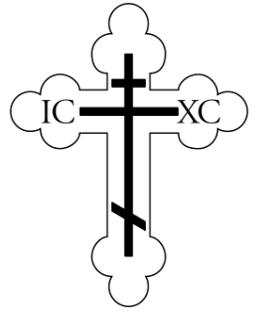


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
www.ptvm.com

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.**

November 18, 2018

Martyrs Plato of Ancyra and Romanus of Caesarea

From Eusebius's *Martyrs of Palestine* (316 A.D.)

Romanus suffered martyrdom in the city of Antioch, but he belonged to Palestine, and he was a Deacon and an Exorcist in one of the villages of Caesarea. By his denunciation of demonic error, he restrained his fellow Christians, who were timidly relapsing into idolatry, recalling to their minds God's righteous retribution.

He had the courage to follow a multitude of Christians who were being dragged by force before the judge, and to present himself there in Antioch in the courtroom. And when he heard the judge commanding them to sacrifice and saw them succumbing to their fears and preparing to offer sacrifice to false gods, this zealous man was unable to endure

the sad spectacle. He was moved with pity for them as for people feeling their way in the darkness and on the verge of falling over a cliff. So he raised up the true teaching of God before them like the sun, crying aloud and saying: "What are you doing? Will you all debase yourselves and be cast into the abyss? Lift the eyes of your understanding on high and behold above all worlds the God and Savior of all the ends of the earth! Do not abandon the charge which has been entrusted to you for the godless error of idolatry. Remember the righteous judgment of our supreme God."

And when Romanus had said these things loudly and fearlessly, the judge command the officers to seize him and condemned him to be destroyed by fire. For the crafty judge could tell that many of the accused Christians firmed their resolve at his words, and that he turned many back from error. And because the emperor was in the vicinity, they at once brought this servant of Jesus to the city center.

But as they were hastily preparing the fire, the emperor Diocletian, who heard what happened, gave orders not to execute the martyr by fire, because, he said, his insolence and folly were not suitable for such a punishment. And so, like a merciful emperor, he ordered a new kind of punishment for Christ's witness: that his tongue should be cut out.

Nevertheless, though his organ of speech was taken away, still his true love was not severed from his God, nor was his intellectual tongue restrained from preaching. Immediately he received from God a reward for his struggles. He was filled with power much greater than before, and all present were amazed. For though his tongue had been cut out, by the gift of God He began to speak valiantly and to exult in his faith as though he were standing by the side of Christ Himself. And with a bright and cheerful countenance, he acknowledged his Friend and scattered the seed of the word of God into the ears of all, exhorting them to worship God alone and lifting his prayers and thanksgiving to the God who works wonders. And after he had done so for a long time, he was again seized, stretched upon the rack, and strangled.

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 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illuminated 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 the martyrs

Your holy martyrs Plato and Romanus, O Lord,

through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns

from You, our God.

For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,

and shattered the powerless boldness of demons//

Through their intercessions save our souls!

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection,

and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly

Merciful One!

Tone 3 – Kontakion for St. Plato

Your holy memory delights the universe, O Plato,

bringing us together to honor you in our joy.

With hymns we praise your great deeds,

crying out to you with faith:

“Save our land from its enemies, O holy one!”

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: Ephesians 4.1-6

Brethren: I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel: Luke 12.16-21

At that time, Jesus spoke a parable to them, saying: “The fields of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’”

“So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’”

“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have prepared?’”

“So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Repose:	Michael
N.Dep. Archpr. Joseph Martin	Olexa
Vaso Popovich	Anna
Rick Lawton	Maria
Edward Nachoff	Valentina
Ev.Mem. Gregory Burchuk	Vladimir
Pauline Kaftan	Afanasiy
Ksenia Pillar	Leonid
Mary Gayda	Andrey
Olga Snarsky	Eugenia
Angeline Svetcoff	Gregoriy
Ted Parkevich	Galina

