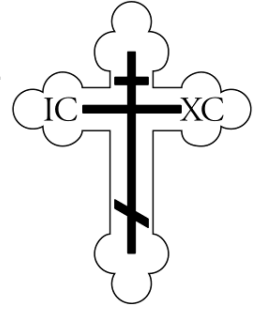
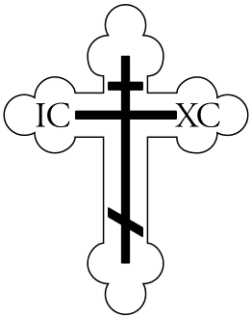


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America

8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN
(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
hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

February 23, 2025

Meatfare

Sunday of the Last Judgment

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During this time, the services of the Church have begun to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory.

The commemoration for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning his Second Coming and the Last Judgment of all, both the living and the dead. In Matthew 25:31-46, Christ speaks about what will happen at this specific point in time when He will “come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him.”

On the past two Sundays of this pre-Lenten period, the focus was placed on God’s patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our Judge. Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes.

This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Savior, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come, a theme that is also the focus of the first three days of Holy Week. But the judgment is not only in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts toward others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves.

Another theme of this Sunday is that of love. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable of the Last Judgment answers: love—not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous “poor,” but concrete and personal love for the human person—the specific persons that we encounter each day in our lives.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for “humanity,” yet each one of us has received the gift and the grace of Christ’s love. We know that all persons ultimately need this personal love—the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that people are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ’s love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged.

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 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Hell became afraid, almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with
You,//
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 1 – Kontakion of the Last Judgment

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

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 3 – Prokeimenon for the Last Judgment (Psalm 146)

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,
His understanding is beyond measure!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8.8 – 9.2

Brethren: Food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25.31-46

Jesus spoke this parable: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Tiana West

Valentina Metulynsky

Archbp. Anastasios of Albania

Jon Bertram

Galina Meuch

Kathleen Long

Ev.Mem. Maria Svetcha ('33)

Sergei Pugach ('42)

Charles Swallow ('68)

Josef Jolevski ('74)

Michael Revak ('99)

Anna Vahary (2019)

William Koveck (2022)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Cynthia

Hierom. John

Archpr. Jonathan

Mat. Vera

Pr. Patrick

Pr. Gregory

Mat. Beverly

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 | Cindy | Jovan |
| Nathan | Ron | Michael |
| Kara | Matthew | Abram |
| Karen | John | Zoë |
| Alisa | Erin | Brenda |
| Michael | Aaron | Lisa |
| Moses | Marcietta | Mazzy |
| Helena | Maria | John |
| James | Alla | Terry |
| Elijah | Elizabeth | Angie |
| Lydia | Samuel | Irina |
| Nina | Joseph | Elizabeth |
| George | Dwight | Vitaliy |
| Linda | Renee | Maria |
| Kimberly | Dominik | Viktoria |
| Steven | Monica | Rebecca |
| Jamie | Charles | Pauline |
| Kyleigh | Kimberly | Meagan |
| Lauren | Abigail | Minnie |
| Kyle | Charles | Richard |
| Linda | Rosemary | Rosie |
| Denise | Nicholas | Sarah |
| John | Natalie | |

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 Petitions 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross we will serve a memorial for **Michael Revak (26 years)**, **Anne Vahary (6 years)**, and **Bill Koveck (3 years)**.

The annual Parish Meeting will take place today after our **Meatfare potluck**. All parish stewards should plan to stay, so that we can conduct this important business.

Our members **Ed Federinko and Ray Baker** lost their home to fire **last Tuesday**. Please keep them in prayer. We are organizing a meal train to help support them through this trial. Sign-ups will be emailed to the parish this week once the details are finalized.

To begin Great Lent, the O-Club has organized a new charitable drive to support the **Women's Care Center (a Crisis Pregnancy Center) in Hammond**. It is designed to work like an angel tree: Take a note from the wall in the narthex, which will list a needed baby-care item, purchase the item, and deposit it in the pack & play.

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read Hebrews 10-13.

Every year, **Orthodox Christian homes** are blessed with the **holy water of Theophany**. This is the last week to have your home blessed before Lent starts! Make an appointment with Fr Jacob.

Mark your calendars:

Feb 24: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Feb 27: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Mar 2: **Forgiveness Vespers** after coffee hour

Mar 3: **Clean Monday: Beginning of Great Lent**
Great Canon of St Andrew, part 1 @ 7pm

Mar 4: **Great Canon of St Andrew, part 2 @ 7pm**

Mar 5: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am**
Great Canon of St Andrew, part 3 @ 7pm

Mar 6: **Great Canon of St Andrew, part 4 @ 7pm**

Mar 7: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am**

Mar 9: **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** at Sts Peter and Paul
Macedonian Orthodox Church in Crown Point @ 6pm,
followed by a meal.

Mar 15: **Pysanki making: Decorating Pascha Eggs @ 2pm**
Catechism @ 4:30pm

Mar 23: **PTVM hosts the Chicago Deanery Lenten Vespers @ 6pm**
followed by a meal.

Mar 28: **Blood Drive 12 – 6pm**

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,373

THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES, THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE FATHERS,
THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE ORTHODOX, THIS IS
THE FAITH WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED THE UNIVERSE'
- SYNODIKON OF ORTHODOXY

PAUL- ORTHODOX VESPERS



Triumph of Orthodoxy

SUNDAY MARCH 9, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

ST. PETER & PAUL MACEDONIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
9660 BROADWAY CROWN POINT, IN 46307

AGAPE MEAL TO FOLLOW

Glory to God for all things!