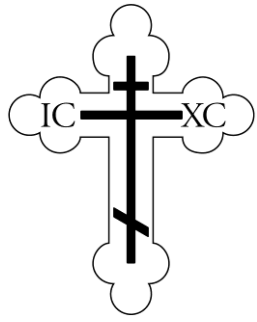
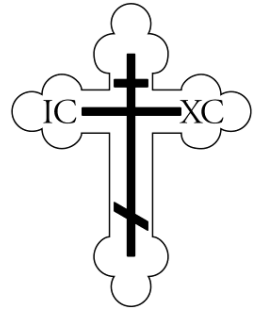


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## 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.**

# September 15, 2019

## Afterfeast of the Cross

### Holy Greatmartyr Nicetas (†372)

The Holy Greatmartyr Nicetas was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River. The Christian Faith was then already widely spread throughout the territory of the Goths. St Nicetas believed in Christ and accepted Baptism from the Gothic bishop Theophilus, a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths began to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in civil strife.

After the victory of Fritigern, a Christian ruler, over the pagan Athanaric, the Faith began to spread rapidly among the Goths. The Arian bishop Ulfilas, successor to Bishop

Theophilus, created a Gothic alphabet and translated into the Gothic language many priestly books. During this time, St Nicetas worked tirelessly among his fellow Goths at spreading Christianity. By his personal example and inspired words he brought many pagans to the Christian Faith.

However, some time after his defeat, Athanaric contrived to regather his forces and return to his country. Seizing power once more, he immediately began persecuting the Church. He rounded up those who were spreading the Faith, including Nicetas.

St Nicetas endured many tortures and died after being thrown into a fire. However, his body remained unburnt by the fire but was illumined by a miraculous light. By night, a friend of the martyr, a Christian named Marianus, retrieved the body of St Nicetas and buried it in Cilicia. Afterwards, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Nicetas were later transferred to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia. St Nicetas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ in the year 372.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your  
resurrection,

they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,//

granting the world great mercy!”

### **Tone 4 – Troparion of the Cross**

O Lord, save Your people

and bless Your inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Your Cross,//

preserve Your habitation!

### **Tone 3 – Troparion for St. Nicetas**

You defeated error and triumphed in martyrdom,  
Nicetas, namesake of victory;  
for you conquered the ranks of the enemy  
and ended your contest by fire.//  
Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

### **Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

My Savior and Redeemer, as God,  
rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//  
He has risen on the third day!

### **Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. Nicetas**

You stood firm and defeated delusion  
and have received your martyr's crown, Nicetas, namesake of  
victory;  
you are rejoicing with the Angels,//  
together with them you are praying unceasingly to Christ  
God for us all.

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

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,  
grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;  
make all Orthodox Christians glad by your power,  
granting them victories over their adversaries//  
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Tone 7 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 98)**

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool, for He is holy!

### **Epistle: Galatians 2.16-20 (Afterfeast of the Cross)**

Brethren: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### **1 Corinthians 16.13-24 (Sunday)**

Brethren: Watch! Stand fast in the faith! Be brave; be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore, acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema. Maranatha! (Lord, come!) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### **Gospel: Mark 8.34-9.1 (Sunday before the Cross)**

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man

also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

### **Matthew 21.33-42 (Sunday)**

Jesus spoke this parable: “There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

“Again, he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

“But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

### **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**N.Dep.** Rosemary Brill

Archbishop Nikon

James Dragon

Archpr. John Matusiak

**Ev.Mem.** Helen Christov ('76)

Stephen Lashnik ('68)

Anna Shevchuk ('34)

Alexander Rusak ('15)

Adam Danchula ('14)

Olive Leskow (2018)

