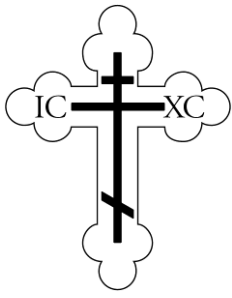
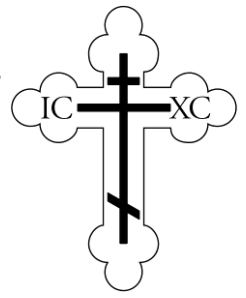


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.**

September 16, 2018 **Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross** **Great-martyr Euphemia**

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body.

To discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius touched the crosses to a corpse one by one. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he came to life. Beholding the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

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 for the Cross

O Lord, save Your people

and bless Your inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Your Cross,//

preserve Your habitation!

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Euphemia

Your lamb Euphemia calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice:

"I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering.

In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You,

and I died so that I might live with You.

Accept me as a pure sacrifice,

for I have offered myself in love."//

Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful!

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 4 – Kontakion for St. Euphemia

You completed your struggle well, all-praised Euphemia;
even after death, you pour out healing on us for our sanctification.
We stand beside your venerable relics to honor your holy
falling asleep,
that in faith we may be delivered from the weaknesses of our nature
and to obtain the grace of your miracles.

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Cross

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God.
Make all Orthodox Christians glad by your power,
granting them victories over their adversaries//
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 2.16-20

Brethren, since we know that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found to be sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2 Corinthians 6.1-10

We then, brethren, as fellow-workers with Him, also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in unrest, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fasting; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Gospel: Mark 8.34-9.1

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Matthew 25.14-30

The Lord spoke this parable to His disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his servants and entrusted his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them and made another five talents. And likewise, he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground and hid his lord's money.

“After a long time, the lord of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

“He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:

N.Dep. Olive Leskow

Infant Isaac

Geraldine

Marian Havrila

Ev.Mem. Danny Shocaroff

John Warichak

Alexander Gligoroff

Dimitri Chankoff

Paraskeva Harchuk

Health & Salvation:

Protopresbyter George

Matushka Anna

Archpriest Frederick

Matushka Carol

Archpriest Peter

Archpriest William

Matushka Jean

Priest John

Priest Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

Gerald

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Olive

Michael

Julia

Warren

Mary

Loretta

Willy

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Tom

Elizabeth

Adam

Sean

Myah

Margaret

Diane

Madelin

Villian

Deborah

Jovan

Claudia

John

Infant Benjamin

Infant Juliana

Infant Lennox

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many years to the new catechumens Roger and Tina Blake!

A big thank you to everyone who helped our parish clean-up yesterday. A lot was accomplished.

We will celebrate PTVM's 107th Anniversary on September 30 after Liturgy with a dinner in leu of coffee hour. There will be no charge for the dinner, but donations will be accepted.

Beginning in October we will have Fellowship Night at the Church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. We will share a meal and grow in our faith together.

Mark your calendars:

Sept 30: Parish **Feast-Day** celebration (moved from Oct 1)

Oct 1: Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the **Protection of the Virgin Mary**

Oct 10: Our first **Fellowship Night** – Potluck @ 6pm followed by teaching and Small Compline @ 7:30pm

Oct 14: **Fall Fashion Show** at Avalon Banquet Hall after Liturgy

Oct 24: **Fellowship Night** – Potluck @ 6pm followed by teaching and Small Compline @ 7:30pm

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,252

Mortgage: \$518

Today's prosphora bread was offered by Sherry Mizimakoski.

9-11 and the Cross

A reflection by his Grace, our bishop Paul

On this day seventeen years ago, the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the airliner crash in Pennsylvania took place, killing thousands of innocent people. Regarding the Pennsylvania crash, some brave people on board prevented the plane from reaching its target. That day drastically changed the way our country operates. Much was done to make our airports safer for flying, with a major increase in security measures. I am thankful to God for these measures. Since September 11, 2001, we have not had a major terrorist attack in our country involving our airports and jets.

Yet in many ways, there is much about our world today that remains unsafe. We have seen hundreds of young people lose their lives in school shootings throughout the country and over 50 people recently slain in the Las Vegas Hotel sniper

attack. During a recent weekend in Chicago, 19 people lost their lives in gun-related incidents. We see scores of people dying from addiction to opioids such as Heroin laced with Fentanyl. The womb continues to be an unsafe place where many conceived infants are not allowed to develop and be born. The number of infants who lose their lives by abortion far surpasses the loss of life in the above scenarios.

I have spent a good amount of time in my weekly notes addressing these topics. The solutions of the world have their limits, whether they be making abortion illegal, banning certain weapons, arming people with guns in schools, or fighting what seems to be a losing battle in the war on drugs. What words can I share with you as parents who are striving to form your children in the Orthodox Christian Faith?

The only solution I can think of is getting people to a point that they wouldn't think of getting an abortion, wouldn't think of experimenting with dangerous drugs, wouldn't think of taking a gun into school or using it on a family member.

This week we celebrate the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is during this feast that we take an instrument of death and scandal, an instrument that is cursed, and transform it into an instrument of victory, of joy, of reconciliation, and of peace. The Kontakion of this feast puts it so well:

“As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the Invincible Trophy, Your weapon of Peace.”

Go as a family to a church near you and celebrate this Great Feast of our Lord this week. May this Feast bring us the joy and peace we are seeking in our lives.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you, with love,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!