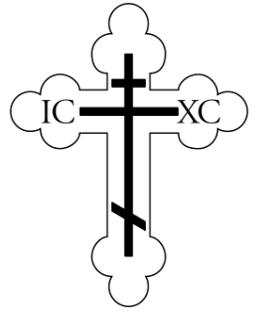


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## Orthodox Church



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



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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.**

## January 13, 2019

### **Afterfeast of Theophany; Holy Martyrs Hermylus, Stratonicus, and the Fathers slain at Sinai**

The Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus lived at the beginning of the fourth century during a persecution against Christians by the emperor Licinius (311-324). St Hermylus served as deacon in the city of Singidunum (modern-day Belgrade, Serbia). Condemned by Licinius to imprisonment, he was long and cruelly tortured for Christ, but he remained unyielding.

Hermylus mocked the pagan gods, calling them deaf, dumb, and blind idols. In anger Licinius ordered more severe torments for him, saying that he could avoid them if he would offer sacrifice. After three days Hermylus was brought before

the tribunal again and asked whether he would avoid more torture by offering sacrifice. The saint replied that he would offer worship and sacrifice only to the true God.

St. Hermylus prayed that the Lord would give him strength to endure his torments and triumph over the pagans. A voice was heard saying, "Hermylus, you will be delivered from your suffering in three days and will receive a great reward." The torturers fell to the ground in fear and took the saint back to prison.

St. Stratonicus was one of the prison guards and also a Christian, but secretly. Seeing the agonizing torments of his friend, he was unable to keep from weeping, and by this he was revealed as a Christian. After he confessed his faith, they also subjected him to punishment.

After the torture, they put both martyrs into a net and threw them into the Danube River. On the third day, the bodies of the saints were found by Christians on the bank of the river and buried near Singidunum.

## 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 1 – Troparion of the Feast**

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,  
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.

For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,  
calling You His Beloved Son;

and the Spirit in the form of a dove

confirmed the truthfulness of His word.

O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself,//

and have enlightened the world, glory to You.

## **Tone 4 – Troparion for the Martyrs**

Your holy martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus, 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 2 – Kontakion for the Sinai Fathers**

You fled from worldly fame

and hastened to a quiet refuge,

where you were crowned with the blood of martyrdom

and ascetical labors./.

Therefore, you now abide with the Martyrs and the Venerable Ones.

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

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord,

and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us.

Knowing You, we sing Your praises:

“You have come and revealed Yourself,./.

O unapproachable Light.”

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Epistle: Ephesians 4.7-13**

Brethren: To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. For this reason, the Scripture says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.”

Now this, “He ascended” – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of

the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **Gospel: Matthew 4.12-17**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

<b>Repose:</b>	Andrew Izhak (1934)
<b>N.Dep.</b> Richard Smith	Andrew Vasnitich (1957)
Jeanine Andjelich	Anastasia Shawkun (1976)
Mary Shocaroff	John Sawochka (1984)
Karen Peterson	John Pirovsky (1987)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b>	Joseph Kostelnik (1994)
Michael Klimchuk (1916)	Anna Holub (2007)
Anna Visotsky (1927)	Anna Lickar (2008)
Mary Maliniak (1929)	

<b>Health &amp;</b>	Andrew	Theodore
<b>Salvation:</b>	Gideon	Michael
Protopr. George	Kevin	Julia
Mat. Anna	Jon	Warren
Archpr. Peter	Tanya	Loretta
Archpr. William	Kimberly	Gilbert
Mat. Jean	Gail	Carol
Pr. John	William	Peter
Pr. Christopher	Jovan	Janie
Mat. Jennifer	Charles	Tom
	Barbara	Elizabeth

Tina	Elizabeth	Chris
Adam	Tom	Sheila
Myah	Paul	Brandon
Margaret	Alexander	Benjamin
Diane	Darlene	Juliana
Madelin	Mira	Joseph
Villian	Kristin	Cathy
Deborah	Mitchel	Laurie
Claudia	Brittany	Lennox
John	Jennifer	Laila
Joey	David	Richard
Carisa	Roger	N.Ill. Sophia
Natalia	Tina	

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

*Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing this Theophany hymn:*

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

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos.  
 Even angels are overcome with awe praising you.  
 But since you are good accept our faith;  
 for you know our love, inspired by God.//  
 You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A big **thank you** to everyone who helped us take down Christmas decorations yesterday morning.

