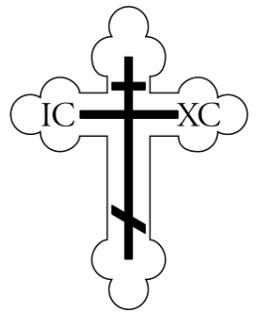


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## 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](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(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.**

# December 1, 2019

## Third Sunday of Advent

### Holy Prophet Nahum (7<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.)

The Holy Prophet Nahum, whose name means “God consoles,” was from the village of Elkosh in Galilee. He lived during the seventh century B.C. Nahum prophesied the ruin of the Assyrian city of Nineveh because of its iniquity, the destruction of the Israelite kingdom, and the blasphemy of King Sennacherib against God. Nahum differs from most of the prophets inasmuch as he does not issue any call to repentance, nor does he denounce Israel for infidelity to God. Details of the prophet’s life are unknown. He died at the age of forty-five and was buried in his native region. He is the seventh of the Twelve Minor Prophets.

In the following excerpt, Nahum foresees the destruction of the Evil One in the hearts of those who are baptized into Christ:

### Nahum 1.7-2.2

The Lord is merciful to those who wait on Him in the day of affliction, and He knows those who reverence Him. For with an overwhelming flood He shall make an end to those rising up, and darkness will pursue His enemies. What do you plot against the Lord? He shall bring about a



complete end to it. He will not twice punish with affliction for the same thing, for the enemy shall be laid bare even to the foundations, and consumed as twisted yew, even as fully dried stubble. From out of you shall come forth a plot against the Lord, counseling things hostile to Him.

Thus says the Lord, Who rules over many waters: “In the same manner you will be torn apart, and the report of you will no longer be heard. And now I will break his rod from off of you, and I will break your bonds.”

The Lord shall Himself give a command concerning you: “Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. I will utterly destroy the graven and molten images out of the house of your god. I shall dig your grave, and quickly!”

Behold on the mountains the feet of Him that brings good tidings and proclaims peace. O Judah, celebrate your feasts; pay your vows, for in no way shall they pass through you as one who is beaten. He is completely destroyed; he has been removed. The one being delivered from affliction has come up breathing in your presence. Watch the road, gird your loins, and be valiant in your strength!

# 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:

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 2 – Troparion for the Prophet Nahum**

We celebrate the memory

of Your Prophet Nāhum, O Lord;

through him we beseech You:

“save our souls!”

## **Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

The dominion of death

can no longer hold men captive,

for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.

Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:

“The Savior has come to those in faith;//

enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

## **Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Prophet Nahum**

Illumined by the Spirit, your heart was a vessel of illustrious  
prophecy,

seeing far-off things as though they were present.//

Therefore, we venerate you, glorious prophet Nāhum.

### **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**

### **Tone 7 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)**

The Lord shall give strength to His people.  
The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

### **Epistle: Ephesians 2.14-22**

Brethren: Christ Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### **Gospel: Luke 18.18-27**

At that time, a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do

not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So, when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Pr. George Pappas

Madeline Petri

**Ev.Mem** David Diachuk ('24)

Alexey Svitoha ('59)

William Baker ('88)

Linda Mitrovich ('89)

Anatol Meuch

**Health &**

**Salvation:**

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Carol

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Brittany

Jennifer

Lennox

Laila

Paula

Stacey

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Melissa

Jonathan

Matthew

Shaun

Gail

Maria

Barbara

Thomas

Carol

Jessica

Eduardo

Christine

Tom

Nicholas

Natalie  
Barbara  
Kristin  
Linda  
Phyllis  
Kay  
Fred  
Larry  
Rollie  
Joseph  
Martin

Mark  
Alexa  
Paula  
Alexandra  
James  
Joanne  
Ronald  
Michael  
Joseph  
Rachel  
Kathleen

Paul  
William  
Michael  
Frederick  
Janet  
N.Ill. Tasia  
Jeffrey  
Greta  
Michael  
Courtney  
Lea

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

*“What is required of us, that we might avail ourselves of all the grace brought from on high by the coming of the Son of God? Faith in the Son of God, a true repentance of sins and the correction of life and of heart, communion in prayer and in the Mysteries, the fulfillment of Christ’s commandments. Also the virtues: Christian humility, alms-giving, continence, purity and chastity, simplicity and goodness of heart. Let us bring these virtues as a gift to the One Who was born for the sake of our salvation – in place of the gold, frankincense and myrrh which the Magi brought Him as to One Who is King, God, and Man, come to die for us. This shall be the most-pleasing form of sacrifice to God and the Infant Jesus Christ.”*

+ St. John of Kronstadt, On the Nativity of Jesus Christ

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **special collection** today is to help pay for **Christmas presents for a local needy family**, which the Church School will purchase and wrap this Saturday, December 7.

After coffee hour today, we will **decorate Christmas trees** in the Nave, Narthex, and Hall.

For **Bible Study** this week, please read **Numbers 16-17, 20-21**.

We are now in the season of **Advent**, 40 days of intensive **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving** to prepare to receive the new-born Christ. This is also a good time to make a **confession**.

This month we are collecting for the **Winfield Food Pantry**.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Dec 4: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Dec 5: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

**Great Vespers** for the feast of **St. Nicholas @ 6pm**

Dec 6: **Divine Liturgy** at Descent of the Holy Ghost for the feast of **St. Nicholas @ 10am**

Dec 7: **St. Nicholas** visits! Church School buys & wraps gifts for a local family @ 9am

Dec 14-20: Fr Jacob and family on vacation.

Dec 19: **Christmas Caroling** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 6:30pm

Dec 24: **Vesperal Liturgy of the Nativity of Christ @ 10am**  
**Vigil of the Nativity of Christ @ 6pm**

Dec 25: **Divine Liturgy of the Nativity of Christ @ 9am**

Dec 29: **Christmas Yolka** during coffee hour

**Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$5,780**

## **What Kids are Capable of When Focused** **A Reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul**

At the end of a recent Liturgy I had the privilege of listening to ten children aged 6 to 14 recite as a group the first two chapters of the Book of Galatians from memory. I was amazed at this. How did they do it? They did so by practice

and repetition, and it had to be disciplined. You don't do something like this on an hour of practice. They needed to lay aside other wants and desires to focus over a period of time on this task to reach their goal. Why am I so surprised at what they did? Does it reflect the minimalism that lies at the heart of my own spiritual life?

This presentation of the children reflects what can happen when kids and their parents are not distracted and not plagued with multitasking. It reminds me of the Gospel reading of Martha and Mary that is read at feasts of the Theotokos. The problem with Martha is not that she served, but she "was distracted with much serving." Mary sat at the foot of Christ to hear his teaching and was not distracted. The reading of the feast ends with Jesus saying, "blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" How does one keep the word of God without first hearing it?

One of the biggest challenges in learning is in retention of what we hear. I am told when sermons are given, most hear about 20% of the sermon even if it is a good one. In this age of short attention spans, repetition is so important in learning. You have to know what is being said before beginning to understand the meaning. This is why we daily say our morning and evening prayers and why we daily read the scriptures. If we do these on a hit and miss basis, we retain less and learn less.

Thank you to these children that were a source of encouragement to me. The blessing of the Lord be upon them and you!

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for all things!