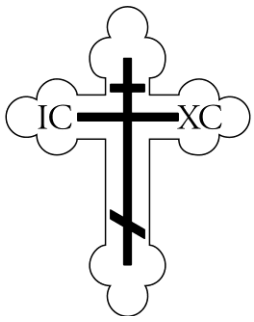
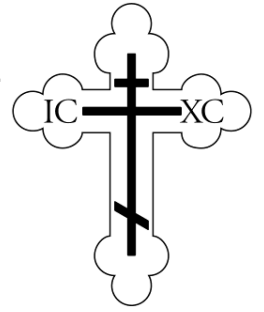


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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
(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.

April 3, 2022

4th Sunday of Great Lent:

St John of the Ladder

On Sundays in Great Lent we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, on pg. 101 of the black Divine Liturgy Book

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Climacus, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. In this book, the Igumen (abbot) of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom. The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God. After writing The Ladder at the request of Igumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (c. 603 AD).

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,

you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.

You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer,

healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.

Glory to Him Who gave you strength!

Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!//

Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly

Merciful One!

Tone 4 – Kontakion for St John

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,

to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,//

O our father and teacher John.

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 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St John (Psalm 149)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 6.13-20

Brethren: when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Ephesians 5.9-19 (for St John)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth; finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore, He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be

unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 9.17-31 (Sunday)

At that time, one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

Jesus answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

Then they brought him to Jesus. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

And he said, “From childhood. And often it has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Immediately, the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”

Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

Matthew 4.25-5.12 (for St John)

Great multitudes followed Jesus – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Jove Avramoski
William Koveck
Helen Homyk
Milica Djankovich

Ev.Mem. Paraskeva Pukov ('16)
Martha Egelsky ('25)
Ignaty Gluboky ('49)
Anna Lewis ('82)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Anne
Pr. Christopher
Mat. Jennifer
Andrew
Gideon
Kevin
Jon
Tanya
Jovan
Tom
Jennifer
Larry
Rollie
Joseph

Nadia
Mark
Jerry
Joseph
Linda
Claudia
Ryan
Nathan
Kara
Dominic
Declan
Hudson
Ayden
Hyland
Jason
Ted

James
Pamela
Alexander
Ronald
Ken
William
Wanda
Ivanka
Aaron
Karen
Sandra
Linda
Jim
John
Martha
Mark

Michelle

Robb

Helen Maria

Irene

Desiree

Alex

Michelle

Hanna

Carl

Erika

Jaroslava

Laura

Luke

Andrew

Chrisan

Jo

Andrew

Janice

Stephanie

Vadim

Gerald

Mary Ann

Hanna

* If a name was removed from the prayer list prematurely, or you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

Special 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Eminence **Archbishop Paul** was diagnosed with **Multiforme 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 parish will host the **Chicago Deanery Lenten Vespers this evening at 6pm** and serve a dinner following. Clergy and faithful from OCA Churches around Chicagoland will be here.

Thanks to the generosity of many of you, **all of the items have now been donated for the Easter Dinner baskets**, which the Church School will assemble and deliver to Merrillville Food Panty in time for Western Easter. Thank you!

Order forms for the **Pascha Bake Sale** are in the Narthex. Orders are due this Tuesday, April 5. Pick up is next Sunday, April 10.

On Monday, April 11 we will hold another **prospora baking tutorial** for anyone interested in learning how to make the communion bread. Baking starts at 10am, followed by lunch for all present. Please let Fr Jacob know if you plan to be there, so we can make sure to have enough supplies. Everything will be provided.

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians **make more time for prayer, deny themselves rich and satisfying foods** (meat, dairy, fish), and find opportunities to **help those in need** (almsgiving). They also examine their consciences and repent of their sins before the Lord in the **Sacrament of Confession**. Confession is always available before or after evening services. You can also make an appointment with Fr Jacob, including before Sunday Liturgy, if necessary.

Mark your calendars:

Apr 5: **Moleben for Peace in Ukraine @ 10am**

Apr 6: **Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6pm** (Lenten potluck after)

Apr 7: **Great Canon and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt @ 10am**

Apr 8: **Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am** (Lenten potluck after)

Apr 9: **Annual Church Spring Cleaning @ 9a** (lunch provided)

Apr 11: **Prospora Baking Class @ 10am**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,650

Statement on Ukraine

by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA

Witnessing the war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the consequent humanitarian crisis developing there, no Christian can remain impartial or lukewarm in the face of the suffering or remain silent when confronted with such evils as are being perpetrated. As such, we, the bishops of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, condemn the war which is causing death and devastation affecting millions of innocent people. We particularly grieve the killing and violence committed by Orthodox Christians against other Orthodox Christians.

Orthodox Christians abhor all forms of aggression, repeating the condemnation of the holy prophets against all those who “make haste to shed innocent blood” (Is. 59:7). Joining our voice to that of

other Christian leaders, who also decry the invasion of Ukraine, we call on the Russian authorities to end the hostilities. Furthermore, we exhort the international community to condemn the war against Ukraine and use all diplomatic means to achieve an expeditious resolution.

We proclaim our solidarity with the suffering Orthodox Christian brethren of Ukraine, with the entire Ukrainian people, and the civil and religious leaders who bear the responsibility of caring for their people at this time. In particular, we express our continuing support for His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy of Kyiv and the entire Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

We call the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to join us in interceding on behalf of Ukraine, praying to our merciful God for an end to bloodshed, beseeching Him to comfort the afflicted, the displaced and wounded. We also beseech Him to bless Ukraine with peace, healing, and rebuilding. We are mindful of the hardships being borne by the people of Russia, many of whom oppose this war, and who are suffering the loss of loved ones sent to the front, economic ruin, and social damage.

The Holy Synod of Bishops affirms the letter sent by Metropolitan Tikhon to Patriarch Kirill, imploring His Holiness to do whatever possible to end the war in Ukraine and the suffering and death of countless victims.

As we celebrate this Third Sunday of Great Lent, the Sunday of the Exaltation of the Cross, which is the only weapon of peace, we beseech our flock and all people of goodwill to do whatever lies within their power to aid the suffering and war-displaced. Those to whom God has given the means: we urge you to make material contributions to assist those affected by the war, especially refugees, who now number in the millions. Finally, we remind all of the words of the Lord who tells us that, though we may have tribulation, we always find our peace in him who has overcome the world (John 16:33).

In the love of Jesus Christ, who is the Peace and Power of God,
The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America

Glory to God for all things!