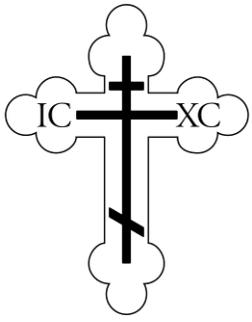
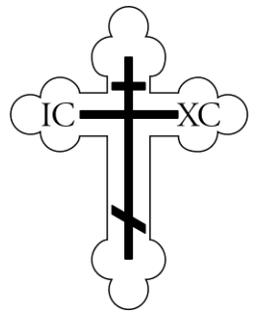


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## Orthodox Church



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



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(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.**

## January 27, 2019

### The New Martyrs of Russia under Communism

Today we commemorate the uncounted millions of faithful who suffered and died at the hands of the Soviet atheists. These include the Tsar-martyr Nicholas II and the rest of the Royal Family, Patriarch Tikhon, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, and thousands of other martyrs, both clergy and laity, whose names are known; but also millions upon millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history. The number of the New Martyrs of Russia far exceeds all those from the "Age of the Martyrs"—the first three centuries of Christianity. May their memory be eternal!

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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.  
Deliver us from every form of evil  
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//  
that He may save our souls.

## **Tone 3 – Troparion for the New Martyrs of Russia**

In these latter times, a host of martyrs,  
newly crowned with grace, rejoice in heaven,  
glorified with diverse forms of martyrdom!  
For, having censured the madness of godless foes,  
they gained the laurels of triumph and victory.  
Hence, they fervently entreat Christ for us unceasingly//  
to grant great mercy to us, who sing their praise.

## **Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

Hell became afraid, almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced  
with You,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

## **Tone 3 – Kontakion for the New Martyrs of Russia**

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white robes before  
the Lamb of God,  
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:  
“Blessing and glory and wisdom and praise and honor  
and power and strength be to our God//  
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

### **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: Colossians 3.12-16**

Brethren: As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

### **Romans 8.28-39 – for the New Russian Martyrs**

Brethren: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are the called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, those whom He predestined He also called; those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or

distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel: Matthew 25.14-30**

The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own 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 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. Therefore, 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.'"

### **Matthew 10.16-22 – for the New Russian Martyrs**

Jesus said His disciples, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But they who endure to the end will be saved."

### **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

<b>N.Dep.</b> Richard Smith	Afredita Anastoff (1931)
Jeanine Andjelich	Space Julovich (1935)
Mary Shocaroff	Mary Radivan (1962)
Karen Peterson	Anthony Newman (1990)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Peter Stefanoff ('31)	Nettie Pustik (1992)
<b>Health &amp; Salvation:</b> Protopr. George	Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter	Gilbert	Darlene
Archpr. William	Carol	Mira
Mat. Jean	Peter	Kristin
Pr. John	Janie	Mitchel
Pr. Christopher	Tom	Brittany
Mat. Jennifer	Elizabeth	Jennifer
Andrew	Tina	David
Gideon	Adam	Roger
Kevin	Myah	Tina
Jon	Margaret	Chris
Tanya	Diane	Benjamin
Kimberly	Madelin	Juliana
Gail	Villian	Joseph
William	Deborah	Cathy
Jovan	Claudia	Laurie
Charles	John	Lennox
Barbara	Carisa	Laila
Theodore	Natalia	Richard
Michael	Elizabeth	Paula
Julia	Tom	Christopher
Warren	Paul	Brian
Loretta	Alexander	Jennifer

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bishop Paul** will be with us in two weeks! On Saturday, Feb 9 we will have breakfast at 10am, followed by “show and tell” with the bishop. After Vespers there will be a reception in the hall. Come and enjoy the company of our spiritual father.

**Annual reports** are now available in the narthex for the **annual meeting on February 17**. Please read the reports before the meeting and bring any questions you have to the meeting. There will be a potluck lunch before the meeting.

We are recycling many old liturgical and music books. If any would like to take some home, they are available for taking in the narthex (vestibule).

## Mark your calendars:

Jan 28: **Women's Book Group @ 7:30pm** at Mat. Jenna's home

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

Jan 30: Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the **Three Hierarchs Fellowship Night @ 6pm**

Jan 31: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Feb 1: Great Vespers @ 6pm for the **Meeting of the Lord**

Feb 2: **Divine Liturgy** at Descent of the Holy Ghost

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

Feb 17: **Parish Annual Meeting**

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

General Fund: \$1,588

Mortgage: \$543

## **What Does it Mean to Believe in the Sanctity of Life? by His Grace, our Bishop Paul**

Last Sunday I, together with other local Orthodox clergy and lay people, participated in the annual March for Life in Chicago, at which I offered the opening prayer. Then along with other local clergy and lay people, I celebrated a Moleben for the Sanctity of Life on Sunday evening at Saints Peter and Saint Paul Orthodox Church in Burr Ridge, IL. In my remarks on Sunday evening I reflected on the following words from Saint Paul:

*"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are" (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).*

There is a depth to these words from St. Paul that leads me to see that the Sanctity of Life is much more than what one believes regarding *Roe vs. Wade*. At Saints Peter and Saint

Paul Church on Sunday night, in addition to prayers related to abortion, we prayed for those on death row, the elderly in institutional care, victims of gun violence in schools and neighborhoods, those overcome by various addictions, refugees seeking a home, victims of war, and those contemplating suicide.

It is important that we embrace a sanctity of life ethic that covers the entire span of life—from conception to death. Even in cases in which those in the military and law enforcement take the life of another while dutifully protecting citizens from danger, I would expect that any Orthodox Christian who serves in that capacity, who has taken a life, would go to Confession before going to Communion. We don't justify the taking of a life, but we understand that, given the fallen nature of this world, the act of taking a life to protect another may be necessary. But this is not what we were made for.

*“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”  
(John 10:10).*

So, if we want to bring about an end to abortion, we must consider how we would respond to a mother who needs support because she chooses not to abort. This is a far more challenging question to address than merely stating that one is “against abortion.”

I wrote about this last year. My point here is to encourage parents, in discussions with their children, to take a deeper look at the fact that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. When we act to do harm to that temple, we must consider how this is related to a sanctity of life ethic? Upon which other areas of our lives does this make an impact, besides the abortion issue?

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

**Glory to God for all things!**