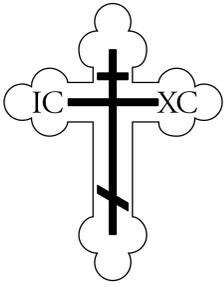
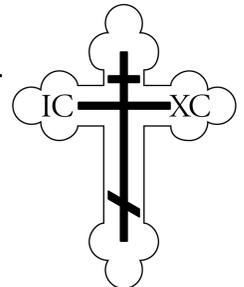


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church in
America



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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219) 384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confessions are heard before or
after Vespers or by appointment.

**Welcome visitors!
Please join us in the
parish hall after
Divine Liturgy for
coffee hour.**

July 8, 2018: Holy Great Martyr Procopius (martyred in 303)

From Eusebius of Caesarea's first-hand account of St.
Procopius, written shortly after his martyrdom:

The first of all the martyrs who appeared in Palestine was Procopius. Truly he was a godly man, for even before his martyrdom he had given up his life to great discipline, and from the time that he was a little boy had been of pure habits and strict morals. By the vigor of his mind he so subjected his body that his soul seemed to dwell in a body completely subdued, and he had so strengthened his soul by the word of God that his body also was sustained by the power of God. Occasionally he took food every second day only, and sometimes every third day, but he never ceased day nor night

from the study of the Word of God. At the same time, he was careful of his manners and modesty of conduct, so that he edified all his peers by his meekness and piety. And while he applied himself chiefly to divine subjects, he was acquainted also in no small degree with natural science. He ministered in the orders of the Church in three ways: First, he was a Reader; he also translated service books from Greek into Aramaic; and lastly, which is even more excellent, he rebuked the powers of the evil one, and the devils trembled before him [he was an exorcist]. Now it happened that he was sent to our city Caesarea. And as soon as he passed the gates of the city they brought him before the Governor, where the judge, whose name was Flavianus, insisted to him, "You must sacrifice to the gods." But he replied with a loud voice, "There is only one God, the Maker and Creator of all things." The judge was struck by the martyr's words, and, abandoning his former order, commanded him to sacrifice to the four emperors. But the holy martyr of God laughed still more at this and quoted the Greeks' favorite poet at him, who said, "the rule of many is not good: let there be one ruler and one sovereign." And for this insult to the emperors, Procopius, though he testified to true life, was sentenced to death. Immediately the head of this blessed man was struck off, and so he received an easy passage to heaven.



HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
Illumined 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
And deliver us from every form of evil.
By entreating Christ, your Son and our God//
That He may save our souls.

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Procopius

Your holy martyr Procopius, O Lord,
through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from
You, our God.
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons//
Through his intercessions save our souls!

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we all cry to Thee:
“O Lord, save us!”

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. Procopius

Set ablaze by divine zeal for Christ and protected by the might of the Cross,
you cast down the insolence and boldness of the enemy, Procopius!
You exalted the honorable Church, //
excelling in faith and giving light to us all!

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

Epistle: Romans 12.6-14

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with diligence; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel: Matthew 8.28-9.1

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And at once some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your

sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were amazed and they glorified God, who had given such power to men.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Sophie Rosca

Priest Michael Prevas

Theodore Milenkoff

Helen James Long

Ev.Mem. Tasia Koveck

Tatyana Berry

Petro Baschanjjeff

Josephine Lubeck

Antonia Skirpan

Health & Salvation:

Protopresbyter George

Matushka Anna

Archpriest Frederick

Matushka Carol

Priest Phillip

Khouria Kathryn

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

Gerald

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Nada

Olive

Mary

Michael

Julia

Warren

Mary

Loretta

Willy

Gilbert

Charlene

Joseph

Carol

Peter

Infant Adam

Infant Benjamin

Infant Juliana

Blessings for:

Paul and Janice Scherer

Helen Campbell

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We need someone to take over organizing **Feed the Flock for next year**. Talk to Bogy and Sherry if interested. Remaining dates for helping out this year are Aug 18 & Nov 3.

Women's Sodality is selling canned peppers again this year. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule to claim yours. Their meeting is this Tuesday, July 10 at 12:30pm @ Pappas Restaurant, Crown Point.

Please, if you haven't already, take a moment before you leave to update your contact information by filling out the form in the vestibule.

The **funeral for Sophie Rosca** will be at the Church at 10am this Tuesday, July 10. Visitation begins at 9am.

Mark your calendars:

The annual **Rummage Sale** will be Friday, August 10 in the parish hall. Item drop-off begins August 5.

This year's **Fashion Show** will take place at the Avalon Banquet Hall on October 14.

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General—\$2,571.00

Mortgage—\$568.00

On Accepting Others

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul (continued from last week)

While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they

enclosed a great shoal of fish. And as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:1-8).

Peter was an experienced fisherman and knew his job. When our Lord told Peter to let down his nets for a catch, Peter obeyed his word even though he doubted that, given his experience and training, anything would come of it. So when this great catch of fish follows, Peter is confronted with a reality beyond his experience and comprehension. He then responds in a paradoxical manner; he draws near to Christ and, kneeling before him, says, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man."

What an amazing response. He comes near only to tell Jesus to get away from him! In this great catch, Christ was reaching out to catch Peter. Why didn't Peter just take off, since he was such a sinful man and wished to avoid Christ? In drawing near to Christ, Peter sees in our Lord an image of what he is called to be. It is something wonderful. Yet in drawing near to our Lord, he sees something not right in himself, something that needs to change. "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." This is the beginning of Peter's repentance; this is the beginning of the journey upon which Peter embarks to lose his life, so that he might find it whole and complete in Christ.

This same message is presented in the icon of the Transfiguration. Our Lord reveals His glory to Peter, James, and John, as far as they are able to bear it. The three disciples are depicted in an unsettled manner. They are upside down, covering their eyes, turning away; yet, at the same time, they are pondering this great mystery, and we hear the words of Peter, "Lord it is good for us to be here!"

Last week I mentioned that we meet Jesus of Nazareth on the bridge of repentance. We see a man but we realize we stand in the presence of Someone who is more than a man. How can this brief vision not cause us to respond by saying, "depart

from me for I am a sinner?” How can this brief vision not change our lives, enabling us to say, “Lord, it is good for us to be here?”

Recently a priest posted this quote on Facebook that I thought was worth sharing. “We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it” (Madeline L’Engle). It is this Light that leads one to repent and seek His Kingdom. Next week I will share thoughts on Mark 10:17-27. Not all respond as Peter did in Luke 5.

Glory to God for all things!