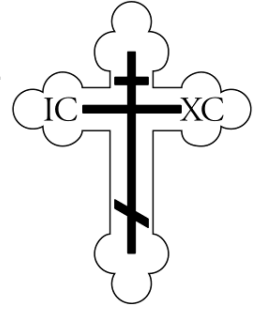
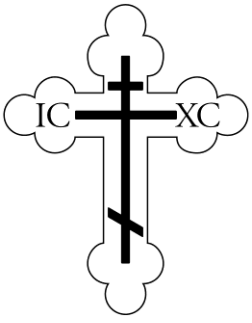


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America

8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN  
(219)947-4748  
[www.ptvm.com](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.

## February 9, 2025

### Leavetaking of The Meeting of the Lord

### Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion**

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

## **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 4 – Kontakion of the Publican and Pharisee**

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!

Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!

Let us cry to our Savior:

“Have mercy on us,//

O only merciful One!”

## **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!

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Tone 8 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

## **Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos (Luke 1)**

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

## **Epistle: 2 Timothy 3.10-15 (Sunday)**

My Son: You have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered

me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### **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."

### **Gospel: Luke 18.10-14 (Sunday)**

Jesus spoke this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

"And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## **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.

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**N.Dep.** Tiana West

Valentina Metulynsky

Archbp. Anastasios of Albania

Jon Bertram

Galina Meuch

Kathleen Long

William Harbison

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Renee	Marcietta
Archpr. Peter	Ashton	Maria
Mat. Cynthia	Michael	Alla
Hierom. John	Chris	Elizabeth
Archpr. Jonathan	Nina	Samuel
Mat. Vera	Carissa	Joseph
Pr. Patrick	Carol	Dwight
Pr. Gregory	Snezana	Renee
Mat. Beverly	Ryan	Dominik
Mat. Anne	Nathan	Monica
Nun Theodora	Kara	Charles
Brendan	Karen	Kimberly
Rollie	Alisa	Abigail
Claudia	Michael	Charles
Mary Ann	Moses	Rosemary
Raymond	Helena	Nicholas
Edward	James	Natalie
Charlotte	Elijah	Jovan
Joseph	Lydia	Michael
Janice	Nina	Abram
Klaudia	George	Zoë
Maja	Linda	Brenda
Raymond	Kimberly	Lisa
Anne	Steven	Mazzy
Desiree	Jamie	John
Robb	Kyleigh	Terry
Gerald	Lauren	Angie
Janet	Kyle	Irina
Gerald	Linda	Elizabeth
Rebecca	Denise	Vitaliy
Christopher	John	Maria
Brianna	Cindy	Viktoria
Logan	Ron	Rebecca
Olga	Matthew	Pauline
Janie	John	Meagan
Sharon	Erin	Minnie
Tanya	Aaron	Richard

*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**

There will be **no Bible Study tomorrow.**

**The annual Parish Meeting has been postponed to February 23.**

Annual reports are available in the narthex. The meeting will take place after the **Meatfare potluck**. All parish stewards should bring something to share and plan to stay, so that we can conduct this important business.

In a nod to today's Gospel message that our closeness to God does not depend upon how fastidiously we keep the outward rules of piety: **The week of the Publican and the Pharisee is fast free.**

**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 Valparaiso area on Thursday and Friday.

### **Mark your calendars:**

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

Feb 13: **Divine Liturgy @ 8:30am**  
**Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

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

**Feb 15: Prospora 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 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the repose of St Tikhon @ 9:30am**

**Feb 23: Meatfare Potluck & Annual Meeting after Divine Liturgy**

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


**Mar 3: Clean Monday: Beginning of Great Lent**

**Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$5328**

**Glory to God for  
all things!**

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 9th</b>		<i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 16th</b>		<b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 23rd</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		<b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>MARCH 2nd</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		<b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 9th</b>		<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 16th</b>		<b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 23rd</b>		<b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHAI</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 30th</b>		<b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 6th</b>		<b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 13th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS		<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 18th</b>		<b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 20th</b> NO FASTING!		<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHAI (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!