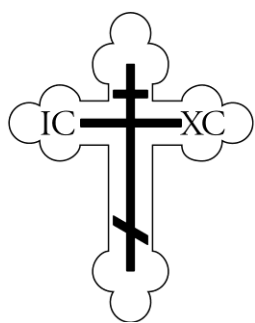
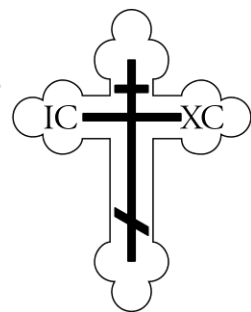


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



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



8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
www.ptvm.com

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.

July 11, 2021

Holy Greatmartyr Euphemia Blessed Princess Olga

The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia was the daughter of Christian parents, the senator Philophronos and his wife Theodosia. She suffered for Christ in the year 304 in the city of Chalcedon, on the Bosphorus opposite Constantinople. Priscus, the Proconsul of Chalcedon, issued a decree which required all the inhabitants of Chalcedon and the surrounding area to attend a pagan festival, in order to worship and offer sacrifice to the idol of Ares. He threatened grave torments for anyone who failed to appear. During this impious festival, 49 Christians were hidden in one house, where they worshiped the true God in secret. The young virgin Euphemia was among those who prayed there.

Soon their hiding place was discovered, and they were brought before Priscus to answer the charges against them. For nineteen days the martyrs were subjected to various torments, but none of them wavered in their faith, nor did they consent to offer sacrifice to the idol. The governor, beside himself with rage and not knowing any other way of forcing the Christians to abandon their faith, sent them to Emperor Diocletian for trial. He kept the youngest, the virgin Euphemia, hoping that she would not persevere if she were left all alone. Separated from her fellow-Christians, Euphemia fervently prayed that the Lord Jesus Christ would strengthen her for her impending ordeal. Priscus urged the Saint to offer sacrifice to the idol, promising her many rewards. When she refused, he ordered that she be tortured with knives, but she prevailed. He then ordered the soldiers Victor and Sosthenes to take the Saint to a red-hot furnace. But the soldiers, seeing two angels in the midst of the flames, refused to carry out the Proconsul's order and declared that they believed in the God whom Euphemia worshipped. Boldly proclaiming that they were Christians, Victor and Sosthenes were sentenced to be devoured by wild beasts. In the arena, they begged God to forgive the sins they had committed, asking the Lord to receive them into the Heavenly Kingdom. A Divine voice was heard, and the two soldiers entered into eternal life. The beasts, however, did not harm their bodies.

Saint Euphemia, cast into the fire by other soldiers, did not suffer. With God's help she emerged unscathed after many other torments. Finally, she too was sentenced to be devoured by wild beasts. However, none of the bears or lions attacked her, but only licked her feet. Finally, one she-bear wounded her foot, which bled slightly, and the Holy Great Martyr Euphemia died right away. As her soul departed, there was an earthquake. The city was shaken, the walls fell down, and the pagan temples crumbled. As Saint Euphemia lay dead in the sand, the guards and spectators fled in terror, so that the Saint's parents were able to take her body and bury it near Chalcedon.

One and a half centuries later, at a time when the Christian Church had become victorious within the Roman Empire, God deigned that Euphemia the All-Praised should again be a witness and confessor of the purity of the Orthodox teaching. In the year 451 in the city of Chalcedon, in the very church where the glorified relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia rested, the sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council took place.

The Council was convened for determining the precise dogmatic formula of the Orthodox Church concerning the nature of the God-Man Jesus Christ. This was necessary because of the widespread heresy of the Monophysites [“mono-physis” meaning “one nature”], who opposed the Orthodox teaching of the two natures in Jesus Christ, the Divine and the Human natures (in one Divine Person). The Monophysites affirmed that in Christ was only one nature, the Divine [i.e. that Jesus is God but not man, by nature], causing discord and unrest within the Church. At the Council were present 630 representatives from all the local Christian Churches. After prolonged discussions the two sides could not come to a decisive agreement.

The holy Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople proposed that the Council submit the decision of the Church dispute to the Holy Spirit, through His undoubted bearer Saint Euphemia the All-Praised, whose wonderworking relics had been discovered during the Council’s discussions. The Orthodox hierarchs and their opponents wrote down their confessions of faith on separate scrolls and sealed them with their seals. They opened the tomb of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia and placed both scrolls upon her bosom. Then, in the presence of the emperor Marcian (450-457), the participants of the Council sealed the tomb, putting on it the imperial seal and setting a guard to watch over it for three days. During these days both sides imposed upon themselves strict fast and made intense prayer.

