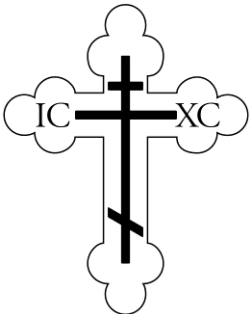
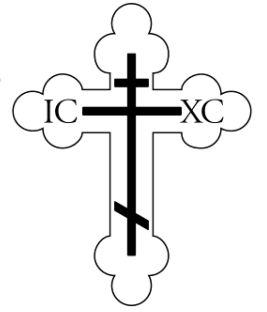


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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

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 25, 2021

Dormition of St Anna, Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos

Saint Anna was the daughter of the priest Matthan and his wife Mary. She was of the tribe of Levi and the lineage of Aaron. According to Tradition, she died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the reign of Saint Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in her honor at Deutera. Emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church, since Saint Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. It was at this time that her body and maphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,//

granting the world great mercy!”

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 4 – Troparion for St. Anna

Divinely-wise Anna,

you carried in your womb the pure Mother of God who gave life to
our Life.

Therefore, you are now carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven,
to the abode of those who rejoice in glory,//

where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who faithfully honor
you, O ever-blessed one.

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion

My Savior and Redeemer, as God,

rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.

He has shattered the gates of hell,

and as Master,//

He has risen on the third day!

Tone 2 – Patronal Kontakion

We celebrate the memory of the progenitors of Christ,

and with faith we ask their help,

that deliverance from every affliction be granted to those who cry out://

“Be with us, O God, Who in Your good pleasure glorified them!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom have You made them all!

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for St. Anna (Psalm 67)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel!

Epistle: Romans 10.1-10 (Sunday)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Galatians 4.22-31 (St. Anna)

Brethren, it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children – but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband."

Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Gospel: Matthew 8.28 – 9.1 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, where He met two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”

And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Luke 8.16-21 (St. Anna)

Jesus said to His disciples, “No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore, take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”

Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.”

But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Loretta Molchan

Erik Tjaden

George Samardzija

Ev.Mem. Michael Savich ('33)

Nikifor Olcich ('37)

Artem Elech ('49)

Tony Soneff ('54)

John Melnikow ('57)

Woodruff Goodyear ('98)

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

Jack
Joyce
Mary Ann
Artemis

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following veneration of the cross, we will serve the annual **Panikhida for Michael Marchuk.**

Today is **Fr Alin Munteanu's last Sunday** at our sister-parish Descent of the Holy Ghost. Fr Alin is a close friend of the parish, who helped keep our services going in the six months before Fr Jacob's arrival in 2018. This afternoon, starting at 12:30, there will be a going-away party for him at Descent of the Holy Ghost. Everyone from our parish is invited. Our council has prepared a card that is available in the narthex for anyone to sign. I will present the card to him at the party on behalf of the parish. We have also included a gift from the parish of airline credit so that he and Matushka Sonia can come back to visit some time in the not-too-distant future. If anyone would like to contribute directly to this gift for Fr Alin, a collection will be taken as you leave to help cover that cost.

The **icons of the Life of the Theotokos**, which were begun in October, are very near completion. The iconographer, John, will finish them in the coming week and start work on a few more icons on the east wall of the nave, which have been donated by a family of the parish in memory of their parents. These will be finished by the end of August. After that, if anyone would like to sponsor more iconography in the Church, please see Fr Jacob to discuss options. John has composed a series of sketches which represent his vision for what the Church might look like when complete, and these have been blessed by Archbishop Paul. The binder of these sketches will be left on the table in the narthex for any to look at. The price of a scene ranges from \$3,000 to \$13,000. Figures from \$350 to \$1,200.

There is no **Bible Study** this week.

Mark your calendars:

July 27: **Divine Liturgy @ St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church** in Summit, IL for their parish feast day @ 10am

Aug 1: **Blessing of Kolach in honor of St. Clement of Ochrid**
Dormition Fast begins

Aug 4: **Supplication to the Virgin @ 6pm**
Bible Study @ 7pm

Aug 5: **Great Vespers for the Feast of Transfiguration @ 6pm**

Aug 6: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Transfiguration @ 10am**

Aug 11: **Supplication to the Virgin @ 6pm**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,946

Whom Should We Believe?

A Reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

*By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior, death's dominion has been shattered; the devil's delusion destroyed. The human race, being saved by faith, always offers You a song.
(Lord I Call... Resurrection Verse, Tone 3)*

This verse from the Saturday Vespers service is a powerful message. Our Lord, through the Cross, has destroyed death's dominion, and the devil's delusion is destroyed. What is the devil's delusion? It seems that in his delusion, he believed he permanently held those in Hades captive, and there was no escape. According to the Law he may have been right, but according to the Truth who is Christ, the devil was blown away in an overwhelming, unanticipated defeat of his power over the dead in Hades.

Delusion is a powerful spirit that impacts our daily lives. It is difficult to make decisions about the truthfulness of what we read because others constantly challenge whatever is offered as true or credible. So in the end, no one knows what to believe.

I imagine this is a difficult issue families face as we hear about the rising cases of Covid taking place once again. How can we believe such authorities as the CDC and Health Departments when many repeatedly question the truthfulness of what is reported? How do we address delusion in this area? How do we keep a health care issue from becoming a political issue?

Instead of me coming up with answers, I would like any of you who have read this post to respond in the comments section. Tell me what you rely on to help you discern what you read (particularly

about the recent developments in the Pandemic) that you trust to be credible and truthful. Thank you.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

With love in Christ,

Archbishop Paul

To respond to Archbishop Paul's reflection, visit:

www.midwestfamily.org

Glory to God for
all things!