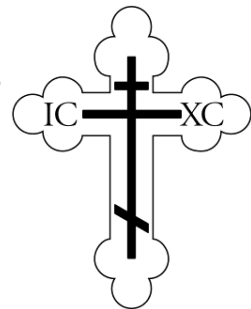
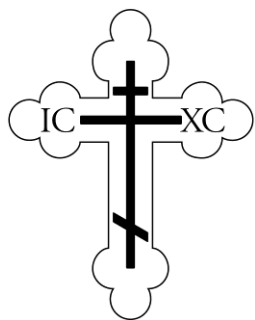


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



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Merrillville, IN  
(219)947-4748  
[www.ptvm.com](http://www.ptvm.com)

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  
hall after Divine  
Liturgy for coffee hour.

# January 12, 2025

## Afterfeast of Theophany

### Holy Martyr Tatiana of Rome

The Holy Virgin Martyr Tatiana was born into an illustrious Roman family, and her father was elected consul three times. He was secretly a Christian and raised his daughter to be devoted to God and the Church. When she reached the age of maturity, Tatiana decided to remain a virgin, betrothing herself to Christ. Disdaining earthly riches, she sought instead the imperishable wealth of Heaven. She was made a deaconess in one of the Roman churches and served God in fasting and prayer, tending the sick and helping the needy.

When Rome was ruled by the sixteen-year-old Alexander Severus (222-235), all power was concentrated in the hands of the regent Ulpian, an evil enemy and persecutor of Christians. Christian blood flowed like water. Tatiana was also arrested, and they brought her into the temple of Apollo to force her to offer sacrifice to the idol. The saint began praying, and suddenly there was an earthquake. The idol was smashed into pieces, and part of the temple collapsed and fell down on the pagan priests and many pagans. The demon inhabiting the idol fled screeching from that place. Those present saw its shadow flying through the air.

Then they tore holy virgin's eyes out with hooks, but she bravely endured everything, praying for her tormentors that the Lord would open their spiritual eyes. And the Lord heard the prayer of His servant. The executioners saw four angels encircle the saint and beat her tormentors. A voice was heard from the heavens speaking to the holy virgin. Eight men believed in Christ and fell on their knees before Saint Tatiana, begging them to forgive them their sin against her. For confessing themselves Christians they were tortured and executed, receiving Baptism by blood.

The next day Saint Tatiana was brought before the wicked judge. Seeing her completely healed of all her wounds, they stripped her and beat her and slashed her body with razors. A wondrous fragrance then filled the air. Then she was stretched out on the ground and beaten for so long that the servants had to be replaced several times. The torturers became exhausted and said that an invisible power was beating them with iron rods. Indeed, the angels warded off the blows directed at her and turned them upon the tormentors, causing nine of them to fall dead. They then threw the saint in prison, where she prayed all night and sang praises to the Lord with the angels.

A new morning began, and they took St Tatiana to the tribunal once more. The torturers beheld with astonishment that after such terrible torments she appeared completely healthy and even more radiant and beautiful than before. They began to urge her to offer sacrifice to the goddess Diana. The saint seemed agreeable, and they took her to the heathen temple. St Tatiana made the Sign of the Cross and began to pray. Suddenly, there was a crash of deafening thunder, and lightning struck the idol, the sacrificial offerings and the pagan priests.

Once again, the martyr was fiercely tortured. She was hung up and scraped with iron claws, and her breasts were cut off. That night, angels appeared to her in prison and healed her wounds as

before. On the following day, they took St Tatiana to the circus and loosed a hungry lion on her. The beast did not harm the saint, but meekly licked her feet. As they were taking the lion back to its cage, it killed one of the torturers. They threw Tatiana into a fire, but the fire did not harm the martyr. The pagans, thinking that she was a sorceress, cut her hair to take away her magical powers, then locked her up in the temple of Zeus.

On the third day, pagan priests came to the temple intending to offer sacrifice to Zeus. They beheld the idol on the floor, shattered to pieces, and the holy martyr Tatiana joyously praising the Lord Jesus Christ. The judge then condemned the valiant sufferer to be beheaded with a sword. Her father was also executed with her, because he had raised her to love Christ.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,//

granting the world great mercy!”

### **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 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

My Savior and Redeemer, as God,  
rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//  
He has risen on the third day!

#### **Tone 4 – Kontakion to St Tatiana**

In your sufferings you shone brightly  
in the royal purple of your blood,  
and like a beautiful dove you flew to heaven,  
passion-bearer Tatiana.//  
Therefore, always pray for those who honor you!

#### **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.”

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Tone 1 – Prokeimenon for the Feast (Psalm 32)**

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

#### **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.

## **Gospel: Matthew 4.12-17 (Sunday after Theophany)**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, 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."

