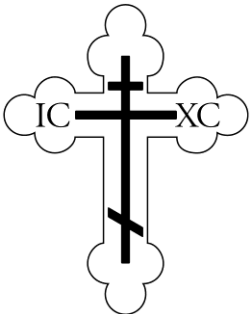
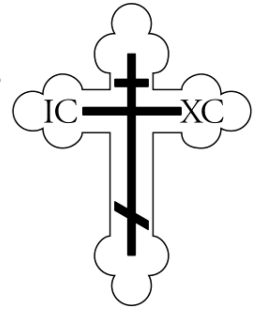


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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](mailto: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 5, 2022

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha

# Afterfeast of Ascension

## Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova, who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicaea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos, and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," (sometimes translated as "of one essence") which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicæan Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox.

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell,  
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

## **Tone 4 – Troparion of Ascension**

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured  
that You are the Son of God,//

the Redeemer of the world!

## **Tone 8 – Troparion of the Holy Fathers**

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!

You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

## **Tone 8 – Kontakion of the Holy Fathers**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established  
one Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//

It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

## **Tone 6 – Kontakion of Ascension**

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,  
and united earth to heaven:

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
not being parted from those who love You,

but remaining with them and crying://

“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)**

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

### **Epistle: Acts 20.16-18, 28-36**

At that time, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you. Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore, watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

### **Gospel: John 17.1-13**

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**New Dep.** Metr. Hilarion

**Ev.Mem.** Julie Lobach ('37)

Vasily Mshar ('49)

Martha Filipovich ('58)

Paul Barn ('74)

Katie Doneff ('74)

Mat. Ivanka Tanaskoski (2006)

**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	Jaroslava	David
Martha	Andrew	Sharon
Mark	Andrew	Tanya
Michelle	Vadim	Renee
Irene	Hanna	Carissa
Michelle	Helen Maria	Ashton
Erika	Alex	Doris
Luke	Carl	Laura
Jo	Laura	Duane
Stephanie	Chrisan	Elizabeth
Mary Ann	Janice	Karen
Robb	Gerald	Alexa
Desiree	Olga	Miriana
Hanna	Janie	Olga

\*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.

### **Instead of *"It is Truly Meet..."*:**

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We the faithful, with one accord, magnify you, the Mother of God, who, beyond reason and understanding, ineffably gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read **Tobit 12-14**.

**A huge thank you** to all of our many volunteers who prepared for and worked at the **Golf Outing** yesterday. It was a wonderful event!

This Saturday, the day before Pentecost, is the second **Saturday of Souls** that we will commemorate this year with a Memorial Liturgy at our St. Mary's cemetery chapel (4801 W. Ridge Rd., Gary, IN). Liturgy starts at 10am, followed by a general panakhida and mass blessing of graves at the cemetery. Bring the names of your departed loved for remembrance at the litany for the departed.

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.

## Mark your calendars:

June 11: Soul Saturday **Memorial Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary's Cemetery Chapel @ 10am

June 13: **Divine Liturgy and picnic** at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago for their parish feast @ 9:30am

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

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$8,267**

## **Archpastoral Message on the Occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Day of the Repose of Archbishop Paul of Blessed Memory by His Grace, our Bishop Daniel**

To the Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest,

Beloved Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

In speaking to Mary Magdalene on the day of His Resurrection, the Lord Jesus said, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, 'I am

ascending to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God” (John 20:17).

As He ascends and takes His place at the Father’s right hand, the Risen Lord also opens to us the way to paradise. In reflecting upon this mystery of the Lord’s Ascension, Saint John Chrysostom writes,

*We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven. We who were unworthy of even earthly dominion have been raised to the kingdom on high, we have ascended higher than heaven, and have come to occupy the very throne of the king. The same human nature from which the angels guarded Paradise has not stopped until it ascended the throne of the Lord. By His Ascension, the Lord not only opened for us the entrance to heaven. He not only appeared before the face of God on our behalf and for our sake, but likewise transported us with Himself to the highest places.*

On this Feast of the Ascension, we see the Lord disappearing from our sight as He ascends and calling after us to be His witnesses and to follow Him into the Kingdom. Today, we also commemorate the Fortieth Day of the falling-asleep of your dear archpastor and my brother and concelebrant, His Eminence Archbishop Paul. That he was called from this earthly life to life in the Kingdom on the chosen and holy day of Pascha will always be memorable and worthy of note. What a blessing for His Eminence, after having suffered his own personal Golgotha, to have also experienced his own Pascha. To rephrase Saint John Chrysostom, “The Lord honored [him] whom He loved by putting [him] close to the Father.”

As we gather in our parish churches to celebrate the Lord’s Ascension and as we prayerfully remember Archbishop Paul on the Fortieth Day of his repose, we see the gates of Paradise opened by the Lord—opened to Archbishop Paul and, hopefully, to us all. Today we profess our common faith that those who have faithfully followed the Lord in their earthly lives will also follow Him into the Kingdom He has revealed to us.

With love in the Lord,

**+DANIEL**

Bishop of Santa Rosa

Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the Midwest

# Glory to God for all things!