After three days the patriarch and the emperor in the presence of the Council opened the tomb with its relics: the scroll with the Orthodox confession was held by Saint Euphemia in her right hand, and the scroll of the heretics lay at her feet. After this miracle, many of the hesitant accepted the Orthodox confession, while those remaining obstinate in the heresy were consigned by the Council to excommunication.

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 3 – Troparion for St. Euphemia

You brought joy to the Orthodox
and shame to the defenders of heresy,
for you confirmed what the Fathers of the Fourth Council had
correctly taught.

O glorious martyr Euphemia, fair virgin of Christ, //
entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy!

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 4 – Kontakion for St. Olga

Today let us praise God the Benefactor of all,
Who glorified divinely-wise Olga, //
that through her prayers, He may grant our souls remission of sins.

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 2 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)

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

Epistle: Romans 5.1-10

Brethren: Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God

demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gospel: Matthew 6.22-33

Jesus said to the Jews who came to Him: “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

“Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Loretta Molchan

Erik Tjaden

George Samardzija

Warren Rubel

Helen Korotky

Mary Weidemann

Ev.Mem. Pelagea Nepsha ('50)

Vasily Hobko ('51)

Elizabeth Krawczenia (2006)

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
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
Jeffrey
Aaron
William
Jamie
Karen
Dale
Joyce

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read 3 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 1 Kings) 1-4.

Longtime member of the parish and previous Sodality president **Loretta Molchan passed away** Tuesday. Her wake is today at **Calumet Park funeral chapel** from 3pm, ending with a **panikhida at 6:30pm**. Her funeral is tomorrow at the Church at 10am, followed by interment at Calumet Park cemetery.

We are still looking for help rebooting coffee hour since the COVID restrictions have been lifted. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex where you can let us know if you are willing to sponsor coffee hour on an upcoming Sunday. More than one person/family can share the load. We have volunteers already to make the coffee and set up tables. Sponsors will bring and set out food (as simple as you like), and make sure to stay until the end for clean-up/tear-down (there are always helpers!). For now, on any unclaimed Sundays, the O-Club has graciously offered to bring donuts.

Mark your calendars:

July 12: **Funeral for Loretta Molchan @ 10am**

July 14: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

July 18: **Blessing of Vehicles** after Divine Liturgy

July 20: **Divine Liturgy** for the **Holy Prophet Elijah** at Descent of the Holy Ghost in Merrillville @ 10am

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,655

On the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul

A sermon by His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

Our Lord has revealed to us many mysteries today in the midst of our sacred gathering, and the revelation of others will yet happen. Many words were spoken and will be spoken; but lest we lose some spiritual benefit, it is well pleasing to God to stop and take a moment to consider what has been given over to us in word and rite.

On this day, we commemorate the apostolic testimony of Jesus Christ. We remember in psalms, hymns, and readings the lives and

deeds of the two great Apostles of our Lord, Peter and Paul. And their testimony for us is this: the God who made heaven and earth in the beginning has acted decisively in time and revealed Himself to us in the person of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. When Paul says in his Second Letter to the Corinthians today that he is a Hebrew, an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, he reminds us that his mission is to the Gentiles. To be sure, this is a ministry for which he suffered many things; but the content of his mission is to bring all people, all nations to faith in the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. The apostolic labors of Peter and Paul that we hear about today are described by the Psalmist as “their words have gone to the ends of the universe” (Psalm 18:4), precisely so that all people can come to faith in Jesus Christ and His Father by the Holy Spirit.

In other words, we are not called to have faith in an unknown god who has remained hidden and unknown, or some sort of mythical deity with a creation story. No, Peter and Paul call us to the knowledge of the God who revealed Himself to Paul in his weakness, the God who revealed to Simon Peter that Jesus of Nazareth was in fact “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Such revelation was given not through “flesh and blood,” but through our Father who is in heaven (Matthew 16:16–17). It is the same God who reveals Himself to us today, brothers and sisters, according to the apostolic testimony and teaching, in the sacred words of the Holy Scriptures.

A pattern is given from this testimony for us to follow: initial faith stirs our desire for knowledge, and greater knowledge leads to greater faith. As Paul says elsewhere, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith” (Romans 1:16–17). The books have been opened, the words have just been read, the mystery has been revealed, knowledge has been given, as we have heard the “inexpressible words” of the “third heaven,” for which “it is not lawful for a man to utter” (2 Corinthians 12:2–4).

As such, let us give due honor to the great Apostles, Peter and Paul, giving thanks to God for their testimony, that we should come to the knowledge of “the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” and the Holy Spirit through faith—so that our faith is strengthened, and with such faith we may enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Glory to God for all things!