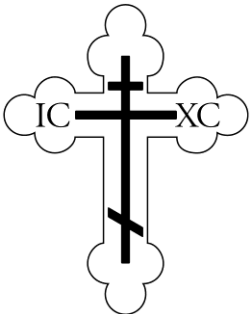
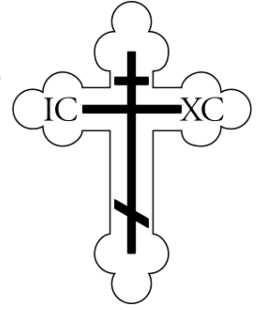


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
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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.

March 13, 2022

1st Sunday of Great Lent:

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

*On Sundays in Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of
St. Basil the Great.*

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those who destroyed the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm. The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilos, the spouse of St Theodora, who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time

of Patriarch Methodios. Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, St Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

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 2 – Troparion of Orthodoxy Sunday

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You:
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//
by coming to save the world.”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of Orthodoxy Sunday

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to
be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to
divine beauty.//
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for Orthodoxy Sunday (Daniel 3)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Epistle: Hebrews 11.24-26, 32 – 12.2

Brethren: By faith Moses, when he came of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith 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 release, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mocking and scourging, 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 had provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also 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 to 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: John 1.43-51

At that time, Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the One Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote about – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. William Koveck

Helen Homyk

Milica Djankovich

Joseph Exl

Barbara Krieg

Ev.Mem. Olga Marchuk (2007)

Anastasia Djacenko ('94)

Mitre Manilovski ('76)

Vasily Pugach ('20)

Anastasia Mishevich ('13)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. Theodore

Mat. Margaret

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Tom

Tina

Jennifer

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
Carol
Snezana
Ryan
Nathan
Kara
Christine
Jon
Zoey
Dominic
Declan
Hudson
Ayden
Hyland
Jason
Ted

James
Pamela
Alexander
Ronald
Theodore
Robert
Craig
Chuck
Scott
Mark
Christine
Dale
Pauline
Mary
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
Anna
Sandra
Linda
Stephen
Megan
Jim
Camille
John
Martha
Mark
Michelle
Irene
Michelle
Erika
Luke
Jo
Stephanie
Mary Ann
Robb
Desiree
Hanna
Jaroslava
Andrew
Andrew
Vadim
Hanna
Helen Maria
Alex

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

Petitions at the Augmented Litany:

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Your peace and Your mercy in the midst of the great suffering of Your people. Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of the Church, so that by Your goodness, peace may return to all peoples; O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

We also pray You, O Lord our God, to remember and have mercy on our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Russia and Ukraine, who are involved in violent conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

At the end of Divine Liturgy, we will hold the **Triumph of Orthodoxy procession** in the nave, singing the Troparion (pg. 2 above). At the end of the procession we proclaim the **Synodikon of Orthodoxy**:

Priest: The Church of God has established that on this day we give yearly thanksgiving to God and reaffirm the dogmas of piety. Therefore, following the sayings of the prophets, honoring the exhortations of the apostles, and being instructed by the histories of the Gospels, we celebrate this day of consecration. For Isaiah says: "Be consecrated to God, you islands," by which he means the churches of the many nations, which are not the structures and embellishments of the temples, but rather the gathering of the faithful who serve God with hymns and praise. The Apostle also exhorts us "to walk in newness of life" and that the "new creation in Christ" be renewed. For He has delivered us who are unworthy from adversity, redeeming us from those who afflicted us. And He has established the free proclamation of piety, the veneration of icons, and this Festival which brings all of us salvation. For in the icons we see what our Master bore for us: the Cross, the grave, hell slain and pillaged; we see the trials of His witnesses and their crowns of salvation, which our First Prize-giver and Contest-master and Crown-bearer wrought in the midst of the earth. Today we celebrate this festival; we rejoice together with prayers and processions, and we cry out with psalms and hymns:

Choir: **Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God, who alone does wonders!**

Priest: For You overthrew those who slighted Your glory and showed them to be cowards and fugitives who were disrespectful and impudent against the icons. Therefore, as the prophets have seen, as the apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the teachers have set forth in dogmas, as has been made known to the whole world, as Grace has shone forth, as the truth was demonstrated, as falsehood has been banished, as wisdom emboldened, as Christ has awarded: thus we believe, thus we speak, thus we preach Christ our true God and His saints, honoring them in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in temples, and in icons, worshipping and respecting Christ as God and Master and honoring the Saints with relative adoration, because of our common Master, for they are His genuine servants.

People: **This is the Faith of the apostles! This is the Faith of the fathers! This is the Faith of the Orthodox! This is the Faith that has established the world!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we **formally installed the 2022 parish council**, elected at our annual meeting last month. Axios! God bless your service.

After venerating the cross, we will celebrate the **3-year memorial for Anne Vahary**.

His Eminence **Archbishop Paul was diagnosed with Multifforme Glioblastoma**, an aggressive, incurable brain cancer. The clergy and faithful of the diocese are asked to increase their prayers for His Eminence during this trying time.

Our **special collection for Ukrainian refugees** last week raised \$779. As of March 8, the OCA had collected just over \$433,000, which has been transferred to the Orthodox Church of Poland's humanitarian agency ELEOS. Donations will continue to be received through March 16 at www.oca.org/relief.

This evening at 6:30pm, the Chicagoland **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** service will be held at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, IL.

The **Chicago Deanery Lenten Sunday Vespers** cycle is returning this year after Covid. The first Deanery Vespers will be celebrated next

Sunday at Sts Peter and Paul Church in Burr Ridge, IL at 6pm. Our parish will host the deanery for Vespers on Sunday, April 3.

The movie **Man of God**, based on the life of **St. Nectarios of Aegina**, is showing in our area the evening of March 21 at AMC in Schererville and on both March 21 and 28 at Cinemark in Valparaiso.

Mark your calendars:

- Mar 13: Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, IL @ 6:30pm**
- Mar 15: Parish Council meeting @ 7pm**
- Mar 16: Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6pm (Lenten potluck after)**
- Mar 17: Faith Enrichment @ 10am**
- Mar 18: Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am**
- Mar 20: Deanery Lenten Vespers at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Burr Ridge, IL @ 6pm (meal to follow)**
- Mar 25: Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Annunciation @ 10am
Blood Drive 12p-6p**
- Mar 27: Deanery Lenten Vespers at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine, IL @ 6pm (meal to follow)**
- Apr 2: Memorial Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's cemetery @ 10am**
- Apr 3: Our Parish hosts Deanery Lenten Vespers @ 6pm (meal to follow)**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$5,780

**Glory to God for
all things!**