Health &	Barbara	Claudia
Salvation:	Theodore	John
Protopres. George	Michael	Joey
Mat. Anna	Julia	Carisa
Archpr. Peter	Warren	Natalia
Archpr. William	Loretta	Elizabeth
Mat. Jean	Gilbert	Tom
Priest John	Carol	Alexander
Priest	Peter	Darlene
Christopher	Janie	Mira
Mat. Jennifer	Tom	Kristin
Andrew	Elizabeth	Mitchel
Gideon	Tina	Brittany
Kevin	Adam	Roger
Jon	Myah	Tina
Tanya	Margaret	Benjamin
Kimberly	Diane	Juliana
Gail	Madelin	Lennox
William	Villian	Laila
Jovan	Deborah	
Charles	Jovan	

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

A second collection will be taken today as we exit the sanctuary to support the humanitarian work of *International Orthodox Christian Charities*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **O-Club** will meet after coffee hour today to plan future outreach efforts. New members are always welcome.

Please pick up your **Thanksgiving bake sale** order during coffee hour.

Our **food collection** this month supports the South Haven Food Pantry

As the holidays approach, remember to **purchase your gift cards through Scrip** (available during coffee hour). Also, if you shop on Amazon, start at **smile.amazon.com** and select "Protection of the Virgin Mary Church" as your charity of choice. These are easy ways to support the ministry of PTVM.

Mark your calendars:

Nov 21: Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple – Vespers
Tuesday night @ 6pm; Liturgy Wednesday @ 10am

Nov 22: Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy @ 9am

Nov 28: Fellowship Night @ 6pm

Nov 29: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

Dec 1: Adorn the Church for Christmas @ 9am

Dec 8: Church School buys and wraps St. Nicholas gifts for families in need.

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$2,040

Mortgage: \$60

Our prosphora bread is baked by Elizabeth Pedersen, Ivanka Tanaskoski, and Sherry Mizimakoski. Please let Fr Jacob know if you are interested in joining this ministry.

The International Orthodox Christian Charities Day of Sharing Encyclical

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the Americas:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, Orthodox faithful in the United States come together to give thanks to God for His many blessings, and for the privilege of serving Christ by serving others. The Assembly of Bishops has designated this *A Day of Sharing*. It is set aside to focus on the work of International Orthodox Christian Charities, or IOCC, whose mission is to help people in great need, wherever and whoever they may be.

As the official humanitarian and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, IOCC is a way for Orthodox Christians to extend to others the great mercy that Christ has shown us. Since its creation in 1992, IOCC has served people around the world facing war, famine, natural disaster, and economic hardship so that they may have the means to live with dignity, respect, and hope.

Through your faithfulness and generosity, IOCC extends hope to families, refugees and displaced persons, the elderly, schoolchildren, orphans, and people with disabilities—to students, young graduates, small businesses, and farmers. When news of disaster dominates our daily lives, IOCC is present to offer practical assistance: helping Syrian refugees in Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, and Romania, and Syrians displaced in their own country, by providing food, water, shelter, and medicine; offering economic opportunity and business mentoring in Greece amidst continued financial crisis; building school facilities in Uganda; repairing water networks in Lebanon; supporting the Romanian Orthodox Church's training for social workers in assisting children with special needs; and erecting innovative greenhouses in Georgia to serve the Church and its community with produce and income. With assistance

offered in the spirit of Christ's love, entrepreneurs in Bosnia-Herzegovina have grown their businesses, while fire survivors in Greece who lost everything have started anew. Here in the United States, IOCC has cleaned out and rebuilt homes damaged by floods and hurricanes, offering emotional and spiritual care to individuals and families.

As an agency of the Assembly, IOCC is an organization of all our Orthodox jurisdictions, echoing our unity in Christ as His body. IOCC's mission to offer assistance without discrimination recalls Christ's teaching to help our neighbors, even as the Samaritan of the Gospel helped the injured traveler, seeing not our differences but our shared humanity. As we thank God for His goodness to us, let us not forget our neighbors— God's children—facing difficulty near and far, and let us recommit to serving those in need, whoever and wherever they may be!

During this holy season, may the Lord shine His mercy upon you and your family and bring His peace into your homes and your hearts.

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

+Metropolitan NICOLAE of the
Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas
*Liaison for IOCC from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox
Bishops of the United States of America*

Glory to God for All Things!