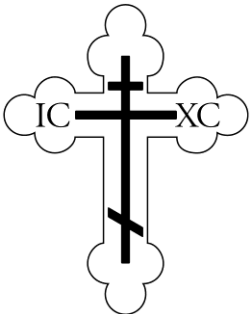


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

September 19, 2021

Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedon († c. 280 AD)

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine the Great sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. St Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body.

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found. Christians came in huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

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 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 8 – Troparion for the Martyrs

God praised in Trinity has glorified a trinity of martyrs:

Trophímus, Sabbátius, and Dorýmedon.

By their faith, they overthrew the adversary./.

Through their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us!

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 4 – Kontakion of 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 7 – Prokeimenon for the Cross (Psalm 98)

Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Epistle: Galatians 2.16-20 (for the Cross)

Brethren: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1 Corinthians 16.13-24 (Sunday)

Brethren: Watch! Stand fast in the faith! Be brave; be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints –

that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore, acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema. Maranatha! (Lord, come!) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel: Mark 8.34 – 9.1 (for the Cross)

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

Matthew 21.33-42 (Sunday)

Jesus spoke this parable: “There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

“Again, he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

“But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Gordon McCune
Archpr. Anastasy Richter
Archpr. Sergei Glagolev
Mark Bertram
Mat. Tresja Denysenko
Charles Swallow

Ev.Mem. Ann Sobal ('68)
John Bochorov ('37)
Kuzma Kornikov ('37)
William Shepit ('36)
Suzanne (2001)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Margaret
Mat. Anne
Mat. Trudi
Michal
Annika
Sarah
Archpr. Michael
Pr. Christopher
Mat. Jennifer
Andrew
Gideon
Dn. Nicholas
Sophia
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
Carol
Christine
Jon
Zoey
Dominic
Declan
Hudson
Ayden
Hyland
Jason
Ted
James
Pamela
Erin

Alexander	Ken	Valerie
Ronald	Debbie	Jeffrey
Theodore	Jacqueline	Aaron
Robert	Dara	William
Craig	Cindy	Jamie
Chuck	Daniel	Karen
Scott	Laura	Dale
Mark	Dorothy	Jack
Christine	Vasiliy	Joyce
Dale	William	Junia
Pauline	Wanda	Anna
Mary	Cindy	Sandra
Timothy	Mary	Linda
Lisa	Linda	Stephen
Lois	Ivanka	Megan
Michael	Susan	
Janice	Denise	

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read 4 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 2 Kings) 7-10.

On **Saturday morning, September 25**, our bakers will offer a **tutorial on baking the prosphora** (offering bread) for any who would like to learn. We will start at 9am and finish with lunch together, which will be provided. Please let Elizabeth Pedersen or Fr Jacob know if you plan to attend, so that we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Congregations of Merrillville is holding a luncheon **fundraiser for the Feed the Flock** ministry on Saturday, September 25. Details are on fliers in the narthex. See Mary Ann Bertram or Janet Andrus during coffee hour for tickets.

Our **parish feast day and anniversary celebration** are around the corner! Archbishop Paul will join us for the services of the Protection of the Virgin Mary on September 30 and October 1. Great Vespers with a Lity will begin at 6pm followed by a reception in our hall. Divine Liturgy is at 9am, followed by a luncheon. Fr Peter and Mat. Cynthia Bodnar will be in town for the celebration and to receive an award from His Eminence. On Sunday, October 3 we will hold our 110th Anniversary celebration following the Divine Liturgy

with a catered dinner. No tickets necessary, but there will be a free-will offering taken and a cash bar to help cover the expense.

The **icons of the Life of the Theotokos** in memory of Archpriest Spiro Tanaskoski have been completed. From this point on, if anyone would like to sponsor more iconography in the Church, please see Fr Jacob to discuss options. Right now, icons of Archangel Michael, St. John the Baptist, and Thomas Sunday are slated to be done on the ground level of our East Wall by the end of this year. 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:

Sept 21: **Hall Committee meeting @ 6pm**
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm

Sept 22: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Sept 23: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Sept 25: **Prosphora baking tutorial @ 9am**
40-Day Panikhida for Mat. Tresja Denysenko @ 2:30pm

Sept 30: **Great Vespers with Archbishop Paul for our Parish Feast @ 6pm**, followed by a reception

Oct 1: **Feast of the Protection of the Virgin Mary: Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Paul @ 9am**

Oct 3: **110th Anniversary Celebration** dinner following Divine Liturgy

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$5,116

Remembering 9/11: Twenty Years Later **A Reflection by His Beatitude our Metropolitan Tikhon**

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we remember the day as a tragedy in the truest sense of the word. It is fitting to reflect on this catastrophe with great sorrow, sobriety, and prayer.

We remember the lives that were cut short in the collapse of the towers of the World Trade Center, the damage to the Pentagon, and the wreckage of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. There were almost three thousand people who never came home, taken from their family and friends who were left to grieve and try to make sense of their loss. Many more were injured and forever scarred, both physically and emotionally. Even those who were not present at the sites of the attacks have vivid imagery of that day come into their minds unbidden.

The repercussions of that terrible day have unfolded and consequences have been felt in all corners of the world. The pain of the terrorist attacks has led to the pain of the past two decades where we have seen “wars and rumors of wars” (Matt. 24:6).

On this somber occasion I encourage you to consider with renewed faith the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Soon we will celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Look to the Life-giving Cross for healing, as God told the Hebrew people to look to the bronze serpent in the wilderness (Num. 21:4-9). Fixing our gaze on the Cross cures the serpent’s bite and reminds us that even great suffering cannot separate us from the love of God.

Recall that the Cross, an instrument of death, was revealed by God as the “invincible trophy” (Kontakion of the Cross) which puts evil to flight. By virtue of the Cross, the power of God is manifest and enables us to do difficult things — even forgiving those who carried out these appalling attacks.

Great tragedies in our world call us to repentance, and anniversaries like today remind us that we are sojourners and exiles here on earth (1 Pet. 2:11). We look with hope towards the Kingdom of God. Always do we, as St. Paul remarked, “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one” (Heb 11:16).

Let us continue to remember in prayer all those who lost their lives, the survivors who continue to live with disability, the first-responders who carry emotional burdens of that day, and the families and friends of the victims who have suffered their grief over these twenty years.

May the Lord bring His comfort to all.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada