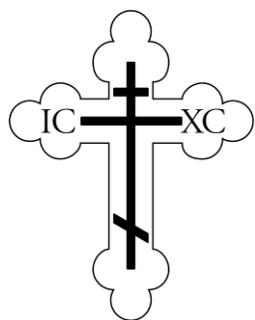
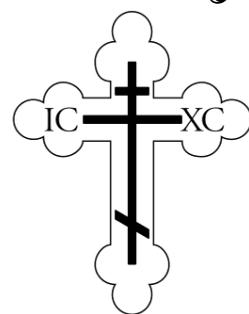


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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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.**

November 24, 2019

Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos Holy Greatmartyr Catherine († c. 305)

The Holy Greatmartyr Catherine was the daughter of the governor of Egypt. She possessed a rare beauty and intellect and received an excellent education. Young men from worthy families throughout the empire sought her hand, but she determined that she would marry only a man who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness, and wisdom.

Catherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to a saintly elder living in a cave outside the city for advice. After listening to Catherine, the elder said that he knew of a Youth "Whose countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches

are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled." St. Catherine much desired to see this Heavenly Bridegroom. "If you do as I tell you," said the elder, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." He gave Catherine an icon of the Virgin with the Child Jesus on Her arm and told her to pray in faith to the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and she would grant her heart's desire.

Catherine prayed all night and received this vision: The Virgin said to her Son, "Behold Your handmaiden Catherine, how fair and virtuous she is." But He turned away from her saying, "No, she is ugly and unbelieving. She is a foolish pauper, and I cannot bear to look at her until she forsakes her impiety." Deeply saddened, Catherine recounted her vision to the elder. He lovingly received her, instructed her in the faith, and admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly. Then he baptized her. Again, Catherine saw the Virgin and Child. This time, the Lord looked upon her tenderly and gave her a beautiful ring, a token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom.

At that time, the emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Confessors of Christ, who would not deny Him under torture, were being brought to him and sentenced to death in the fire. Seeing this, St. Catherine was compelled to speak on their behalf to the Emperor. Her beauty captivated him, and he ordered fifty learned philosophers to convince her of her "folly", but Catherine instead persuaded these wise men to believe in Christ. Maximian next tried to entice her with riches and fame. But receiving an angry refusal, he ordered her to be tortured and thrown in prison.

Hearing of Catherine's steadfastness, the young Empress Augusta went to see her, accompanied by the general Porphyrius and 200 soldiers. They saw St. Catherine's face radiant with divine grace, and she explained the Christian faith to them, so that they also were converted to Christ.

The next day, under threat of execution by wheel, Maximian again urged Catherine to renounce Christ. She refused and approached the wheel, but it miraculously

shattered into pieces. Seeing this wonder, Augusta, Porphyrius, and the 200 soldiers confessed their faith before all and were beheaded. Maximian proposed marriage to Catherine if she would recant, but she firmly confessed her fidelity to the heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and with a prayer to Him, she laid her own head on the executioner's block.

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 – Troparion of the Feast

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.

The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.

Let us rejoice
and sing to her://

“Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!”

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Catherine

By your virtues as by rays of the sun you enlightened the
unbelieving philosophers,

and like the most bright moon you drove away the darkness
of disbelief from those walking in the night;

you convinced the queen, and also chastised the tyrant,
God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine.

You hastened with desire to the heavenly bridal chamber of
the fairest Bridegroom of Christ,

and you were crowned by Him with a royal crown;//

Standing before Him with the Angels, pray for us who keep
your most sacred memory!

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion

When Christ God the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His
mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. Catherine

Let all of us who love to honor the martyrs
form a great choir in praise of the most wise Catherine,
for she preached Christ and trampled the serpent,//
despising the knowledge of the orators.

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Feast

The most pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,
is presented today to the house of the Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
therefore, the Angels of God praise her:
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people / and bless Your inheritance!