Anatol Meuch

<b>Health &amp; Salvation:</b>	Jennifer	Eduardo
Mat. Anna	Lennox	Christine
Archpr. Peter	Laila	Tom
Pr. John	Paula	Nicholas
Pr. Christopher	Alvin	Natalie
Mat. Jennifer	Kenneth	Barbara
Andrew	Anna	Kristin
Gideon	Justin	Linda
Kevin	Nika	Phyllis
Jon	Leo	Kay
Tanya	Melissa	Fred
Jovan	Jonathan	Larry
Julia	Matthew	Rollie
Warren	Shaun	Martin
Carol	Gail	Alexandra
Tom	Maria	Mark
Elizabeth	Snezana	Alexa
Tina	Barbara	Paula
Adam	Thomas	Alexandra
Brittany	Carol	James
	Jessica	Nada

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

**Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:**

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord! You are a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos, who, though untitled, have brought forth Christ; through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its Elevation, as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **O-Club** will meet during coffee hour today.

For **Bible Study** this Wednesday please read Exodus 1-4.

The feast of the **Protection (Pokrov) of the Virgin Mary** is **Tuesday, Oct. 1**. The Chicago Deanery Male Choir will sing the responses at **Vigil on Monday night (Sept 30) @ 6:30pm**, followed by a wine reception. Divine Liturgy will be at 10am Tuesday followed by a luncheon. **His Grace, our Bishop Paul will be here** and celebrate both services.

On Sunday, Oct. 6 following the Divine Liturgy we will have our **108<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner**. Juli Grankowski is organizing the meal. Please let her know if you are available to help and/or bring a dessert.

**Mark your calendars:**

Sept 17: **Hall Committee** meeting @ 6pm

**Parish Council** meeting @ 7pm

Sept 18: **Bible Study** @ 7pm

Sept 30: Festal Vigil for the **Feast of Protection (Pokrov)** @ 6:30pm followed by a reception.

Oct 1: Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of Protection** @ 10am

Oct 6: **108<sup>th</sup> Parish Anniversary** celebration!

**Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$2,163**

**Father's**

1. Gold-plating for chalice and spoon: \$600

2. Set of Blue/Gold chalice covers: \$220

**Wish List:**

3. Blessing cross & stand for center table: \$300

To purchase an item, add its cost to your weekly contribution and write on the envelope which item and (if appropriate) in whose memory.

## **Two Calendars Impacting Family Life**

### **A reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul**

There are two calendars that many Orthodox Christians observe during the year: the public school calendar and the liturgical calendar. The attention given to these two has a significant impact on how well-connected kids are to their local church and their experience of parish life.

If children are involved in several sports activities or musical programs at school, chances are they are tied up with practices, recitals, actual sporting events, or weekend band competitions. Parents become a taxi cab service during the week ushering their children to and from these events. That means there is not a lot of time left for getting involved in anything church related, whether that be a service or a

youth activity. What complicates things even more is that people no longer seem to live close the parish they attend. It is not unusual for some people to have a 45 minute to a one-hour drive to get to their church. I had a priest recently tell me that whenever he tries to plan a time for kids to get together for a particular event, it is a real challenge getting a commitment from families to bring their children.

So why is this so? It seems children find these school activities fulfilling and enjoy participating in them. Secondly, if they don't show up for practice, they face the possibility they won't be able to play in a game or participate in a school play or music program. I think there is also a philosophy many believe that by getting involved in school activities, it keeps kids busy and out of trouble. All of the above are powerful motivators for participating in school related activities.

This active observance of the school calendar does negatively impact a family's participation in the liturgical calendar of the church. It is a big reason why for many, church life is a Sunday only experience. This leaves little time for youth to connect with their parish and their fellow friends.

How do we address this issue if it is a concern for families? It is easy for me to tell parents they just need to say "no" to some of the school activities, so that they can go to church for a planned event like a Festal or Lenten service or youth retreat. I am sure many priests have told parents the same thing. I don't know if this approach has worked all that much. If families do choose to cut down on some of the school related activity, what do we have to offer as the Church that will encourage children to make a closer connection? I will continue this theme next week.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

# Glory to God for all things!