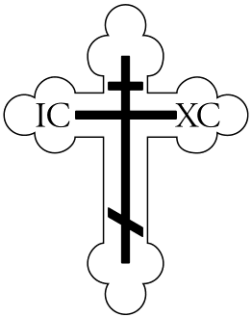


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
www.ptvm.com

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.**

## October 2, 2022

### Holy Hieromartyr Cyprian of Nicomedia with his companions Justina and Theoctist

Saint Cyprian was a native of Antioch. From age seven until he was thirty, Cyprian studied at the leading centers of paganism and was initiated into the pagan priesthood on Mount Olympus. After returning to Antioch, Cyprian was revered by the pagans as a prominent priest, amazing people with his ability to cast spells, summon pestilence and plagues, and conjure up the dead. He brought many people to ruin, teaching them to serve the demons.

The holy virgin Justina lived in Antioch. After turning her own father and mother to faith in Christ, she dedicated herself to the Heavenly Bridegroom and spent her time in fasting and prayer. When the young man Aglaidas proposed marriage to her, the saint refused, for she wished to remain a virgin. Aglaidas sought Cyprian's help. He said that he would arrange for Justina's heart to become filled with lust for the young man. But no matter what Cyprian tried,

he accomplished nothing, since the saint overcame all the wiles of the devil by prayer and fasting.

Cyprian, in his rage, sent down pestilence and plague upon Justina's family and upon the entire city. Rumors spread that the city was being punished because Justina would not wed Aglaidas. Several people went to her and demanded that she marry Aglaidas. Justina calmed them and assured them that soon the misfortunes which Cyprian caused would end. St Justina prayed to God, the power of the demons was destroyed, and everyone was healed of their illnesses and afflictions.

People began to praise Christ, and to mock Cyprian and his sorcery. Convinced that the devil was powerless against the Sign of the Cross and trembled at the name of Christ, Cyprian came to his senses and realized that he had been corrupted by becoming a sorcerer and participating in every sort of wickedness, doing harm to others and deceiving them. St Cyprian saw that the devil whom he served was afraid of Christ. "If you take fright at even the mere shadow of the Cross, and if the mere name of Christ makes you tremble," said Cyprian, "then what will you do when Christ Himself stands before you?"

He went to the local bishop Anthimos in profound repentance, and threw all of his books into the flames. The very next day, he went into the church, and did not want to leave it. By his efforts to follow after righteousness, St Cyprian understood the great power of faith in Christ, making up for more than thirty years of service to Satan. After a year, he was ordained a priest. Shortly after, St Cyprian was elevated to the rank of bishop. St Cyprian converted so many pagans to Christ that in his diocese no one was left to offer sacrifice to idols, and the pagan temples fell into disuse. St Justina withdrew to a monastery and was chosen as its Superior.

During the persecution against Christians under Emperor Diocletian, Bishop Cyprian and St Justina were arrested and brought to Nicomedia, where after horrible tortures they were beheaded with the sword. St Cyprian, fearful that the holy virgin's courage might falter if she saw him put to death, asked for time to pray. St Justina inclined her neck and was beheaded first.

After seeing the torments of St Justina, a soldier named Theoctist fell at Cyprian's feet and declared himself a Christian, and he was beheaded with them. The Hieromartyr Cyprian, the Virgin Martyr Justina, and the Martyr Theoctist suffered for Christ at Nicomedia in the year 304.

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion**

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

## **Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion**

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,  
illumined by your coming, O Mother of God.  
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:  
Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.  
Deliver us from every form of evil  
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//  
that He may save our souls.

## **Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Cyprian**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine  
contemplation, O inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith,  
even to the shedding of your blood.//  
O Hieromartyr Cyprian, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

## **Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

The dominion of death  
can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

## **Tone 1 – Kontakion for St. Cyprian**

Bound by the love of Christ, O venerable one,  
and following Him with unwavering desire,  
you despised all carnal pleasures, shining like the sun in your land.  
Therefore, Christ has enriched you with the gift of miracles.  
Remember us, who venerate your most holy memory//  
and who call out to you: “Rejoice, O Sergius, made wise by God!”

