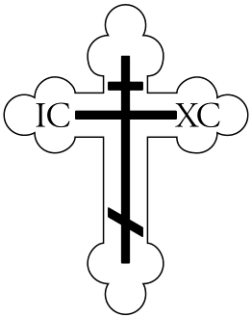


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN
(219)947-4748
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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
hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

February 2, 2025

The Meeting of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

THE ORDER OF THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

*At the threshold of the nave, prayers of exorcism are read over the initiate, and the sponsor makes the profession of faith on his behalf. Then we process to the baptismal font and begin the Liturgy. Special petitions are added to the **Great Litany**. The **baptismal waters** are consecrated, and the initiate is anointed with the **Oil of Gladness**. He is then **baptized**. **Psalm 31** is read as he comes up from the water. The baptismal garment is placed upon him as we sing:*

Tone 8 – Troparion of Vesting

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

*Then the **Beatitudes** with the **Little Entrance**. We sing the **Hymns of the Day** while the initiate finishes dressing.*

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 1 – Troparion of the Feast

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,//
Who grants us the Resurrection!

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 of the Feast

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin’s womb
and blessed Simeon’s hands, ^O Christ God.
Now You have come and saved us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,//
O only Lover of Man!

The newly-illumined is anointed with the Holy Chrism. Then the priest leads a procession around the baptismal font as we sing:

Instead of the Trisagion:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ:

Alleluia! (3x)

Glory... now and ever... Have put on Christ: Alleluia!

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ:

Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)

The Lord shall give strength to His people.

The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos (Luke 1)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4.9-15 (Sunday)

Brethren: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Hebrews 7.7-17 (Feast)

Brethren: Beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there He receives them, of whom it is witnessed that He lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

For, the priesthood being changed, there is also necessarily a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it

is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

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: Luke 19.1-10 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 2.22-40 (Feast)

Now when the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord," and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord: "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

So, he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And, coming in that instant, she gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

So, when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

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

N.Dep. Valentina Metulynsky
Archbp. Anastasios of Albania
Jon Bertram
Galina Meuch
Kathleen Long
William Harbison

Ev.Mem. Anexei Radivan ('20)
Gregory Kadashov ('20)
John Mostobayev ('22)
Dimitri Stepura ('33)
Mitra Yovanoff ('50)
Vasilika Markovic ('55)

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
Nathan
Kara

Karen
Alisa
Michael
Moses
Helena
James
Elijah
Lydia
Nina
George
Linda
Kimberly
Steven
Jamie
Kyleigh
Lauren
Kyle
Linda
Denise
John
Cindy
Ron
Matthew
John

Erin	Kimberly	John
Aaron	Abigail	Terry
Marcietta	Charles	Angie
Maria	Rosemary	Irina
Alla	Nicholas	Elizabeth
Elizabeth	Natalie	Vitaliy
Samuel	Jovan	Maria
Joseph	Michael	Viktoria
Dwight	Abram	Rebecca
Renee	Zoë	Pauline
Dominik	Brenda	Meagan
Monica	Lisa	Minnie
Charles	Mazzy	N.Ill. Seraphim

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.

*After the Prayer at the Ambo, at “Blessed be the name of the Lord...” the newly-illuminated comes forward with the sponsors to receive **Ablution and Tonsure**. Then we will bless candles for the Feast, which will be distributed to the faithful at the end of Liturgy.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read **Hebrews 1-4**.

Tiffany has set up a **half-price table** in the hall to clear out some old bookstore inventory.

Next Sunday, February 9, we have our **annual Parish Meeting**. Annual reports are available in the narthex. The meeting will take place after a quick **potluck lunch/coffee hour**. All parish stewards should bring something to share and plan to stay, so that we can conduct this important business. Please let us know what you plan to bring to the potluck on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

On Saturday, February 18, we will hold an open prosphora baking session at 10am. While the dough proofs and bakes, Fr Jacob will show us how the prosphora bread is used before and during the Divine Liturgy for the Eucharist. Lunch will be provided. **Please sign up in the narthex** if you plan to come, so that we can make sure to have enough ingredients for everyone who would like to bake.

The text for the next **Men's Reading group meeting on February 20** is now available in the bookstore.

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 February, which was emailed to the parish and can be viewed in the Narthex. Days have been designated for certain areas/towns. This week, he will be in the Portage and Chesterton areas on Wednesday and Friday.

Mark your calendars:

Feb 3: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Feb 4: **Divine Liturgy @ 8:30am**

Feb 9: **Annual Parish Meeting** after Divine Liturgy and Lunch

Feb 11: **Men's Breakfast** at the Valpo Bob Evans @ 7:15am

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

Feb 15: **Prosphora Baking Tutorial @ 10am**
Catechism @ 4:30pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 5pm

Feb 16: **Youth Outing to Stardust Bowl** after coffee hour

Feb 20: **Men's Reading Group @ 6:45pm**

Feb 22: **Divine Liturgy and banquet** at Holy Trinity Cathedral for the 100th anniversary of the repose of St Tikhon @ 9:30am

Feb 23: **Meatfare Potluck** after Divine Liturgy

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,449

Glory to God for all things!