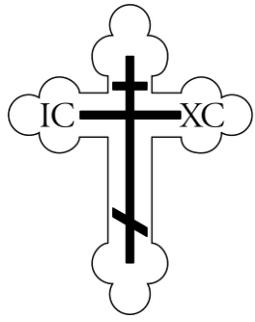
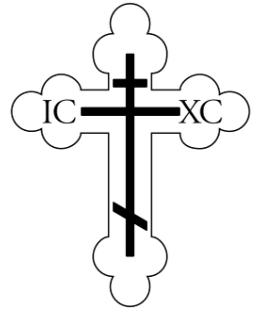


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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.**

August 18, 2019

Afterfeast of Dormition

Holy Martyrs Florus & Laurus of Illyria (2nd c.)

A Sermon on the Holy Dormition by St John of Kronstadt

Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honorable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation - she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honorably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon

of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the center of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.

We say that our dead have “fallen asleep” or “passed away.” What does this mean? This means that for the true Christian there is no death. Death was conquered by Christ on the cross. But there is a translation, i.e, a rearrangement of his condition. His soul is in another place, in another age, in another world beyond the grave, eternal, without end. That is what is meant by “falling asleep”. It is as if it were a temporary dream after which, by the voice of the Lord and the fearful yet wonderful trumpet of the Archangel, all the dead shall live and come forth each to his place: either to the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation. This is what the Christian means by translation. We should be ready for this translation, for the day of the general resurrection and judgment.

This preparation for the meeting of the heavenly King before the dread judgment seat after death is essentially the person’s preparation throughout the whole of his life. This preparation means a change in all his thoughts, and the moral change of all his being, so that the whole man would be pure and white as snow, washing clean everything that defiles the body and spirit, so that he is adorned with every virtue: repentance, meekness, humility, gentleness, simplicity, chastity, mercifulness, abstention, spiritual contemplation, and burning love for God and neighbor.

Our preparation for meeting the heavenly King, and for the inheritance of eternal life in heaven, should consist of these things. The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact, the human soul is more

spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in it and will fill it with Himself. “We will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23), says the Lord about the souls who love Him.

And so, the Mother of God, who is adorned with every virtue and translated to the heavenly kingdom, to Her Son and God, proclaims to each and every one of us to prepare our souls to be the dwelling place of the Lord, to repent continually, and to adorn our souls with Christian virtue, so that at our death we also may have a good answer at the dread judgment seat of Christ. Amen.

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 Dormition

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.

In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life O Mother of Life, //

and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 4 – Troparion for Sts Florus & Laurus

Let us praise as is meet, you faithful,

the most comely, radiant and divinely wise martyrs:

Most blessed Florus and all venerable Laurus,

who proclaimed to all the uncreated Trinity.

Suffering unto bloodshed,

they were adorned with brilliant crowns.//

Entreat Christ our God to save our souls!

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection, //

and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly
Merciful One!

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.

Tone 2 – Kontakion of Dormition

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life,//
she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her
virginal womb.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

∇ In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel!

Tone 3 – Dormition Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3.9-17

Brethren: We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Alleluia verses (Psalm 94)

- ∇ Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
- ∇ Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

For Dormition: (Psalm 131)

- ∇ Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place: You and the Ark of Your sanctification!

Gospel: Matthew 14.22-34

At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Archpr. John Matusiak

Protopr. George Havrila

Michael Marchuk

Mary Ann Wysoki

Alice Radivan

Ev.Mem. Marian Havrila

Anatol Meuch

Anthony Yuschak ('45)

Health &

Salvation:

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Carol

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Brittany

Jennifer

Lennox

Laila

Paula

Alvin

Kenneth

Anna

Justin

Nika

Leo

Melissa

Jonathan

Matthew

Benjamin

Shaun

Gail

Maria

Snezana

Barbara

Thomas

Carol

Jessica

Eduardo

Christine

Tom

Nicholas

Natalie

Barbara

Kristin

Linda

Phyllis

Kay

Fred

Larry

Rollie

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following coffee hour today, the O-Club will host an **end-of-summer parish picnic** at the home of John and Mira Lukas. There will be swimming and games for the kids. The main course will be provided. Please bring a side dish.

Tonight @ 7pm Bishop Paul will be live online answering questions on the topic: **Sex, Gender, and Identity**. Watch and submit your questions at www.midwestfamily.org

For **Bible Study** this Wednesday please read Genesis 40-43.

This Saturday our parish is providing the meal for **Feeding the Flock**. Please see Valerie McMullan or Mary Ann Bertram if you are able to help on either Friday (prep) or Saturday.

The women's Sodality is **canning peppers** again this year. Reserve yours on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 18: **Livestream with Bishop Paul @ 7pm**

Aug 21: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Aug 22: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Aug 24: **Feeding the Flock** at 1st Presbyterian Church @ 11am

Aug 28: Vespers for the **Beheading of John the Baptist @ 6pm**

Aug 29: Divine Liturgy for the **Beheading of John the Baptist**
at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 10am

Sept 8: First day of **Sunday School**

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$2,422

Preparing for Tragedy

A reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

Once again last week we were stunned with the news of two incidents (two days in a row) of mass shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio. I believe a total of 48 people were killed and many more wounded as result of these acts of gun violence. One can certainly understand how people would be afraid for their safety nowadays. These incidents can happen anywhere, anytime and in any place. There is a disagreement about how we prepare for these things. Some believe we need to allow people in places with concealed weapon permits, others think we need to ban certain kinds of weapons from being put in the hands of people who don't really need them or shouldn't have them. Another popular option is having various groups receive active shooter training (schools, churches, hotels, etc.)

But whatever you do to prepare, there seems to be a paradox. We try and prepare for an unpredictable event, and how is that possible? We pray at all of our services “for a Christian ending to our lives, painless, blameless, and peaceful and for a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ.” I don’t get up each day expecting to be shot or have a heart attack or get in a life ending car accident, but those things could very well happen. We also pray at Vespers with the seven prayers said by the priest that we “may rise in joyousness of soul to glorify Your goodness.” The 12 prayers of Matins also offer similar requests. So how do we hold these two tensions together as both true?

I would encourage you to read chapters 13 to 17 of the gospel of John, which is read at Holy Friday Matins (12 gospel service). I believe you will find some answers there. John 16:33-I find to be particularly poignant: *“I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*

We can live out this paradox by understanding that we don’t have to figure this out. Our Lord tells us to be of good cheer, for he has overcome and defeated what is wrong and twisted in this world. He overcame this by His Crucifixion and defeated evil by voluntarily laying down His life. He became the curse and took upon Him the evil of this world. He conquered it and by doing so, He rose from the dead. The only hope we have is to submit our lives to Him, and live in His victory over evil and not seek to conquer evil by our own limited means and resources. May we hold these conflicting realities in our lives together and still “rise” each day “in joyousness of soul.”

The blessing of the Lord be upon You,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!