Last week the parish hall embarked upon a new advertising campaign. Already calls are coming in at an unprecedented rate (thank you Nick Rozdelsky and Elizabeth Wysoki for your hard work). It is more important than ever that our parishioners and parish organizations wishing to use the hall reserve their dates early.

The Tumblers are back in session Mondays. This means we need to tear down tables after coffee hour each week. Many hands make light work!

Please arrange with Fr Jacob to **have your home blessed** between Theophany and the start of Lent (Mar 11). For those who are available during the day, I have prepared a schedule showing which days I will be in each local region. Please write your name down for a day in your region that you are available. Evening and weekend blessings will be done by appointment.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Jan 14: **Women's Book Group @ 7:30pm** at Mat. Jenna's home

Jan 16: **Fellowship Night @ 6pm**

Jan 17: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Jan 29: Great Vespers @ 6pm for the **Feast of the Three Hierarchs**: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom

Jan 30: Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the **Feast of the Three Hierarchs**

Feb 9-10: **Pastoral visit** from His Grace, our Bishop Paul.

Feb 17: **Annual Meeting**

### **Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:**

General Fund: \$1,588

Mortgage: \$543

Today's prosphora bread was offered by Elizabeth Pederson

# Home Blessings at Theophany:

## A Great Family Event

by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

*The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. The home blessing at Theophany represents a renewal of our lives in Christ. Washed in the baptismal waters, our homes become temples of the Holy Spirit for the fulfillment of the will of our Heavenly Father. This is why the Church blesses everything that can be found in a Christian home; and if something is not worthy of being blessed, then there should not be a place for it in the home of a Christian.*

– taken from: <http://stjohndfw.info/2016/01/12/the-house-blessings-at-theophany/>)

The Great Feast of Theophany celebrates the renewal of all Creation, through which the waters have been sanctified in Christ. He chases away and destroys the dragons and any demonic activity in them. In His descent into the Jordan, He shows the waters to be waters of cleansing and of salvation — the very same waters of the Red Sea that freed the Hebrew people from their enslavers, the very same waters of the Jordan crossed over by other Old Testament figures. (See the 13 Old Testament Readings of Great Vespers celebrated on January 5, which can be found on the OCA website).

The quote offered above provides a wonderful reminder about how important it is to have one's home blessed during the Theophany season. It is an opportunity for parents to teach their children how the home is to be a place where everything in it is to be used in accordance with God's will. It calls our attention to family homes as temples in which the Lord resides, both in the home itself and in its family members. Thus, "the Church blesses everything that can be found in a Christian home; and if something is not worthy of being blessed, then there should not be a place for it in the home of a Christian."

May we once again, during this Theophany season, be mindful of our homes and how they are to be vehicles through which the life of the Triune God is manifested.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

The unworthy +Paul

Quick details for a house blessing:

When a home is blessed, the family supplies a bowl, a candle and an icon (the Theophany icon is traditional, but any icon of Christ will do). The family should also provide the priest with a list of all family members, living and deceased, to be prayed for.

The bowl and icon should be placed on a clean table with a cloth on it. Lights throughout the house should be turned on, floors should be clear for walking throughout the house, and radios and televisions should be off.

When a priest visits, it is never expected that the family gives him money. The priest comes to the home because he wants God's blessing to be upon it, and to know those in his flock better and to be available to them.

**Glory to God for all things!**