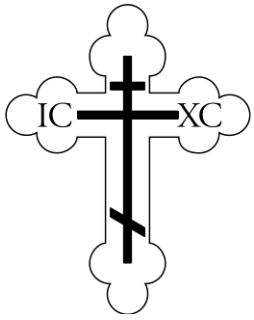
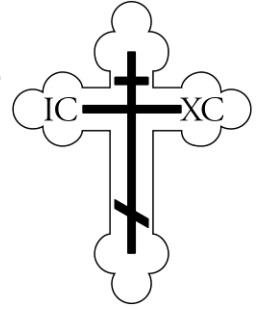


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
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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 15, 2021

The Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast of Dormition commemorates the repose or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. It also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos after her entombment. This is a feast of hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Your Cross You destroyed death.

To the thief You opened Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.

And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,

to proclaim that You are risen,//

granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 – Troparion of Dormition

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.

In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life O Mother of Life,//

and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion

The dominion of death

can no longer hold men captive,

for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.

Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:

“The Savior has come to those in faith;//

enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 2 – Kontakion of Dormition

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,

who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.

For being the Mother of Life,//

she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 7 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)

The Lord shall give strength to His people.

The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos (Luke 1)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 (Sunday)

Brethren, I plead with you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For 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.

Philippians 2.5-11 (Dormition)

Brethren: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: Matthew 14.14-22 (Sunday)

At that time, when Jesus went out, He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Luke 10.38-42; 11.27-28 (Dormition)

Now it happened as they went, that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me."

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!"

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Thomas Kurth

Loretta Molchan

Erik Tjaden

Ev.Mem. Anna Mishko ('73)

Ephrim Konowalik ('64)

Vasili Patelak ('39)

Katherine Evtinoff ('31)

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	Carol	Janice
Nadia	Christine	Ken
Brendan	Jon	Debbie
Tanya	Zoey	Jacqueline
Christopher	Dominic	Dara
Nina	Declan	Cindy
Renee	Hudson	Daniel
Carissa	Ayden	Laura
Cynthia	Hyland	Dorothy
John	Jason	Vasiliy
Olga	Ted	William
Mark	James	Wanda
Jerry	Pamela	Cindy
Michael	Erin	Mary
Anthony	Alexander	Linda
Daryl	Ronald	Ivanka
Diane	Theodore	Susan
Carla	Robert	Denise
Susan	Craig	Valerie
Timothy	Chuck	Jeffrey
William	Scott	Aaron
Paul	Mark	William
Joseph	Christine	Jamie
Linda	Dale	Karen
Claudia	Pauline	Dale
Elizabeth	Mary	Jack
Snezana	Timothy	Joyce
Nathan	Lisa	Junia
Kara	Lois	Anna
Ryan	Michael	Sandra

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

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

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin,
 were struck with wonder,
 seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin:
 for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death;
 a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,
 you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **O-Club** will meet today during coffee hour.

For **Bible Study** this week, read 3 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 1 Kings) 13-16.

Church School resumes on Sunday, September 12. Please register your children by recording their name and a parent's name and phone number for contact on the registration sheet in the Narthex.

We are beginning a **new ministry for the young girls** of our parish to complement the altar boys. They will be given responsibilities during the Divine Liturgy, including greeting at the door and serving the blessed bread and wine during communion. Please let Fr Jacob know if your daughter or granddaughter would like to serve. Girls should be members of the parish in communion and have had their first confession.

The **icons of the Life of the Theotokos** in memory of Archpriest Spiro Tanaskoski have been completed! Our iconographer, John, is now completing Palm Sunday and Archangel Michael. From this point on, if anyone would like to sponsor more iconography in the Church, please see Fr Jacob to discuss options. John has composed a binder full of sketches which represent our vision for what the Church might look like when complete. These are 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. A perpetual plaque will be installed in the entryway of the Church to commemorate those in whose memory icons are being completed.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 16: **Divine Liturgy at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Chicago** for their parish feast day @ 8am

Aug 17: **Hall Committee meeting @ 6pm**
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm

Aug 18: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Aug 20: **Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6pm**

Aug 26: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Sept 12: **First Sunday of Church School**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,456

A Sermon on the Dormition

by St. John of Kronstadt

“Magnify O my soul, the honourable Translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven.” (Refrain for the 9th Ode of the Canon)

Let us be happy, beloved brothers and sisters that we belong to the Holy Orthodox Church, worthily and rightly glorifying the Most Holy Sovereign Theotokos on this eminent day out of all the days of the year with special solemnity. There exists on earth many societies and entire governments that do not consider the need nor the obligation to call upon and glorify the Queen of heaven and earth, the Mother of Our Divine Lord Jesus Christ, and other saints and angels; to submissively serve Her lovingly, as the true Mother of God. Sadly in Russia nowadays we have heretics (among us) who actively dishonor the Mother of God, the saints, their icons, their relics and their festivals. O, if only they also unanimously with us glorified the worthy Queen of heaven and earth!

Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honorable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation - she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honorably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the center of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.

We say that our dead have “fallen asleep” or “passed away.” What does this mean? This means that for the true Christian there is no death. Death was conquered by Christ on the cross. But there is a translation, i.e, a rearrangement of his condition, i.e. his soul is in another place, in another age, in another world beyond the grave, eternal, without end, that is what is meant by “falling asleep”. It is as if it were a temporary dream after which, by the voice of the Lord and the fearful yet wonderful trumpet of the Archangel, all the dead shall live and come forth each to his place: either to the resurrection

of life or to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:29). This is what the Christian means by translation. We should be ready for this translation, for the day of the general resurrection and judgment, for this indescribable world event, recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

This preparation for the meeting of the heavenly King before the dread judgment seat, after death, is essentially the person's preparation throughout the whole of his life. This preparation means a change in all his thoughts, and the moral change of all his being, so that the whole man would be pure and white as snow, washing clean everything that defiles the body and spirit, so that he is adorned with every virtue: repentance, meekness, humility, gentleness, simplicity, chastity, mercifulness, abstention, spiritual contemplation, and burning love for God and neighbor.

Our preparation for meeting the heavenly King, and for the inheritance of eternal life in heaven, should consist of these things. The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact the human soul is more spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in it and will fill it with Himself. "We will come to him and make our dwelling with him" (John 14:23), says the Lord about the souls who love Him.

And so, ye participants in the Christian feasts, and especially the present feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, ye who are brightly adorned with every virtue and translated to the heavenly kingdom, to Her Son and God, proclaim to each and every one about preparing their souls to be the dwelling place of the Lord, about continual repentance, and about the incorruptible adornment of Christian virtue. Let your death also be unashamed and peaceful, serving as the pledge of a good answer at the dread judgment seat of Christ. Amen.

Glory to God for all things!