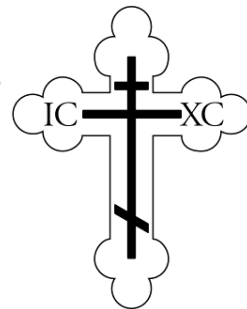
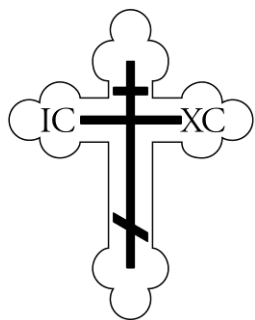


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.

January 8, 2023

Afterfeast of Theophany

St. George the Chozebite

Today we celebrate the Baptismal Liturgy

Saint George the Chozebite was born on the island of Cyprus toward the end of the sixth century. After the death of his parents, he went to Palestine to worship at the holy places. Here he entered into the monastic community of Chozeba between the River Jordan and Jerusalem, and he later became head of this monastery. Saint George presented the monks example in fasting, vigil and physical efforts. Having lived as an angel upon the earth, he died in peace.

From Fr. Alexander Schmemman:

Baptism is the sacrament of forgiveness, not because it operates a juridical removal of guilt, but because it is baptism *into Jesus Christ*, who is the Forgiveness. The sin of all sins—the truly "original sin"—is not a transgression of rules, but, first of all, the deviation of man's love and his alienation from God. The man prefers something—the world, himself—to God, this is the only real sin, and in it all sins become natural, inevitable. This sin destroys the true life of man. It deviates life's course from its only meaning and direction. And in Christ this sin is forgiven, not in the sense that God now has "forgotten" it and pays no attention to it, but because in Christ man has returned to God, and has returned to God because he has loved Him and found in Him the only true object of love and life.

THE ORDER OF THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

*Liturgy begins as usual but in the middle of the Church with the initiates and their sponsors standing by. Special Petitions are added to the **Great Litany**. The **baptismal waters** are then consecrated and the **Oil of Gladness**. The initiates are anointed on the head, heart, shoulders, ears, hands, and feet. At each, the people respond: "**Amen!**" The initiates are then **baptized**. **Psalm 31** is read as they dry. They are given their baptismal garments, and we sing:*

Tone 8 – Troparion of Vesting

Grant unto me the robe of light,
O Most Merciful Christ our God,
who clothe Yoursel with light as with a garment!

*Then the **Beatitudes** with the **Little Entrance**, and then we sing the **Hymns of the Day** while the initiates dress.*

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 1 – Troparion of Theophany

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
and called You His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself//
and have enlightened the world, glory to You.

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated 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 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

Tone 4 – Kontakion for St. George

You have appeared as a brilliant light
and have illumined with divine rays those who cry to you, O George.
Pray for us to Christ the Master,
Who appeared in the waters//
to illumine those born on earth!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of Theophany

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord,
and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us.
Knowing You, we sing Your praises:
“You have come and revealed Yourself,//
O unapproachable Light.”

The priest meets the newly-illumined in the middle of the Church and anoints them with Holy Chrism: first on the head, then the eyes, the nostrils, the lips, the ears, the heart, the hands, and the feet, saying each time: “The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit!” and each time the people respond: “Amen!” Then the priest leads them and their sponsors in procession thrice around the baptismal font, as we sing “As Many as Have Been...” The Divine Liturgy then continues as usual with the Readings.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Prokeimenon for the Sunday after Theophany (Psalm 32)

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

Tone 3 – Baptismal Prokeimenon (Psalm 26)

The Lord is my light and my Savior; / whom shall I fear?

Epistle: Ephesians 4.7-13 (Sunday after Theophany)

Brethren: To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore, He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.”

Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Romans 6.3-11 (Baptism)

Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried, therefore, with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For

He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 4.12-17 (Sunday after Theophany)

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, and He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 28.16-20 (Baptism)

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New.Dep. Terry Tutterow
Archpr. Theodore Panchak
Tony Klassen
Thomas Martin

Ev.Mem. Dimitry Romaniuk ('22)
Walter Polunesik ('48)
Spaska Alabach ('94)

Health & Salv.
Archpr. Peter
Mat. Cynthia
Archpr. John
Mat. Anne
Dn. Nicholas
Kevin

Jon
Tanya
Jovan
Tom
Jennifer
Rollie
Joseph

Nadia
Joseph
Linda
Claudia
Carol
Snezana
Ryan

Nathan	Jaroslava	Aaron
Kara	Andrew	Dale
Djuro	Andrew	Ebony
Dominic	Vadim	Peggy
Declan	Hanna	Sue
Hudson	Alex	Victoria
Ayden	Carl	Janet
Hyland	Laura	Tom
Jason	Chrisan	Wilma
Ted	Gerald	Jerry
James	Olga	Penelope
Pamela	Janie	Cora
Alexander	David	Brandi
Ronald	Sharon	Joyce
Ivanka	Tanya	Paul
Karen	Renee	Galina
Sandra	Carissa	Michael
Linda	Ashton	Helen
Jim	Doris	Kathleen
John	Laura	Terry
Martha	Duane	N.III. Bradley
Mark	Elizabeth	Courtney
Michelle	Karen	Marley
Irene	Alexa	Caleb
Michelle	Miriana	Miette
Erika	Olga	Iris
Luke	Richard	Charlotte
Jo	Klaudia	Solomon
Stephanie	Nicodemus	Rafael
Mary Ann	Nada	Gabriel
Robb	Mark	
Desiree	Catherine	

*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.

Instead of *"It is Truly Meet..."* we sing:

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable than the heavenly hosts.

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos;
even Angels are overcome with awe praising you.

But since you are good, accept our faith;
for you know our love inspired by God.

You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

*After the Prayer of the Ambo, at "Blessed be the name of the Lord..."
the newly-illumined come forward with the sponsors to receive the
Ablution and Tonsure. Then we conclude the Liturgy as normal.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our newest members, **the Evers Family!**

For **Bible Study** tomorrow night, read **1 Ezra 1-4**.

Every year, **Orthodox Christian homes are blessed with the new holy water of Theophany**. Make an appointment with Fr Jacob to have your home blessed. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. The home blessing at Theophany represents a renewal of our lives in Christ.

The **Choir master class** has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 22 from 2-5pm, with dinner after in the parish hall. All current and aspiring choir members are encouraged to participate!

The original trip to **visit Fr Peter and Cynthia in Missouri** was postponed because many of those who were planning to go in December got sick. The new dates are January 23-25. If anyone who was not already planning to come along would like to join the group, please let Fr Jacob know.

Stewardship envelopes for 2023 are now available. If you want to become a steward but do not have a box, please tell Mike Gruszyk, our treasurer, and he will get you one.

Mark your calendars:

Jan 9: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Jan 12: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**
Women's Book Club @ 6pm

Jan 17: **Divine Liturgy for St. Anthony the Great** at St. Elizabeth's
Orthodox Church in Chesterton @ 10am

Jan 22: **Choir Master Class @ 2pm** with dinner after

Jan 27: **Blood Drive 12 – 6pm**

Jan 29: **Festal Vespers for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs @ 1pm**

Jan 30: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs @ 10am**

Feb 12: **Annual Parish Meeting** after Divine Liturgy

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,412

In Memorium: Archpriest Theodore Panchak

Archpriest Theodore Panchak fell asleep in the Lord on the evening of December 30, 2022.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Father Ted was the son of the late Frank and Madge Panchak. He graduated from Oberlin in 1968. Following his graduation, he received his degree in Divinity from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1984. He served in Charlotte North Carolina before coming to Dormition Church in Norfolk, VA. He also taught in the Chesapeake Public Schools System for many years. He is survived by several cousins and extended family and a host of dear friends.

Funeral services will be held in the Dormition Orthodox Church, 736 Sheppard Ave., Norfolk, VA on Tuesday evening at 6PM with viewing following services. A Memorial Liturgy Service will be held at the church Wednesday morning beginning at 9:30 AM. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Dormition Orthodox Church.

Glory to God for all things!