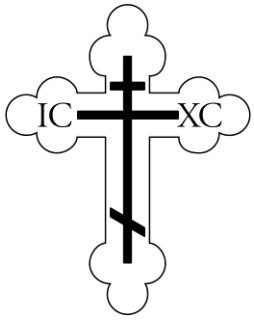


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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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.

August 14, 2022

Forefeast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Holy Prophet Micah

After the Ascension of the Lord, the Mother of God remained in the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, and during his journeys she lived at the home of his parents, near the Mount of Olives. She was a source of consolation and edification both for the Apostles and for all the believers. Conversing with them, she told them about miraculous events: the Annunciation, the seedless and undefiled Conception of Christ born of her, about His early childhood, and about His earthly life. Like the Apostles, she helped plant and

strengthen the Christian Church by her presence, her discourse and her prayers.

The circumstances of the Dormition of the Mother of God were known in the Orthodox Church from apostolic times. In the second century, the account of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven is found in the works of Melito, Bishop of Sardis. In the fourth century, St Epiphanius of Cyprus refers to the tradition about the “Falling Asleep” of the Mother of God. In the fifth century, St Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem, told the holy Byzantine Empress Pulcheria: “Although there is no account of the circumstances of Her death in Holy Scripture, we know about them from the most ancient and credible Tradition.”

At the time of her blessed falling asleep, the Virgin Mary was at Jerusalem. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulcher of the Lord, and here she offered up fervent prayer. In one such visit, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and announced her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge, the Archangel gave her a palm branch.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay. After the prayer, the Most Holy Virgin offered incense, and John heard a voice from Heaven closing her prayer with the word “Amen.” They understood the voice to mean the speedy arrival of the Apostles and the Disciples.

Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion, they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. Saint John, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin’s repose was at hand. Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld Her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard her prayer and fulfilled her heart’s desire, and she began speaking about her imminent end.

Then came the third hour, when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The holy Disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering praise to God. She prayed in anticipation of Her demise and of the arrival of Her longed-for Son and Lord. Suddenly, the inexpressible Light of Divine Glory shone forth, before which the blazing candles paled in

comparison. Descending from Heaven was Christ, the King of Glory, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers, together with the souls of the Forefathers and the Prophets, who had prophesied in ages past concerning the Most Holy Virgin Mary. Rising from her bed to meet the Lord, she bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave her soul into the hands of her Son and God.



The holy Apostles Peter, Paul, James and others of the Twelve carried the funeral bier upon their shoulders, and upon it lay the body of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Saint John went at the head with the resplendent palm-branch from Paradise. The other saints and a multitude of the faithful accompanied the funeral bier with candles and censers, singing sacred songs. This solemn procession went from Sion through Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane. When the procession reached the Garden, then amidst the weeping and the wailing began the last kiss to the all-pure body. Only towards evening were the Apostles able to place it in the tomb and seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. Through the wise providence of God, the Apostle Thomas was not to be present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down at the tomb and with bitter tears asked that he might be permitted to look once more upon the Mother of God and bid her

farewell. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit him the comfort of venerating the holy relics of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven.

The most-pure body of the Mother of God was buried in the family tomb built by her mother, St. Anna, for St. Joachim and herself in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was there in the Garden of Gethsemane that the Savior had often prayed with His disciples. Christians honored the sepulcher of the Mother of God, and they built a church on this spot. Within the church was preserved the precious funeral cloth, which covered Her all-pure and fragrant body.

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 the Forefeast

Dance with joy, O peoples!

Clap your hands with gladness!

Gather today with fervor and jubilation;

sing with exultation!

The Mother of God is about to rise in glory,

ascending from earth to heaven.//

We ceaselessly praise her in song as truly Theotokos.

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 of the Forefeast

Today the universe dances with joy at your glorious memorial,

and cries out to you, O Mother of God://

“Rejoice, O Virgin, pride of Christians!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3.9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gospel: Matthew 14.22-34

At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So, He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Katheryn Sofranoff
Brandon Mosak
Helen Wein
Maria Helen

Ev.Mem. Theodore Gabla ('49)
Isidore Sopko ('68)
Mary Bajin ('82)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Anne

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

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

Alex

Carl

Laura

Chrisan

Janice

Gerald

Olga

Janie

David

Sharon

Tanya

Renee

Carissa

Ashton

Doris

Laura

Duane

Elizabeth

Karen

Alexa

Miriana

Olga

Richard

Klaudia

Nicodemus

Nada

Mark

Catherine

Aaron
Ebony
Peggy
Sue

Victoria
Janet
Tom
Wilma

Courtney
Gity
Myra

*If 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

After coffee hour today, we will celebrate **Vespers for the Dormition of the Theotokos with Lamentations.**

Bible Study returns this week. We will read Job 1-4.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has set the date for the enthronement of His Grace Daniel as Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest for Saturday, October 1, 2022, the Feast of the Protection of the Virgin Mary. **All are encouraged to come and participate in the Liturgy and enthronement at Holy Trinity Cathedral beginning at 9am.** For this reason, there will be no Divine Liturgy at our parish for the feast. More details about the celebration of our parish feast day/anniversary weekend are forthcoming.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 15: Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 10am

Aug 16: Parish Council @ 7pm

Aug 17: Bible Study @ 7pm

Aug 18: Faith Enrichment @ 10am
Women's Book Group @ 6pm

Aug 29: Divine Liturgy for Beheading of John the Baptist @ 10am

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,713

A Saying from the Desert Fathers

Abba Isidore of Scete said, "The wisdom of the saints is this: to recognize the will of God, for a person overcomes everything 'in obedience to the truth' [1 Peter 1.22], for he is the image and likeness of God. It is more terrible than all the spirits to follow one's own heart (meaning one's own thoughts) and not the law of God. Afterwards, one is plunged into sorrow for sin for having neither known the mystery nor found the way of the holy ones to work in it. Now is the time to act for the Lord, for salvation comes in time of affliction, as it is written: "You shall procure your souls in your patient endurance' [Luke 21.19].

Glory to God for
all things!