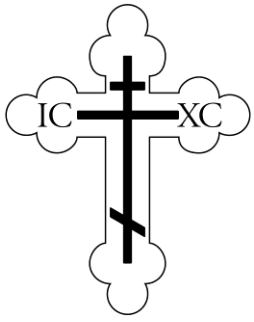
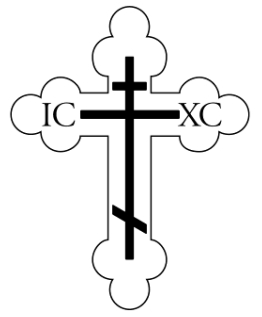


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



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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.**

March 3, 2019 Meatfare Sunday of the Last Judgment

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During this time, the services of the Church have begun to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory.

On the past two Sundays of this pre-Lenten period, the focus was placed on God's patience and limitless compassion,

of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our Judge. Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes.

Another theme of this Sunday is love. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable of the Last Judgment answers: love—a concrete and personal love for the human person—the specific persons that we encounter each day in our lives.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. We know that all persons ultimately need this personal love—the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that people are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ's love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Your Cross You destroyed death.

To the thief You opened Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.

And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,

to proclaim that You are risen,//

granting the world great mercy.

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:

Enccompass 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 1 – Kontakion for the Last Judgment

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,

all things shall tremble,

and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;

the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;

then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//

and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous
Judge!

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: 1 Corinthians 8.8-9.2

Brethren, food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not

seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15.11-32

Jesus said to His disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Ev.Mem. Michael Lyamtsev '19
Helen Milevsky '22
Nadeshda Bobruk '38
Sophie Korzow '02
George Radivan '07

Health &

Salvation:

Protopr. George

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. John

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Michael

Julia

Warren

Loretta

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Myah

Margaret

Diane

Madelin

Villian

Deborah

Claudia

John

Carisa

Natalia

Elizabeth

Tom

Paul

Alexander

Darlene

Mira

Kristin

Mitchel

Brittany

Jennifer

David

Roger

Tina

Chris

Benjamin

Juliana

Joseph

Cathy

Laurie

Lennox

Laila

Richard

Paula

Christopher

Brian

Jennifer

Janet

Nicholas

Kevin

Barbara

Thomas

Allyson

Daniel

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our newly elected and installed **parish council**. The Lord give you strength to accomplish His will.

The **Women's Book Group** will wrap up their discussion of *Becoming a Healing Presence* tomorrow evening. The group will take a break for Lent and reconvene with a new book after Pascha.

Next Sunday is Cheesefare, the last day of dairy before Lent. Everyone is invited to bring a favorite dairy dish to make our last coffee hour before the fast special.

Pick up your **March calendar** in the narthex.

Next Sunday is the beginning of **daylight-saving time**. Don't forget to change your clocks!

Mark your calendars:

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

Mar 9: Divine Liturgy for the **40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 10am

Mar 10: Lenten **Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness** will follow coffee hour.

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

Mar 11-14: **Canon of St. Andrew** @ 6pm

Mar 13: **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** @ 10am

Mar 15: **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 6pm

Mar 17: **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago @ 7pm

Mar 24: **Mission Vespers** at our Church @ 6pm followed by a Lenten dinner

Mar 25: Divine Liturgy for the feast of **Annunciation** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 10am

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$1,364

Mortgage: \$103

Divorced Single Parent Families: What about the Children? by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

When a divorce takes place in a family, children find themselves in an especially difficult situation. They must cope with their parents' broken relationship. Custody issues may arise with regard to which parent the children wish to live with and whether they love one parent more than the other. And many times, children question whether they were the cause of their parents' divorce. I imagine some children experience anger because they find themselves having to face realities they never imagined. When it comes to custody arrangements, we all know younger children don't have the same choices as those age 15 and older. It is not unusual for some children to receive therapy to address these and related situations.

With regard to the Church, things can become complicated when one of the parents is not Orthodox. On some weekends Orthodox children are with their non-Orthodox parent, and they may end up going to that parent's church, thereby attending Liturgy in an Orthodox parish only twice a month. It usually is not that predictable. With decreased attendance at the Divine Liturgy there is a chance of further diluting a child's involvement in Orthodox parish life. Twice a month easily becomes once a month. Children may miss an important activity in their Orthodox parish because that is the weekend they are scheduled to be with their non-Orthodox parent. As a result, children are now exposed to two different experiences of the Christian faith. How might some of these issues be addressed?

- It is important for both parents to become good listeners and to allow children to express what is on their mind without feeling judged for doing so.
- If children feel that the divorce is somehow their fault — a situation that should not be dismissed — ask what makes them feel that way. Doing so allows them to share their perceptions in such way that parents can better respond to their children and clarify reality for them.
- When it comes to visitation arrangements, is it possible for divorced parents to allow for their baptized Orthodox children to go to their Orthodox parish every Sunday? This is especially an issue if the non-Orthodox spouse is not particularly invested in their faith tradition — or has no faith tradition whatsoever. Can the parent bring their children to the church and pick them up after? Perhaps the visitation schedule can be extended a few hours to allow the non-Orthodox parent to have a few hours with their children since they didn't have them on Sunday morning.
- Is there ever a place in a Church school setting that affords children the opportunity to share what is on their

• The intent behind some of these suggestions is to always remember that parents and their children who are coping with divorce should not be treated as second class citizens. While we shouldn't act as if divorce is no big deal, we also must not be too critical and judgmental as parishes deal with families coping with divorce on their journey to embrace healing.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!