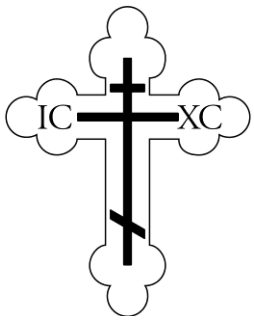
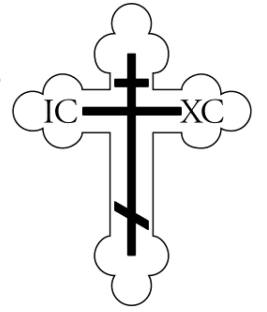


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## 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](mailto: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.**

# June 13, 2021

## Seventh Sunday of Pascha

# Afterfeast of the Ascension

## Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Jesus did not live with His disciples after His resurrection as He had before His death. Filled with the glory of His divinity, He appeared at different times and places to His people, assuring them that it was He, truly alive in His risen and glorified body: "To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the Kingdom of God" (Acts 1.3).

On the fortieth day after His passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified on the right hand of God. The Ascension of Christ is His final physical departure from this world after the

resurrection. It is the formal completion of His mission in this world as the Messianic Savior. It is His glorious return to the Father Who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work that He had given him to do.

The Church's celebration of the Ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the Ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The holy Scripture stresses Christ's physical departure and His glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which His disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit, Who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be His witnesses to the ends of earth.

In the Church, the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the "heavenly sanctuary . . . the Holy Place not made by hands" (Hebrews 8-10). He goes in order send the Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, making Him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.

## 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 – Troparion of Ascension**

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,

granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured

that You are the Son of God,//

the Redeemer of the world!

### **Tone 8 – Troparion of the Holy Fathers**

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!

You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

### **Tone 8 – Kontakion of the Holy Fathers**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//

It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

### **Tone 6 – Kontakion of Ascension**

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven:

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,

not being parted from those who love You,

but remaining with them and crying://

“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)**

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,  
and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

### **Epistle: Acts 20.16-18, 28-36**

At that time, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you. Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore, watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

### **Gospel: John 17.1-13**

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

# WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** George Samardzija  
Warren Rubel  
Helen Korotky  
Mary Weidemann  
Giancarlo Alexander

Louis Milton  
**Ev.Mem.** John Zinevich ('58)  
Mary Schevtchuk ('61)  
Ann Sikora (2011)

## **Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter  
Mat. Margaret  
Mat. Anne  
Pr. Christopher  
Mat. Jennifer  
Andrew  
Gideon  
Kevin  
Jon  
Tanya  
Jovan  
Julia  
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  
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  
Timothy  
Lisa  
Lois  
Michael  
Janice  
Ken  
Debbie  
Jacqueline  
Dara  
Cindy  
Daniel  
Laura  
Dorothy  
Vasiliy  
William  
Wanda  
Cindy  
Mary  
Linda  
Ivanka

Susan  
Denise

Valerie  
Aaron

William  
Jamie

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

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

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

After venerating the cross, we will serve the 10-year **panikhida** for Ann Sikora.

For **Bible Study** this week, read 2 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 2 Samuel) 17-20.

We are hosting a **Red Cross Blood Drive this Friday, June 18**. If anyone is available and would like to help man the check-in desk anytime between 12-6pm, please let Fr Jacob know.

This Saturday, the day before Pentecost, is the second **Saturday of Souls** that we will commemorate this year with a Memorial Liturgy at our St. Mary's cemetery chapel (4801 W. Ridge Rd., Gary, IN). Liturgy starts at 10am, followed by a general panakhida and mass blessing of graves at the cemetery. Bring the names of your departed loved ones on a piece of paper for remembrance at the litany for the departed.

### **Mark your calendars:**

June 16: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

June 17: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

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

June 19: **Memorial Saturday Liturgy** at St. Mary's cemetery @ 10am

June 21: **Divine Liturgy and picnic at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago** for their parish feast @ 9:30am

June 29: **Divine Liturgy at Sts Peter and Paul Orthodox Church** in Burr Ridge, IL for their parish feast @ 9:30am

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,061**

# The Paradox of Being Confined

A reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

*But about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." (Acts 16:25-28)*

This is one of several accounts from Acts that finds St. Paul and his companion Silas imprisoned, because St. Paul expelled an evil spirit from a woman who was being used by owners to make a profit from predictions she would make. St. Paul and Silas sing hymns while shackled. We hear about the earthquake, which led to the prison doors being opened, and anyone who was shackled being set free. Yet, Paul and Silas stayed where they were at; free to leave, but remaining. The jailer thought all were gone. He was about to kill himself when St. Paul replied, "We are all here!"

Most of us would have run from the prison when the option was there to escape. Yet Paul and Silas used this opportunity to preach the gospel to the jailer, who then took the both of them home to care for them. The jailer and his family were baptized that same evening. St. Paul's shackles resulted in freedom, but they did not seek to escape their confinement.

Sometimes being confined can be for our salvation and welfare. For example, when children are put in a time out for discipline, there is a learning experience that takes place. Children are instructed to think about why they were put in time out and what they did wrong. They are encouraged to think about how to behave differently the next time. Once children do this work with their parents, they are released from the time out. May we all come to better understand how confinement in many cases can lead to good things and not bad.

A blessed Feast of Ascension to you. With love in Christ,

† Archbishop Paul

Glory to God for  
all things!