### **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 7 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)**

The Lord shall give strength to His people.  
The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

### **Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.1-10**

Brethren: As workers together with Him, we also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

### **Gospel: Luke 6.31-36**

The Lord said to His disciples: “Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

# WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**New Dep.** Luba Sirovica  
Nicolas Babic  
Met. Herman Swaiko  
Met. Kallistos Ware

Doris Corcoran  
**Ev.Mem.** Alice Mardovin ('87)  
Anna Tokash ('92)

## **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

Olga

Richard

Klaudia

Nicodemus

Nada

Mark

Catherine

Aaron

Ebony

Peggy

Sue

Victoria

Janet

Tom

Wilma

\*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**

The **Ladies' Sodality** organized a **winter coat, hat, and gloves drive** through the month of September. Thank you to everyone who has donated. We will make the delivery to Salvation Army this week.

Today we celebrate **PTVM's 111<sup>th</sup> anniversary after Divine Liturgy**. I want to thank Elizabeth Pedersen and her team for preparing the meal, and all those who brought desserts. **All are invited to the dinner free of charge**. Donations to help cover costs are accepted.

**For Bible Study this week** read Job 31-36.

This Thursday, Dn. Nicholas has organized a **benefit concert for rebuilding Ukraine** at the Valparaiso University Chapel at 7pm. The concert features **Cappella Romana**, the most internationally recognized choral ensemble specializing in Liturgical chant. **Admittance is free**. Donations for the cause will be collected.

**Next Sunday**, the Sodality will offer a **soup sale** during coffee hour. Quarts will sell for \$5 each.

Our **Fall Clean-up Day** will be **Saturday, October 15**. We will be trimming bushes and pulling weeds as usual. We also have an arborist coming to trim the trees on the West side of the building, and we will save a good deal of money by cleaning up the debris ourselves.

## Mark your calendars:

- Oct 4: **Moleben for Peace in Ukraine @ 10am**
- Oct 5: **Bible Study @ 7pm**
- Oct 6: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**  
**Benefit Concert for Ukraine at VU chapel @ 7pm**
- Oct 15: **Fall Outdoor Clean-Up @ 9am**
- Oct 22: **Soul Saturday of St. Demetrius; Memorial Liturgy at St. Mary's cemetery chapel with blessing of graves @ 10am**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,252

# Archpastoral Letter of Bishop Daniel to Christ's Holy Flock in the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest

Beloved Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,  
Glory to Jesus Christ!

Tomorrow morning, I will formally take my place on the *cathedra* of Holy Trinity Cathedral, the mother church of our diocese. The *cathedra*, a word which means *chair* and from which the word *cathedral* is derived, is a symbol of the bishop's authority and of his role of leading, teaching, governing, and guiding the diocese which has been entrusted to his care. In addition to these functions of the bishop, there are many other titles, words, and images which reflect his role and his relationship with his diocese.

As Orthodox Christians, we maintain and uphold the ancient tradition of the Church and understand the importance that the office and the role of bishop has in the Church's life and mission. The bishop is shepherd, teacher, high priest, bearer of the apostolic grace, overseer, chief pastor, father, celebrant, steward, administrator, unifier, and servant. These are but some of the roles ascribed to the bishop in his exercise of the archpastoral ministry. The *Statute of the Orthodox Church in America* also mentions some of these very same roles and functions. In reading through and reflecting upon the various roles of the bishop, I

recognize that my most important and highest calling as your bishop is to reflect the image of Christ the Servant, the one who came “not to be served but to serve” (Matthew 20:28). It is clear to me that my ministry as your bishop is to be founded and based upon the image of Christ the Servant.

And how was Christ a servant? The Apostle Paul provides us with the foundational insight into the nature of Christ’s servanthood:

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).*

Our Lord and Savior was the servant who *humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*. Can I serve in this way? Is any one of us capable to such service? Can anyone imitate this type of servanthood? Yes, but only by God’s grace and mercy and strength. In aspiring to serve in the image of Christ, I am keenly aware of my faults and weaknesses. I am aware that I cannot serve without your assistance and support. I will need your help if I am to serve you and all the clergy and faithful of our diocese in the image of Christ.

And so, as I enter formally upon my service as your bishop, I ask each one of the clergy, monastics, and faithful of our diocese for the support of your prayers. Our work is a common work. Let us, as Saint Paul exhorts, “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

May the Most Holy Theotokos protect us and intercede for us. May Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America, the Hieromartyr John of Chicago, Saint Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre, and all the saints who have served in this diocese before us, both known and unknown to us, pray for us all.

With love in Christ,

† Daniel

Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest

**Glory to God for all things!**