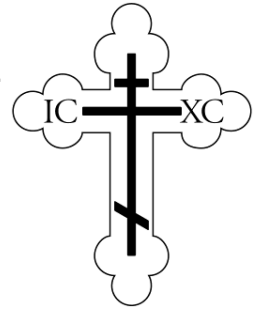
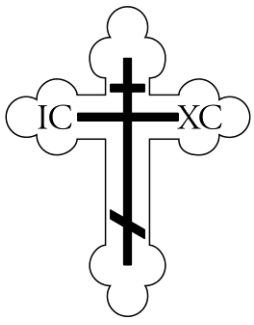


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



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.**

## October 16, 2022

# Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

The Seventh Ecumenical Council took place in Nicea in 787 AD, and is also known as the Second Council of Nicaea. The last of the seven Ecumenical Councils dealt with the icons. Disputes concerning the Person of Christ did not end with the sixth Council in AD 681, but continued through the eighth and ninth centuries. This time, the controversy focused on icons—pictures of Christ, the Theotokos, the saints, and holy events—and lasted for 120 years, starting in AD 726. Icons were kept and venerated in both churches and private homes.

The two groups in the controversy were known as Iconoclasts and Iconodules. Iconoclasts, or "icon-smashers," were suspicious of any art depicting God or humans; they demanded the destruction of

icons because they saw icons as idolatry. Iconodules, or "icon venerateds," defended the place of icons in the Church.

The controversy, however, was more than a struggle over different views of Christian art. Deeper issues were involved, and it is these the Council addressed: 1) The character of Christ's human nature, 2) The right Christian attitude toward matter, and 3) The true meaning of Christian redemption and the salvation of the entire universe.

The iconoclasts had support from both inside and outside the Church. Outside the Church, there may have been influence from Jewish and Muslim ideas, and it is important to note that just prior to the iconoclast outbreak, Muslim Caliph Yezid ordered the removal of all icons within his territory. Inside the Church, there had always existed some with a "puritan" sentiment, who regarded all images as potentially idolatrous.

The Holy Fathers of the Council decided that venerating icons, both in churches and in homes, is what the Church practices and teaches for the benefit of all. They are "open books to remind us of God." Those who lack the time or learning to study theology need only to enter a church to see the mysteries of the Christian religion unfolded before them.

Furthermore, defending the use of icons is essential because they protect the full and proper doctrine of the Incarnation. While God cannot be represented in His eternal nature ("...no man has seen God", John 1:18), He can be depicted simply because He "became human and took flesh." Of Him who took a material body, material images can be made. In so taking a material body, God proved that matter can be redeemed. He deified matter, making it spirit-bearing, and so if flesh can be a medium for the Spirit, so can wood or paint, although in its own fashion. As St. John of Damascus said, "I do not worship matter, but the Creator of matter, who for my sake became material and deigned to dwell in matter, who through matter effected my salvation."

The seventh and last Ecumenical Council upheld the iconodules' position in AD 787. They proclaimed: "Icons... are to be kept in churches and honored with the same relative veneration as is shown to other material symbols, such as the 'precious and life-giving Cross' and the Book of the Gospels. The 'doctrine of icons' is tied to the Orthodox teaching that all of God's creation is to be redeemed and glorified, both spiritual and material.

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:  
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!”

## **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 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,  
raising the world with Yourself.

Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://

“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

## **Tone 6 – Kontakion of the Holy Fathers**

The Son Who shone forth from the Father

was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman.

Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form,  
but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.

Thus, keeping the True Faith,//

the Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.

## **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 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!

## **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: 2 Corinthians 9.6-11 (Sunday)**

Brethren, I say this: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

Now, may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

## **Hebrews 13.7-16 (Holy Fathers)**

Brethren: Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore, let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

## **Gospel: Luke 8.5-15 (Sunday)**

Jesus spoke this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

## **John 17.1-13 (Holy Fathers)**

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.** Luba Sirovica

Nicolas Babic

Met. Herman Swaiko

**Ev.Mem.** Nicholas Baran ('42)

Thomas Yanovich ('50)

John Mshar ('55)

Fedora Borisenko ('58)

John Kochurenko ('61)

Vladamer Adams ('92)

Bessie Briski (2010)

**Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. John

Mat. Anne

Dn. Nicholas

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	Nada	Peggy	Wilma
Olga	Mark	Sue	Jerry
Richard	Catherine	Victoria	
Klaudia	Aaron	Janet	
Nicodemus	Ebony	Tom	

\*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**

A big **thank you** to the many faithful who came out yesterday to help with our Fall Clean-Up!

**For Bible Study this week** read Ecclesiastes 1-4.

The **Ladies' Sodality** will meet this Tuesday.

This Saturday, October 22 is a **Memorial Saturday** in the Orthodox Church (a.k.a. a **Saturday of Souls**), meant for remembering our departed loved ones in prayer. We are planning to hold a Memorial Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Cemetery Chapel at 10am, followed by a brief panikhida and general blessing of the graves. Right now, the weather is expected to cooperate. If the day turns out to be very cold and/or rainy, we may revert to having Liturgy at the Church. Please bring you list of departed loved ones to the service to be remembered.

On Monday, October 24, we will have another **Guys' Night Out**. We will meet at B.J.'s Brewhouse in Merrillville at 6pm.

On Friday, October 28, the Church school is putting on an **Autumn Bonfire and Movie Night**. All are invited. If the weather cooperates, we will have dinner and roast marshmallows outside around the bonfire beginning about 5pm, and when the sun goes down, we will put on a movie on projector in the parish hall and enjoy various goodies. The movie will be *The Prince of Egypt*, about the life of Moses and the Exodus, which the students have been studying in Church School.

Today at 2pm, staff from our **Diocesan Music Ministry** are putting on a **Master Class** in singing for choir members at St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church in Chesterton. We learned recently that members from our parish are welcome to attend. Mat. Jenna is going to see what it's about, and perhaps we will schedule them to come to our parish in the near future.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Oct 18: **Moleben for Peace in Ukraine @ 9:30am**  
**Ladies' Sodality meeting @ 10am**  
**Parish Council meeting @ 7pm**

Oct 19: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Oct 20: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Oct 22: **Soul Saturday of St. Demetrius; Memorial Liturgy at St. Mary's cemetery chapel with blessing of graves @ 10am**

Oct 24: **Guys' Night Out at BJ's Brewhouse in Merrillville @ 6pm**

Oct 28: **Family Bonfire and Movie Night @ 5pm**

Oct 29: **Great Vespers will be cancelled**

Nov 5: **Feed the Flock at First Presbyterian Church in Merrillville**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$4,755**

# **Glory to God for all things!**