Tone 3 – Prokeimenon of the Feast (Song of the Theotokos)

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

Epistle: Ephesians 2.4-10

Brethren: God who is rich in mercy, through His great love with which He loved us, made us who were dead in trespasses alive with Christ: You were saved by grace. And He lifted us up and established us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For you have been saved by grace through faith. And this is not from yourselves: it is the gift of God, not from works, so

that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 13.10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore, come and be healed on them and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Pr. George Pappas

Madeline Petri

Ev.Mem Theodore Turek ('15)

John Platok ('18)

Christopher Naidoff ('73)

Slavka Lumbarkoska ('74)

Anatol Meuch

Holodomor Victims

Health &

Salvation:

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Carol

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina	Jessica	Alexandra
Brittany	Eduardo	James
Jennifer	Christine	Joanne
Lennox	Tom	Ronald
Laila	Nicholas	Michael
Paula	Natalie	Joseph
Stacey	Barbara	Rachel
Jeramie	Kristin	Kathleen
Olivia	Linda	Paul
Parker	Phyllis	William
Melissa	Kay	Michael
Jonathan	Fred	Frederick
Matthew	Larry	Janet
Shaun	Rollie	N.Ill. Tasia
Gail	Joseph	Jeffrey
Maria	Martin	Greta
Barbara	Mark	Michael
Thomas	Alexa	Courtney
Carol	Paula	Lea

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

Instead of “It is Truly Meet...” we sing:

The Angels beheld the Entrance of the Pure One and were amazed.//

How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

Since she is a living Ark of God,

let no profane hand touch the Theotokos.

But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the Angel's song://

“Truly, you are more exalted than all, O pure Virgin!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Assembly of Orthodox Bishops has designated this Sunday the **International Orthodox Christian Charity's annual *Day of Sharing***. A special collection will be taken to support their humanitarian work throughout the world.

Thanksgiving Bake Sale orders are ready for pick-up!

At **Bible Study** this week, we will discuss **Numbers 11-14**.

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

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

Mark your calendars:

Nov 27: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Nov 28: **Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving @10am**

Dec 1: **Tree decorating** after coffee hour

Dec 5: Great Vespers for the feast of **St. Nicholas @ 6pm**

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

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

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$1,792

IOCC Day of Sharing Encyclical

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the Americas:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday before Thanksgiving, Orthodox faithful in the United States give thanks to God for His many blessings and for the privilege of serving Christ by serving others. The Assembly of Bishops has designated this *A Day of Sharing*, set aside to focus on the work of International Orthodox Christian Charities, or IOCC, whose mission is to help people facing hardship, wherever and whoever they are.

As the humanitarian and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, IOCC is a way for Orthodox Christians to extend to others the great mercy that Christ shows each of us. Since it began in 1992, IOCC has served people facing war, famine,

natural disasters, and economic hardship so that they may have the means to live with dignity, respect, and hope.

Through your faithfulness and generosity, IOCC extends hope to families, refugees, people displaced in their own country, the elderly, schoolchildren, orphans, people with disabilities, and those facing natural or manmade disasters. Amid crisis, IOCC offers practical assistance: food, water, and shelter for refugees across Europe and the Middle East; equipment for Syrians returning home and beginning to farm again; mentoring and training to help small businesses in Greece flourish; school buildings in rural Uganda; repairing and expanding water networks in Lebanon; responding to extreme flooding across Romania, Serbia, and right here in the United States. All this assistance—and these are only a few examples—is offered in the spirit of Christ's love.

As an agency of the Assembly, IOCC is an organization of all our Orthodox jurisdictions, echoing our unity in Christ as His body. St. John's epistle admonishes us to "love not in word or in speech, but in truth and in action." With IOCC we have the opportunity to give in practical, tangible ways—considering not our differences with our neighbors but our shared humanity, and remembering always the incarnate Lord's request that we feed, clothe, and serve one another. As we thank God for His goodness, let us recommit to serving those facing great hardship, whoever and wherever they may be!

During this holy season, may the Lord shine His mercy upon you and your families and bring His peace into your homes and your hearts!

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

+Metropolitan NICOLAE of the

Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

Liaison for IOCC from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America

Glory to God for all things!