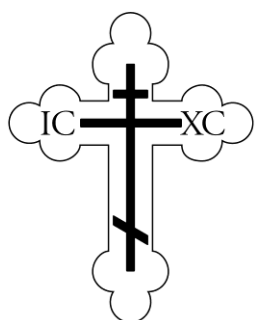
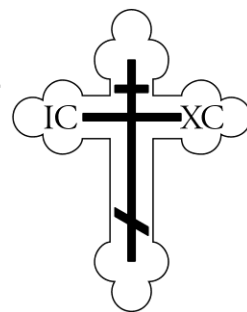


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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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.

August 1, 2021

Procession of the Precious, Holy, and Life-Giving Cross Holy Maccabean Martyrs

The origin of this Feast is explained in the Greek *Horologion* of 1897: "Because of the illnesses which occur during the month of August, it was customary at Constantinople to carry the Precious Wood of the Cross in procession throughout the city for its sanctification, and to deliver it from sickness."

On the eve (July 31), the Cross was removed from the imperial treasury and placed upon the Holy Table of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (which is dedicated to Christ, the Wisdom of God). From August 1 until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, there was a procession throughout the entire the city, and then the Cross was placed where all the people could venerate it.

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus on August 1, 988. In the “The order of services for the holy, catholic, and apostolic Great Church of the Dormition,” which was compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Rus, there is a similar explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Precious Cross there is a Cross Procession with the Sanctification of Water, for the enlightenment of the people, in all the towns and places."

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 1 – Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross//
preserve Your habitation!

Tone 1 – Troparion for the Maccabees

We beseech You, O Lover of mankind,
to accept in supplication
the suffering which the Saints endured for You, O Lord,//
and heal all our infirmities!

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!

Tone 2 – Kontakion for the Maccabees

Seven pillars of the Wisdom of God
and seven lampstands of the divine Light,
all-wise Maccabees, greatest of the martyrs before the time of the
martyrs,//
with them ask the God of all to save those who honor you!

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Cross

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power,
granting them victories over their adversaries//
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Cross (Psalm 27)

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

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for the Holy Maccabees (Psalm 15)

The Lord has shown the wonders of His will /
to the saints who are in His land!

Epistle: Romans 12.6-14 (Sunday)

Brethren, since we have gifts which differ according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

1 Corinthians 1.18-24 (Cross)

Brethren: The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is

the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2 (Maccabees)

Brethren: Through faith, the saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, since God has provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: Matthew 9.1-8 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

John 19 (selections, for the Cross)

When the chief priests and officers saw Jesus, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

Matthew 10.32-36; 11.1 (Maccabees)

Jesus said to His disciples, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'" Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Loretta Molchan

Erik Tjaden

Ev.Mem. Vasily Kuchta ('12)

Theodore Rakov ('15)

Dimitri Yalov ('24)

Julia Karsa ('49)

Kalenik Shafchuk ('57)

Trendafu Trupcheff ('58)

Steven Dufallo ('89)

Health & Salv.	Anthony	Mark
Archpr. Peter	Daryl	Christine
Mat. Margaret	Diane	Dale
Mat. Anne	Carla	Pauline
Pr. Christopher	Susan	Mary
Mat. Jennifer	Timothy	Timothy
Andrew	William	Lisa
Gideon	Paul	Lois
Kevin	Joseph	Michael
Jon	Linda	Janice
Tanya	Claudia	Ken
Jovan	Elizabeth	Debbie
Julia	Snezana	Jacqueline
Tom	Nathan	Dara
Tina	Kara	Cindy
Jennifer	Ryan	Daniel
Gail	Thomas	Laura
Stacy	Carol	Dorothy
Jeramie	Christine	Vasiliy
Olivia	Jon	William
Parker	Zoey	Wanda
Christine	Dominic	Cindy
Larry	Declan	Mary
Rollie	Hudson	Linda
Joseph	Ayden	Ivanka
Nadia	Hyland	Susan
Brendan	Jason	Denise
Tanya	Ted	Valerie
Christopher	James	Jeffrey
Nina	Pamela	Aaron
Renee	Erin	William
Carissa	Alexander	Jamie
Cynthia	Ronald	Karen
John	Theodore	Dale
Olga	Robert	Jack
Mark	Craig	Joyce
Jerry	Chuck	Mary Ann
Michael	Scott	Junia

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we bless the **Kolach in memory of St Clement of Ochrid**, patron of our St. Clement's Macedonian community, whose feast was this past Tuesday, July 27.

The **icons of the Life of the Theotokos**, which were begun in October with funding from St. Clement's, have been completed! Our iconographer, John, has started work on icons of Palm Sunday, St. John the Baptist and the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel on the east wall of the nave. 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 look at 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, depending upon size and complexity.

For **Bible Study** this week, read 3 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 1 Kings) 9-12.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 1-14: Dormition Fast

**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

Aug 14: Great Vespers with Lamentations for the Virgin @ 6pm

Aug 20: Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6pm

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,747

Glory to God for all things!