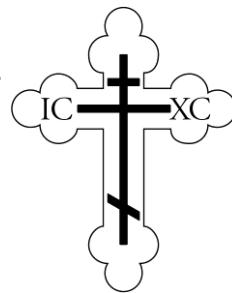
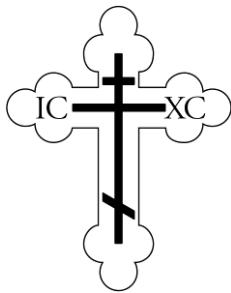


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.**

August 5, 2018

Forefeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord; Martyr Eusignius of Antioch; St. Nonna, mother of St. Gregory the Theologian

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. This reference to the booths could imply that this

occurred during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews would be camping out in the fields for the grape harvest; for this Feast had acquired other associations in the course of its history, including the memory of the wanderings in the wilderness recorded in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces, filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up, they saw only Jesus. As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead.



HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who love mankind!"

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 Transfiguration

Come, you faithful, let us welcome the Transfiguration of Christ,
and let us joyfully cry as we celebrate the prefeast:
“The day of holy gladness has come;
the Lord has ascended Mount Tabor//
to radiate the beauty of His Divinity.”

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.

Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanded.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 4 – Kontakion for Transfiguration

Today all mortal nature shines with the divine Transfiguration
and cries with exultation://
“Christ the Savior is transfigured to save 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: 1 Corinthians 4.9-16

Brethren, I think that God has shown us apostles as last of all, like men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools

for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the refuse of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel: Matthew 17.14-23

At that time they came to the multitude, and a man came up to Him and, kneeling before Him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Radosava Delich
Sophie Rosca
Ev.Mem. Anne Benka
Henry Kodak
Pauline Onischenko
Konstacya Jelesky
Julia Dembowsky
Sophia Christoff
George Angeloff

Jovan
Charles
Barbara
Theodore
Nada
Olive
Mary
Michael
Julia
Warren
Mary
Loretta
Willy
Gilbert
Joseph
Carol
Peter
Janie
Diane
Tom
Elizabeth
Infant Adam
Infant Benjamin
Infant Juliana
N.Ill. infant Joseph

Health & Salvation:

Protopresbyter George
Matushka Anna
Archpriest Frederick
Matushka Carol
Priest Phillip
Khouria Kathryn
Kevin
Jon
Tanya
Kimberly
Gail
Gerald
William

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tomorrow is the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.

Supplication to the Virgin @ 6pm this Wednesday, followed by a light supper and the **parish council meeting** @ 7pm.

Our **Rummage Sale** is this Friday, August 10. Please *mark* your donations and deposit them in the church school rooms. Pick up flyers in the narthex to hang around town.

Our next day to **Feed the Flock** is Saturday, Aug 18. Please ask Sherry (219-476-9492) how you can help.

Food pantry collection is on-going. August is a month of particular need, as low-income families deal with back to school expenses.

On Sunday, Aug 26 the "O" Club is sponsoring a **Summer Pool Party** at the home of Tom & Brenda Mosak in Crown Point. Everyone is welcome. RSVP with a side dish in the narthex. For those who aren't "pool people" there is an ample seating area!

Fr. Jacob & Mat. Jenna are hosting a **Labor Day open house** cook-out from 12-8pm for parishioners and friends. 10343 Nicklaus St., Winfield. Please stop by if you can.

A **women's book group** will begin on Sept 10 meeting Mondays @ Mat. Jenna's home, 7:30-9pm. First book will run for 8 weeks: *How to be a Sinner* by Peter Bouteneff. Contact Mat. Jenna if you are interested in joining.

If you shop Amazon.com, **support our Church** by linking your Amazon account through their Smile program. Go to smile.amazon.com and search for "Protection of the Virgin Mary Church." Ask Fr Jacob or Lesley Erpelding for assistance.

"Do not be surprised that you fall every day. Do not give up, but stand your ground courageously, and assuredly the angel who guards you will honor your patience."

- St. John of the Ladder

Mark your calendars:

Aug 6: Divine Liturgy for the **Transfiguration of our Lord** @ 9am

Aug 8: **Supplication to the Virgin** @ 6pm; Council meets @ 7pm

Aug 10: **Rummage Sale**

Aug 14: Great Vespers with **Lamentations** @ 6pm

Aug 15: Divine Liturgy for the **Dormition of the Theotokos** @ 9am

Aug 18: **Feed the Flock** @ First Presbyterian in Merrillville

Aug 26: **Parish Pool Party** @ Mosaks' after Liturgy

Sept 3: Labor Day Open House @ Van Sickles' 12-8p

Oct 14: Fashion Show at Avalon Banquet Hall after Liturgy

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,245

Mortgage: \$248

Why Are We So Busy?

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

As I write this, I am in Saint Louis at the 19th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. Monday morning's plenary session of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is about to begin. As its members seek to find answers to how they can grow their ministry to the Orthodox Church in America, I see that FOCA and our parishes have one thing in common: how to grow our parishes and ministries in light of how busy our families are today. This is something I have struggled with ever since I became a priest in 1994.

When it comes to forming the life of Christ in the family, can we "have our cake and eat it too?" Is the busyness of family life just a fact that needs to be accepted and the Church work around it?

The busyness of families is a stewardship issue, not of money, **but of time**. Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount, "Where your heart is, there is your treasure." Where do we spend the treasury of our time? Who gets the first portion? When people say they can't give to the Church or participate in her life, usually it is because their time is devoted to things such as sports, learning musical instruments, recreational or entertainment activities, and the list goes on. So to form the life of Christ in families, how do we make room for Him?"

A farmer went out to sow his seed.... Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants... The seed is the word of God.... The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature [Luke 8].

Some of the things we have going on in our lives that make us so busy are spiritual thorns, which choke out and hinder the growth of the healthy, life-giving seed in us. Parents along with their children need to work with their parish priests to discern what those thorny things are. Then by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, they need to let loose the chokehold these activities have in their lives. I will offer additional, specific ideas in the next few weeks for how we can address this problem.



Glory to God for all things!