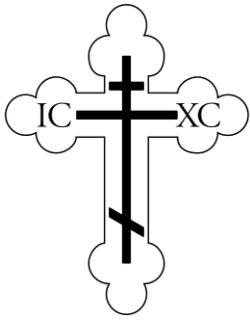
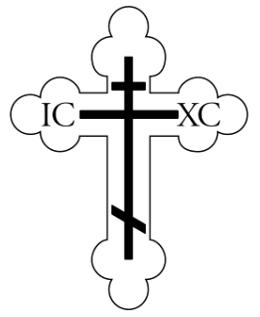


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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.**

February 24, 2019 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong.

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 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illumined 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 4 – Troparion for St. John

The head of the Forerunner has shone from the earth,
sending forth rays of incorruption and healings to the faithful.

It gathers together a multitude of angels above

and summons the human race below//

to send up glory with one voice to Christ our God.

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. John

O Prophet of God and Forerunner of Grace,
we have found your head as a sacred rose.

Therefore, we always receive healings from it,//

and, as in times past, now you preach repentance to the world.

Tone 3 – Kontakion for the Prodigal Son

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;

and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had
given me.

Therefore, I cry to You as the Prodigal:

“I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father;//

receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6.12-20

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them.

Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

2 Corinthians 4.6-15 (for St. John)

Brethren, the same God who commanded light to shine out of darkness has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also

raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Gospel: Luke 15.11-32

Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood.

And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’

And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’

But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.'"

Matthew 11.2-15 (for St. John)

At that time John heard in prison about the works of Christ, so he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.'

"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Anna Vahary
Chris Velo
Stephen Dearman
ArchPr. John Mason

Ev.Mem. Nikifor Morovoy '29
Thomas Kowalishin '60
Helen Orenich '75
Dushanka Lumbarkovski '06
Alice Erbesti '18

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the veneration of the cross we will serve the one-year **Panikhida for Alice Erbesti.**

St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church is hosting a **Trivia Night** this afternoon at the Moose Lodge in Chesterton. For more information, pick up a flyer in the Narthex.

House blessings continue. I will be in Cedar Lake and Lowell this week. Please sign up if you haven't yet.

Mark your calendars:

Feb 24: **St. Elizabeth's Trivia Night:** Moose Lodge in Chesterton @ 4pm

Feb 27: **Fellowship Night** @ 6pm

Feb 28: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am

Mar 1: **Hall Committee** meeting @ 5:30pm

Mar 6: **Parish Council** meeting @ 7pm

Mar 11: **Clean Monday**—the beginning of Great Lent

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,364

Mortgage: \$103

**Single Parent Families: The Need for Communion
by His Grace, our Bishop Paul**

One of the difficult things to cope with once a marriage breaks up is the new reality that is presented to children, their parents, their relatives, and in their Church family. How does the family function without mom and dad being together? We all know life goes on and we all find ways to cope. There are tons of books written about divorce and how to help families cope with marital breakup. So, this won't be a "how to cope" note.

Someone responded to my reflection from last week sharing the struggle with "fitting into" the parish after the divorce. They felt a loss of belonging once they became a single parent. I don't know how common this is among single parents. But I do know at the other end, the sadness I felt when couples I knew got divorced, especially when they

appeared to be strong and united in their faith. I felt as if I had to do this awkward dance. How does one stay balanced without taking sides, or maybe does one take sides?

The fact a couple is no longer one but two is a difficult change to cope with, especially for children. So, can a parish do anything to help someone like the person I mentioned to better connect him or her to the parish? This is hard to answer. Some type of grieving process needs to go on before one can connect again (assuming that is possible). It seems that if one has not grieved the breakup of the marriage, one will not be able to connect or feel as if one belongs to a community until that grieving process has happened. In other words, parish members can try, and try again, but nothing will work unless the person seeking connection is ready for it. As for the person who wrote to me, connection was something he or she was seeking.

Secondly, I mentioned the “awkward dance” I felt I had to do with couples when they divorced. It makes no sense behaving like everything is fine when it is not. Perhaps if we could give ourselves permission to discuss this awkwardness with someone who is going through a divorce, it might help to have a more meaningful conversation. We may find the feeling is mutual. If we can learn to speak with each other with care and concern and without criticism, maybe some good things can come out of this. Once again, thanks to all those single parents who are walking on this journey — one for which they did not ask. May the Lord give them the strength to carry the Cross they have been given.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!