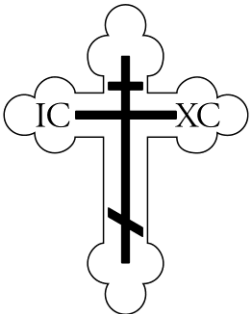
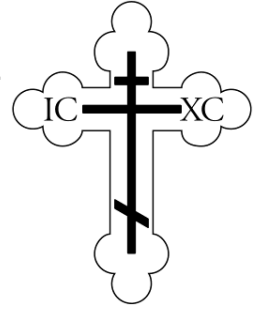


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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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.

May 22, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Pascha:

The Samaritan Woman

Midfeast (between Pascha and Pentecost)

The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well. During the time of the emperor Nero, St Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor was a military commander, to whom Nero gave orders to persecute the Christians in Italy.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to St Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother

and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret.” St Victor replied, “I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother.”

Sebastian said, “O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother.” Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, “The God of the Christians is the only true God.” St Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, “Because Christ is calling me.” Soon he was baptized and immediately regained his sight. His servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, “Fear not, for I am with you. Nero and all who serve him will be vanquished.” The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage St Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things were revealed to St Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome. The emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs’ finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed. Nero then ordered that the men be blinded and locked up in prison, while St Photina and her five sisters were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero’s daughter Domnina. St Photina soon converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

In an impotent rage, Nero gave orders to flay the skin from St Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of St Photina also suffered terrible torments. St Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days. After this, Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. St

Photina spat in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, “O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?” Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (ca. 66 AD).

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 8 – Troparion of Midfeast

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,

fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, as You cried to all:

“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!”//

O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

Tone 8 – Kontakion for the Samaritan Woman

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;

she saw You, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly.//

She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Midfeast

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all,

cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law:

“Come and draw the water of immortality!”

We fall before You and faithfully cry://

“Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 3 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Epistle: Acts 11.19-26, 29-30

At that time, those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel: John 4.5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give

him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.”

Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

In the meantime, His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

Therefore, the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’

I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.”

So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word.

Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Metr. Hilarion
Archbishop Paul
Ronald Birch

Ev.Mem. Olga Stulac ('92)
Catherine Apostoloff ('79)

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
Carol
Snezana

Ryan
Nathan
Kara
Djuro
Dominic
Declan
Hudson
Ayden
Hyland
Jason
Ted
James
Pamela
Alexander
Ronald
Ken
William
Wanda
Ivanka
Aaron
Karen
Sandra
Linda
Jim

John
Martha
Mark
Michelle
Irene
Michelle
Erika
Luke
Jo
Stephanie
Mary Ann
Robb
Desiree
Hanna
Jaroslava
Andrew
Andrew
Vadim
Hanna
Helen Maria
Alex
Carl
Laura
Chrisan

Janice
Gerald
Olga
Janie
David
Sharon
Tanya

Renee
Carissa
Ashton
Matthew
Doris
Laura
Duane

Elizabeth
Karen
Alexa
Miriana
Holly

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

Special Petitions for Ukraine 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.

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

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead."
Rejoice, O you people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of your Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read **Tobit 5-7**.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 4**, at Indian

Ridge Country Club in Hobart. This is a major fundraiser for us. The proceeds will be used for the continuation, support, and development of various Church projects, which reach out to the community. Hole sponsors (\$125) or other monetary or prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to help in any way (including making desserts or appetizers), or to purchase banquet tickets (\$20 each), please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

It is time to put together a new **Sunday morning Greeters' schedule**, and we are looking for new Greeters to add to the rotation. Please let Fr Jacob know if you are interested. Greeters should not be choir members and should be prepared to arrive at Church by 9:40am on the day(s) they are assigned.

Mark your calendars:

- May 24: **Moleben for Peace in Ukraine @ 10am**
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm
- May 25: **Bible Study @ 7pm**
- May 26: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**
- May 27: **Blood Drive, 12p - 6p**
- May 28: **Feed the Flock lunch at First Presbyterian in Merrillville**
- May 30: **Memorial Day Grave Blessings** starting at St. Mary's Cemetery @ 9am
- June 1: **Great Vespers for the Feast of Ascension @ 6pm**
- June 2: **40-Day Panikhida for Archbishop Paul @ 9:30am**
Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Ascension @ 10am
- June 4: **Annual Golf Outing**
- June 11: **Soul Saturday Memorial Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary's Cemetery Chapel @ 10am

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,680

Glory to God for all things!