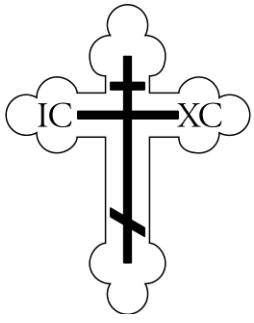
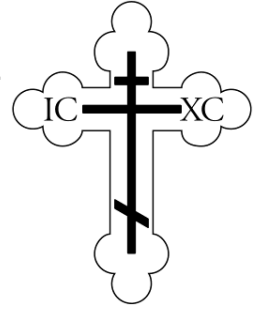


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

October 31, 2021

Holy Hieromartyr John of Chicago

Saint John was born to a priest's family on July 13, 1871. He enrolled in the Ryazan Seminary where he showed great promise, excelling in his studies. He furthered his education by enrolling in the prestigious St. Petersburg Theological Academy, completing his formal education and graduating in 1895. Very shortly after graduating from the Academy, St. John married. Later that summer, on August 27, 1895, at the St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg, he was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop NICHOLAS (Ziorov) of the Aleutians and Alaska.

Saint John eagerly expressed a desire to be a missionary priest in far-off America and shortly thereafter he was granted a transfer to the United States and assigned to be the first permanent priest to serve St. Vladimir's Church—eventually to become Holy Trinity Cathedral. St Vladimir's Church community did not have its own

church building yet. At the direction of St. Tikhon, St. John contracted architect Louis Sullivan to design a temple for the community to use, and construction began in April 1902. He sought and received donations from Tsar Nicholas II and wealthy Chicagoans including Harold McCormick and Charles R. Crane, the American Minister to China. For the laying of the cornerstone, a choir from St. Mary's in Minneapolis under the direction of Professor Zaichenko came for the august occasion and he personally oversaw the construction. In 1903, St. Tikhon consecrated the newly completed building.

While serving St. Vladimir's, our holy father John also devoted great efforts toward the establishment of other churches. He performed the first services for the Orthodox community on Chicago's south-west side which eventually would become Archangel Michael Orthodox Church. Beyond the immediate vicinity of Chicago, St. John was also instrumental in forming numerous other parishes including Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Madison, IL (1900), Three Saints in Streator, IL, St. Nicholas in Joliet, IL (1907), in addition to Buffalo, NY and Heartshorn, OK.

In 1907, he returned to Russia and due to his skills in education he was assigned to teach catechism in the schools of Narva, Estonia, where, as in America, the Orthodox were a minority. In 1916, he was assigned to St. Catherine's Cathedral in Tsarskoye Selo (near Petrograd), where his skillful and moving sermons attracted many people.

On October 30, 1917, as the town was under attack by the Bolshevik forces during the turmoil of the Russian Revolution, people thronged to the churches seeking consolation. The clergy conducted a prayer service and procession throughout the town to pray for peace. The following day, the town was seized by the Bolsheviks, and St. John was arrested, taken to the outskirts of town and shot to death. He thus became the first clergy martyr of the Russian Revolution in 1917. Several days following his death, St. John was buried in the crypt of St. Catherine's Cathedral.

On December 4, 1994, St. John was canonized by the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church. In Russia, he is venerated as the first of the new martyrs of the 20th century, while in America, he is additionally remembered as a missionary and inspired preacher.

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 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 1 – Troparion for St. John of Chicago

You were revealed to all as a true shepherd
O Hieromartyr John of Chicago,
for you nurtured your people in the Orthodox Faith,
guiding them by word and deed on the path of salvation,
and defended the Faith even unto the shedding of your blood.
Therefore we your spiritual children cry out in thanksgiving:
“Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you the Martyr’s ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who through you grants mercy to all!”

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 3 – Kontakion for St. John of Chicago

Now the holy Hieromartyr is glorified,
for he took up his cross and followed Christ.
In so doing, he gave us a model of true discipleship.
Therefore, let us cry aloud to him://
Rejoice, O Father John, the glory of priests!

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)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St. John (Psalm 149)

Let the saints exult in glory, / let them sing for joy on their couches!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11.31 – 12.9

Brethren: The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Hebrews 13.7-16

Brethren: Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Therefore, let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Gospel: Luke 8.26-39

At that time, Jesus sailed with his disciples to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So, they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

Luke 12.32-40

Jesus said to His disciples: "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks, they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

"But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Gorgi Talevski
Ev.Mem. John Kowal ('42)
John Kononovich ('59)
Anna Christoff ('63)
Walter Martin ('80)

Dora Bursov ('88)
Pavle Lumbarkoski ('93)
Stephania Kostelnik ('94)
Gene Eaton (2015)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Archpr. Moses
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
Janie
Michael
David
Sharon
Mark
Jerry
Michael
Anthony
Daryl
Diane
Carla
Susan
Timothy
William
Paul
Joseph
Linda
Claudia
Elizabeth
Snezana
Nathan
Kara
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
Cindy
Daniel
Laura
Dorothy
Vasiliy
William
Wanda
Cindy
Mary
Linda
Ivanka
Susan
Denise
Valerie
Jeffrey
Aaron
William
Jamie
Karen
Dale
Jack
Joyce
Junia
Anna
Sandra

Linda
Stephen
Megan

Ryan
Carol
William

Jim
N.Ill. Emmalee

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will have special **fall activities and games** for the Sunday School kids today after Liturgy. We invite anyone interested to participate. There will be caramel apple decoration, fall crafts, and other goodies.

The O-Club will meet briefly to plan for our upcoming **Feed the Flock on Saturday, November 13.**

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

Our **Thanksgiving Bake Sale** is coming up. **Orders will be due by Nov 17**, with pick-up during coffee hour on Sunday, Nov 21. Consider donating supplies (flour, butter, eggs, sugar...) or helping out on bake days Nov 18-20. See Elizabeth Pederson for more details.

Our **Angel Tree** is up early this year! We have our wish lists from the Salvation Army, who have asked to have the gifts a little earlier than in the past—by Friday, December 3. That means the last Sunday for dropping gifts at the Church will be November 28—just four weeks from now.

Mark your calendars:

Nov 4: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Nov 14: **Feed the Flock** at First Presbyterian Church of Merrillville
@ 11am

Nov 15: **First Day of Advent**

Nov 21: **Thanksgiving Bake Sale pick-up** after Divine Liturgy

Nov 25: **Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy @ 9am**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,322

Glory to God for all things!