercy.”

Tone 2 – Kontakion for the Myrrhbearing Women

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the
first mother.
You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles://
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Tone 8 – Paschal Kontakion

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the
fallen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

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

Epistle: Acts 6.1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15.43 – 16.8

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then he bought fine linen, took Jesus down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the

week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

So, they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Giancarlo Alexander
Louis Milton
Cheryl Chancellor
Joseph Starkey

Ev.Mem. Maria Pavlenok ('15)
Joseph Zuborow ('62)
Melania Barancyk ('71)
Peter Kowalenko (2009)

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
Daryl
Diane
Carla
Susan
Timothy
William
Paul
Joseph
Linda
Claudia

Elizabeth	Alexander	Jacqueline
Snezana	Ronald	Dara
Nathan	Theodore	Cindy
Kara	Robert	Daniel
Ryan	Craig	Laura
Thomas	Chuck	Dorothy
Carol	Scott	Vasiliy
Christine	Mark	William
Jon	Christine	Wanda
Zoey	Dale	Cindy
Dominic	Pauline	Mary
Declan	Mary	Linda
Hudson	Jessika & family	Ivanka
Ayden	Timothy	Susan
Hyland	Lisa	Denise
Jason	Lois	Valerie
Ted	Michael	Aaron
James	Janice	William
Pamela	Ken	Nicholas
Erin	Debbie	Melody

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

Paschal Theotokion (*Instead of "It is Truly Meet..."*)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.”

Rejoice, O you people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of your Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to the many who came out last Friday to beautify our Church grounds. **Thank you**, also, to the crew who served 62 meals at **Feed the Flock** on Saturday.

The **O-Club** will have it's monthly meeting during coffee hour today.

For **Bible Study** this week, read 2 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 2 Samuel) 5-8.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 5**, at Summertree Golf Course in Crown Point. This is a major fundraiser for us. The proceeds will benefit the Church's building fund and be used for the continuation, support, and development of various Church projects, which reach out to the community. Hole sponsors (\$125) or other monetary or prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to help in any way (including making desserts or appetizers), or to purchase banquet tickets (\$20 each), please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

Mark your calendars:

May 19: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

May 22: **St. Mary's cemetery clean-up @ 9am** (rescheduled)

May 25: **Parish Council meeting @ 7pm**

May 26: Divine Liturgy for the **Midfeast of Pentecost @ 10am**

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

May 31: **Memorial Day grave blessings** starting at St. Mary's @ 9am

June 5: **Annual Golf Outing: Tee off @ 8am, lunch @ 12pm**

June 12: **No Great Vespers**

June 18: **Red Cross Blood Drive @ 12pm**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$4,493

Shaking all of Creation

A reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)

These words from Acts Chapter 4 show how important prayer is in leading us to God the Father, who makes Himself known to us, through his Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Two things strike me in these verses from Acts. First, they were together in one place, and second, when they prayed, the place was shaken. This reminds me of our Lord’s teaching that if we have the faith the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains. I often wonder why our prayer life for most of us does not lead us to this experience of shaking the room we pray in, which in turn, leads us to be bold in our witness to Christ.

I am of the belief that the most popular sin many of us might take to confession is not praying as we should. Speaking for myself, that is my number one sin. I think that is why we don’t have this experience of prayer that is described in these verses from Acts. The fruit of prayer is to be energized and empowered in the Holy Spirit to do God’s will in humility and with gladness. St. John Chrysostom offers this brief comment on Acts 4:31: *What is “they were filled”? It means that they were inflamed and the Gift burned within them. “And they spoke the word of God with boldness. And the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul.”*

I want to encourage you as a family to pray together consistently and with a hunger and desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit. When we do, I believe, by grace, we can shake the world or place we find ourselves living in today.

Christ is risen!

The unworthy Archbishop Paul

Christ is risen!