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**N.Dep.** William Harbison

Faryn Valdez

Marie Snodgrass

**Ev.Mem.** Maria Pillar ('13)

Stephen Tomashenko ('30)

Stoyan Lazaroff ('35)

Mary Marciniac ('77)

Alexandra Honchar ('89)

Dragan Lumbarkoski ('94)

Fred Saporsky (2009)

### **Health & Salv.**

Archbp Anastasios

Priest Jan

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Cynthia

Hierom. John

Archpr. Jonathan

Mat. Vera

Pr. Patrick

Pr. Gregory

Mat. Beverly

Pro.dn. Nicholas

Mat. Anne

Nun Theodora

Brendan

Rollie

Claudia

Mary Ann

Raymond

Edward

Charlotte

Joseph

Janice

Klaudia

Maja

Raymond

Anne

Desiree

Robb

Gerald

Janet

Gerald

Rebecca

Christopher

Brianna

Logan

Olga

Janie

Sharon

Tanya

Renee

Ashton

Michael

Chris

Nina

Carissa

Carol

Snezana

Ryan

Nathan

Kara

Karen

Alisa

Michael

Moses

Helena

James

Elijah

Lydia

Nina

George

Linda

Kimberly

Steven

Jamie

Kyleigh

|           |          |                   |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| Lauren    | Joseph   | Sergei            |
| Kyle      | Dwight   | Connie            |
| Linda     | Renee    | Lisa              |
| Denise    | Dominik  | Mazzy             |
| Sergei    | Monica   | John              |
| John      | Charles  | Terry             |
| Cindy     | Kimberly | Erin              |
| Ron       | Abigail  | Everett           |
| Matthew   | Charles  | Angie             |
| John      | Rosemary | Irina             |
| Erin      | Nicholas | Elizabeth         |
| Aaron     | Natalie  | Vitaly            |
| Marcietta | Jovan    | Maria             |
| Galina    | Michael  | Viktorina         |
| Maria     | Daniel   | Rebecca           |
| Alla      | Abram    | N.Ill. Stephen    |
| Elizabeth | Zoë      | L.A. Fire Victims |
| Samuel    | Brenda   |                   |

*To add the name of a loved one recently departed or on the anniversary of their repose, or someone living and in particular need of prayer, please speak to Fr Jacob*

### **Special Petition at the Augmented Litany:**

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially the victims in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine. 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, hearken 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve the **2-year memorial for Tom Mosak**.

For **Bible Study tomorrow**, read 2 Timothy 1-4.

**2024 contribution statements (for taxes) and 2025 stewardship envelopes** are ready for pick-up in the Narthex. It is a great help to our volunteers who count and record your gifts if you use the numbered envelopes assigned to you.

Carpools have been set for **Dn Nicholas' ordination this Saturday**. Anyone planning to attend the ordination Liturgy is welcome to a buffet brunch reception being held immediately afterward at a restaurant close to the Cathedral. The cost is \$25 per person plus drinks, and we need your RSVP (to Fr Jacob) by tomorrow.

The **Women's Book Club** is reading *Do not Judge* by Hieromonk **Gregorios of Mount Athos**. The book is available in our bookstore at a reduced price of \$5. Discussion is Thursday, January 23 at 6pm.

Every year, **Orthodox Christian homes are blessed with the new holy water of Theophany**. A schedule has been prepared with Fr Jacob's availability through January, which was emailed to the parish. Days have been designated for certain areas/towns. Please choose a timeslot designated for your area, if possible. Daytime is preferred. Evenings are also available. A paper copy of the house blessing schedule is still available for viewing and signing up in the narthex. House blessings will continue until Great Lent. Look for the February schedule to be released in the coming weeks.

To kick off house blessing season this year, **everyone is invited to Fr. Jacob and Mat. Jenna's home this afternoon at 2pm**. We will start with the house blessing and continue the open house until 5pm. Food and drink are provided. Please bring nothing with you!

## Mark your calendars:

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

Jan 14: **Men's Breakfast** at Bob Evans, Valparaiso @ 7:15am

Jan 17: **Red Cross Blood Drive**, 12-6pm

Jan 18: **Priestly Ordination of Protodeacon Nicholas** at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago @ 9:30am

Jan 23: **Women's Book Club @ 6pm**

Jan 29: **Festal Vespers for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs @ 6pm**

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

Feb 14: **Young Adult Game Night @ 6pm**

**Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,594**

# **A Request for Prayers**

## **from His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon**

My beloved Children in the Lord,

I am calling upon the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to pray for two urgent situations.

First, remember in your prayers His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, whose condition is deteriorating and has been transferred into intensive care. His Beatitude has been a beacon of faithfulness in the Orthodox world, inspiring many through his missionary efforts and dedication to Christ. May the Most Holy Theotokos and all the saints intercede for him and for those who care for him.

Second, I ask all to pray for all those affected by the devastating fires in California. Many have lost their homes, livelihoods, and even loved ones. We ask the Lord to give His strength to those who are aiding in firefighting and relief efforts, and to show mercy to those suffering at this time.

In coming days, please also consider seeking ways to offer tangible support to those affected, bearing one another's burdens as Christ commands us (Gal. 6:2).

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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