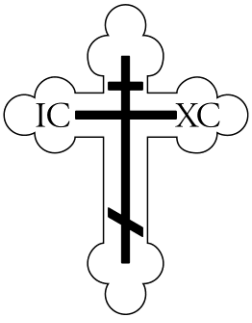


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
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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.

February 12, 2023

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to

the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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 3 – Kontakion for Prodigal Son

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;
receive me as a penitent, //
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

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 2 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6.12-20

Brethren: All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Gospel: Luke 15.11-32

Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

“But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’”

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in.

“Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New. Dep. Thomas Mosak

Bp. Tikhon Fitzgerald

Terry Tutterow

Ev.Mem. Eva Sayka ('30)

Nicholas Atanasoff ('49)

Paul Spotoyan ('49)

Ann Patz (2005)

Alice Erbesti (2018)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Cynthia

Archpr. John

Pr. Patrick

Mat. Anne

Dn. Nicholas

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Tom

Jennifer

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Joseph

Linda

Claudia

Carol

Snezana

Ryan

Nathan

Kara

Djuro	Desiree	Catherine
Paula	Jaroslava	Aaron
Christopher	Andrew	Dale
Karen	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	Helen
Linda	Ashton	Kathleen
Jim	Doris	Rachel
John	Laura	Martha
Martha	Duane	Stephanie
Mark	Elizabeth	N.III. Bradley
Michelle	Karen	Courtney
Irene	Alexa	Marley
Michelle	Miriana	Caleb
Erika	Olga	Miette
Luke	Richard	Iris
Jo	Klaudia	Charlotte
Stephanie	Nicodemus	Solomon
Mary Ann	Nada	Rafael
Robb	Mark	Gabriel

*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

Thank you to the volunteers and parents who helped with **movie night on Friday!**

For **Bible Study** tomorrow night, read **2 Ezra 7-10**

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.

Our **Parish Annual Meeting** will be held after Divine Liturgy today. The agenda and reports are available in pdf on the parish website (www.ptvm.com/annual-reports/). Hard copies are available in the Narthex.

Mark your calendars:

Feb 13: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Feb 14: **Ladies' Sodality @ 10am**

Feb 18: **Memorial Divine Liturgy** for Saturday of Souls @ 10am

Feb 26: **Forgiveness Vespers @ 1pm**

Feb 27: **Clean Monday** (Great Lent begins)

Feb 27 - Mar 2: **Great Canon of St Andrew** in four parts, 6p nightly

Mar 1: **Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am**

Mar 3: **Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am**

Mar 24: **Blood Drive 12p-5p**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$4,188

In Memory: Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West

In the early morning hours of Sunday, January 22, 2023, His Grace, Bishop Tikhon (Fitzgerald), retired Bishop of San Francisco, Los Angeles and the West, peacefully fell asleep in the Lord at LA County – USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA at the age of 90. His Grace had served as ruling hierarch of the Diocese of the West for nearly two decades from 1987 to 2006.

Lee Roy Howard Fitzgerald, the son of LeRoy and Dorothy (Higgins) Fitzgerald was born in Detroit, MI on November 14, 1932. A month later, he was baptized in the Lutheran Church. After high school, he initially enrolled at St. Olaf College in Minnesota from 1952 to 1954. Later that year, he enlisted in the US Army, serving until 1957, and was able to further his education at Wayne State University in Detroit, from which he graduated in 1958. In 1960, he reenlisted in the military, this time as a commissioned officer in the Air Force. While stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, he was received into the Orthodox Church through Chrismation in September 1960 by Fr Peter Zolnerowich at the Base Chapel and given the name Stephen. He continued his work as an Air Force intelligence officer until 1971, having taken a year's leave during the 1965-66 academic year for studies at St Vladimir's Seminary in New York. His final military assignment was at the Pentagon, during which time he was a parishioner of St Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC.

After honorable discharge from the military, he was ordained to the diaconate and assigned to St Nicholas Cathedral on December 19, 1971 by Bishop Dmitri, who was then auxiliary Bishop of Washington, DC. Effective September 15, 1972, Dn Stephen was transferred to Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral in Los Angeles. In 1978, guided by Fr Dimitry Gisetti, Dn Stephen petitioned for ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained on July 9, 1978 by Bishop Gregory of Alaska, who was serving as temporary administrator of the West, and assigned as second priest of the Cathedral. Upon the retirement of Fr Dimitry the following year, Fr Stephen became Cathedral Rector in December 1979. In 1982, he was elevated to the rank of

archpriest. For years, he was a member of the Diocesan Council and represented the diocese on the Metropolitan Council. He also served as District Dean, member of the Diocesan Court, and, finally, as Diocesan Chancellor from 1984-86. An Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly was convened on March 12, 1987 in San Francisco to nominate a candidate for diocesan bishop. As neither of the candidates – Archpriest Stephen Fitzgerald and Hieromonk Alexander (Golitzin) - received the required 2/3 of votes from Assembly delegates, the names of both candidates were submitted to the Holy Synod of Bishops for consideration. On March 17, 1987, Fr Stephen Fitzgerald was formally elected to the episcopacy by the Holy Synod of Bishops. On March 24, 1987, he received monastic tonsure and was given the name Tikhon (after St Tikhon of Zadonsk) at St Tikhon's Monastery in Pennsylvania. Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco and the West was consecrated at San Francisco's historic Holy Trinity Cathedral on May 30, 1987, with Metropolitan Theodosius presiding.

Under Bishop Tikhon's episcopal oversight, the diocese experienced significant growth with the establishment of numerous mission parishes. His Grace exhibited great love for the divine services, and as chief shepherd of his diocese drew the attention of his clergy to matters of proper liturgical order through archpastoral letters of direction and his own methodic example. Though the see of the ruling hierarch of the Diocese of the West had historically been San Francisco, it was under Bishop Tikhon that it was expanded to include Los Angeles.

At the Fall Session of the Holy Synod in October 2006, Bishop Tikhon petitioned to retire from active ministry, which was granted effective November 14, 2006. In retirement, Bishop Tikhon lived quietly at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral in Los Angeles, where he had resided since his assignment there as a deacon in 1972. While his health permitted, His Grace prayerfully and unassumingly attended the divine services at the cathedral, where he was beloved and esteemed, particularly by those parishioners who had known him for decades.

Glory to God for all things!