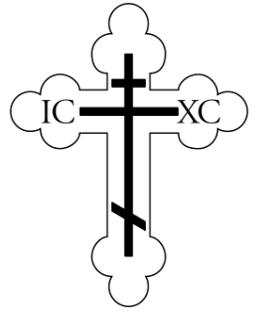


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410  
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219) 384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## December 30, 2018

### Afterfeast of the Nativity of our Lord

### Holy Prophet David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Lord's brother

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. After he became a widower, St. Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity. An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St. Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child,

working as a carpenter. St. Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage. After the Ascension of the Lord, St. James was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also of Jews. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple because he had publicly preached to the people about the God-Manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell,  
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

### **Tone 4 – Troparion of the Feast**

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the light of wisdom.

For by it those who worshipped the stars

were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of righteousness,  
and to know You,

the Orient from on high.//

O Lord, glory to You!

### **Tone 2 – Troparion for the Saints**

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;

you saw a Virgin great with Child;

you gave glory with the shepherds;

you worshipped with the Magi;

you received the news from the angel.//

Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

### **Tone 3 – Kontakion for the Saints**

Today godly David is filled with joy;

Joseph and James offer praise.

The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.

They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, //

and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!”

### **Tone 3 – Kontakion of the Feast**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,  
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.

Angels with shepherds glorify Him;

the Wise Men journey with the star, //

since for our sake the eternal God is born as a little Child!

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Epistle: Galatians 1.11-19**

Brethren: I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.

## **Gospel: Matthew 2.13-23**

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Repose:**

**N.Dep.** Mary Shocaroff

Karen Peterson

Joseph Huddleston

Kadee Huddleston

Brandi Vail

Swayzee Hite

Rhylie Hite

Marshall Hite

Daniel Hite

**Ev.Mem.** Christ Taleff

Michael Svihra

Joseph Kallwer

**Health &**

**Salvation:**

Protopr. George

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. William

Mat. Jean

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Bogdan Trajkovski

Andrew Holland

Michael

Julia

Warren

Loretta

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Myah

Margaret

Diane

Madelin

Villian

Deborah

Jovan

Claudia

John

Joey

Carisa

Natalia

Elizabeth

Tom

Alexander

Darlene

Mira

Kristin

Mitchel

Brittany

Jennifer

David

Roger

Tina

Chris

Sheila

Brandon

Benjamin

Juliana

Lennox

Laila

N.III. Sophia

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

*Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing this from the Nativity:*

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:  
heaven—the cave; the cherubic throne—the Virgin;  
the manger—the place where Christ lay—  
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight, Bishop Paul hosts his 4<sup>th</sup> interactive Family Life Livestream @ [www.midwestfamily.org](http://www.midwestfamily.org). The topic is “Why Can’t Church be More Fun?”—helping our Children participate in the Liturgy.

Next Sunday is **Theophany**, the celebration of Christ’s baptism in the Jordan river, when He began preaching salvation to the world. We will **bless water** for the new year at Saturday Vespers @ 4pm. After Liturgy on Sunday, there will be no Sunday School, but the children will lead Fr Jacob and the choir in blessing the Church.

Everyone is cordially invited to the blessing of Fr Jacob and Mat Jenna’s home after coffee hour next week. Blessing begins promptly @ 2pm, followed by drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and fellowship: 10343 Nicklaus St. Crown Point, IN.

Please arrange with Fr Jacob to **have your home blessed** between Theophany and the start of Lent (Mar 11).

The **Women’s Book Group** will start up again on Jan 7. The book, *Becoming a Healing Presence* by Dr. Albert Rossi, is available in the book store.

## Mark your calendars:

Dec 31: Great Vespers for the **Circumcision of the Lord** @ 6pm

Jan 1: Divine Liturgy for the **Circumcision of the Lord** at  
Descent of the Holy Ghost Orthodox Church @ 10am

Jan 5: Vespers of **Theophany** with **Blessing of Water** @ 4pm

Jan 6: **Theophany** Liturgy with blessing of the Church @ 10am  
All are invited to Van Sickle **house blessing** @ 2pm

Jan 9: **Fellowship Night** @ 6pm

Jan 10: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am

# Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon Nativity of Christ 2018

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved brethren and blessed children in the Lord,

Today, the glorious feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ shines forth and brings joy to all of creation. The sacred hymnography and iconography of the Church provide words and images to help us interpret the light-filled feast that we celebrate on this day, when He Who *“has adorned the vault of heaven with stars has been well pleased to be born as a babe,”* and He Who *“holds all the earth in the hollow of His hands is laid in a manger of dumb beasts.”*

Holy Tradition offers us the account of the universal hush that took place at the incarnation, expressed in Joseph’s encounter with the stillness of the natural world: birds hanging motionless in flight, men and beasts frozen in their tracks and the waters ceasing their flow. The continuous passage of time and movement of history came to a halt as creation paused in astonishment when the Eternal entered into the heart of time and the pre-eternal God was born as a little child.

This miraculous moment may be unique in history, but it provides us with some inspiration for the manner in which we ought to receive the sacred mystery that we celebrate today. The Apostle Paul writes: *“Be thankful”* (Col. 3:15) and *“In everything give thanks”* (I Thess. 5:18). It is in this spirit of gratitude that we should receive this feast.

We live in a world in which offering thanksgiving has become a scarce commodity and a rare virtue. In almost every aspect of our human existence, it seems that our first instinct is not to give thanks, but rather to reply, to respond, or to react. At every second of our waking, we are compelled to

reply to emails, to texts and to posts. Daily, we respond to our own passionate desires, to every perceived threat and to every offense, and we are drawn to react to every instance of human fallenness, political division and ecclesiastical conflict.

While it may be easier to blame the world for these challenges, we should remember that it is from within our hearts that our actions and attitudes spring forth. We may long for perfection, but we are confronted by our own weaknesses. But even here we should remember, as Saint Barsanuphius reminds us, that thanksgiving intercedes before God for our weaknesses. Thanksgiving is not the crown of the perfect but the strength of the weak.

Thanksgiving is what allows us as broken, sorrowful, hurting and frail human beings to join our voices to the rest of creation in singing:

*Make glad, you righteous; Greatly rejoice, you heavens;  
You mountains dance for joy.*

*Christ is born; and like the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne,  
Carrying at her bosom God the Word made flesh.*

*Shepherds glorify the new-born Child.*

*Magi offer the Master gifts.*

*Angels sing praises, saying:*

*“O Lord past understanding, glory to Thee”*

*(from the Praises at Matins).*

Sincerely yours in the new-born Christ,

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

**Glory to God for all things!**