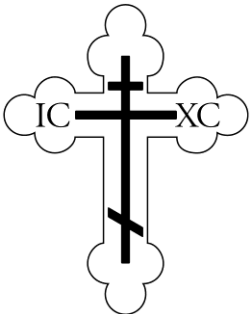
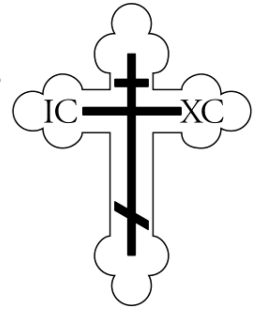


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
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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.

June 19, 2022 Sunday of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. The Church recognizes many thousands of Saints from different walks of life. What they all have in common is they have preserved in themselves the image and likeness of God in which they were originally created. When God created man, He created him in His own image. This word “image” is simply the familiar Greek word, icon. In other words, God made the first icon, and man is created to be an icon of God, a faithful copy of the original.

The people of God see God's image in His saints. For this reason, our church buildings contain many icons of saints to remind us that we are meant to see the image of God in ourselves and in each other. The living people of God gather together in temples in the presence of the icons of men and women who have shown in an especially notable way what it means to live life fully in Christ.



The word saint means holy, thus “Saint John” means, in fact, “Holy John.” This is not to say that he was always perfect; that he was a genius; that he was a great man according to the world; that his views on politics, social life, or economics were desirable or correct. It means only that, within the context of his age, he

manifested the image of God in himself in some way—that he was an icon, an original creation, a new creature in Christ.

In praying to a saint, we simply ask the holy person to pray for us. We can, of course, ask for the prayers of those who are not officially saints. In fact, we often ask our friends and families to pray for us. We may ask a person who has died—a mother or father or grandparent—to pray for us. But we are especially interested in seeking out the prayers of those whose lives have been wholly devoted to prayer, who are in fact, “experts” in prayer. The Orthodox Christian also venerates icons—he bows and kisses the

icon and in doing that he bows before and kisses the image of God which he sees in the saint. He bows and kisses to show his love for that image, and to express his hope that the image of God will also become manifest in himself. In a similar way the priest censes the icons and bow to them—again, seeing the image of God, censing it, bowing to it; and then the priest turns and censes the people gathered in the Church and bows to them, just as he did to the icons. He also sees the image of God in the people of God who are the Church of Christ on earth. In turn, the people bow to the priest, seeing also in him that same image, that same call to be an icon.

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 – Troparion of All Saints

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,

Your Church has been adorned with Your martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world.

She cries to You, O Christ God:

“Send down Your bounties on Your people,//

grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of All Saints

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs

as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.

By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace//

through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for All Saints (Psalm 67)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Epistle: Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2

Brethren: Through faith, the Saints 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 receiving deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, and by chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, 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, because 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 unto 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: Matthew 10.32-33, 37-38; 19.27-30

The Lord said to His disciples, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?”

So, Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Walter McLean

Metr. Hilarion

Ev.Mem. Anna Storozhev ('17)

Helen Saliwonczyk ('57)

Paul Simchuk ('88)

All our Fathers

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

Doris

Laura

Duane

Elizabeth

Karen

Alexa

Miriana

Olga

Richard

Steven

Brenda

Our Fathers

*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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A big thank you to all who helped make the golf outing a success. A special thanks to the kitchen brigade that makes the meal run so smoothly. **The Golf Outing was able to raise \$8,000** for the Church building fund.

The O-Club will meet during coffee hour today.

For **Bible Study** this week, read Judith 1-4.

On Sunday afternoon, June 26, from 1-5pm we will hold our **First Annual Choir Retreat** for new and returning choir members to learn new music and vocal technique. Dinner will be provided for all participants (and their families, if present) at the conclusion.

The **Women's book group** is returning! The next book will be **Bringing Jesus to the Desert**. Please add your contact info to the list in the narthex if you are interested. Tiffany O'Day or Mat. Jenna will be in touch to determine a good day/time to meet. They can also answer any questions you may have.

During Met. Tikhon's visit to Holy Trinity Cathedral last weekend, he met with our chancellor, Fr Paul Jannakos to inform him that **the Holy Synod would like our Diocese to consider nominating our current locum tenens, Bishop Daniel** (who until now has been an auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of the West), to become our next diocesan hierarch. The Holy Synod has already vetted him and would welcome his nomination. Therefore, at the Diocesan Assembly to be held on Monday, July 18, a special session will be held to put this proposal to a vote of the delegates. If nominated,

Bishop Daniel will be summarily elected by the Holy Synod at the All-American Council that same week. If not, then our diocese will begin the process of identifying one or more other candidates, who would need to be vetted likewise by the Holy Synod. In that event, we would hope to nominate a candidate at the 2023 Assembly in October, who might then be elected by the Holy Synod and installed around the end of next year. In our Church, each Diocese has the prerogative of nominating their own bishop, by vote of clergy and lay delegates from each parish. However, the candidate is officially elected and consecrated by the Holy Synod (all of the diocesan bishops of the OCA), and so he must be acceptable to them as well.

Mark your calendars:

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

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

June 26: **Choir Retreat, 1-5pm with dinner after**

July 24: **Church Picnic in honor of St. Clement after Divine Liturgy**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,289

Archpastoral Message on the Sunday of All Saints

From His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Dear beloved children in the Lord,

Today, on the Sunday of All Saints, we behold the fruit of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as we remember all those throughout the whole world who answered Christ along with St. Peter in the Gospel: "Lo, we have left everything and followed you" (Mt. 19:27).

On this day we place in the center of our churches the icon of the feast depicting all the holy ones of God, known and unknown, men, women, and children from every walk of life. But while most of the holy icons which adorn and beautify our temples stay the same year to year, century to century, the icon of the Feast of All

Saints is different. It expands and grows larger every year as the Lord reveals new saints throughout the earth. We take comfort in this and find inspiration from the saints' example as we follow in their footsteps, walking the narrow path of sanctity we are also called to walk (cf. Mt. 7:14).

At the same time as we behold the icon of the feast, we see other more terrible images as well. The tragedies of our time seem to march in steady pace before our eyes: the continuing gun violence in the United States, wars in Ukraine and Ethiopia, the slaughter of Roman Catholic faithful in Nigeria, and the conflict and violence in many parts of the world. These are, tragically, only a few recent examples of the horrors we human beings visit upon each other in our pride, hopelessness, greed, and thirst for power. All these violent acts are contrary to the Gospel of Christ who is the "prince of peace," as the Prophet Isaiah proclaims (Isa. 9:7). Our Lord's way for us to follow is to lay down our lives for the other, not to shed another's blood (cf. Jn. 15:13).

In the face of such evil in our world it is difficult to avoid the feelings of discouragement and helplessness. Take comfort that all the saints faced the evils of their age too. We, like them, can strengthen our hearts with Christ's words: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:27). Let us continue to follow the example of the saints and meet evil with good, hostility with love, and violence with sincere prayer that Christ, who Himself is our peace (Eph. 2:14), will reign amongst us.

On this Sunday of All Saints, I exhort the faithful to pray for the peace of the world, and I conclude with the comforting words of the Apostle Paul: "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6).

May we all forever imitate the love and self-sacrifice of all the saints of God.

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for all things!