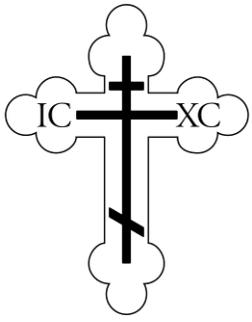
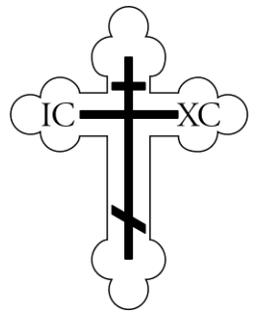


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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
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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.**

February 2, 2020

The Meeting of the Lord

Zacchaeus Sunday

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses, a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity

and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel” (Lk 2:29-32). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Lk 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day” (Luke 2:37). She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem. In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Festal Entrance Verse (Psalm 97.2)

The Lord has made known His salvation!

He has revealed His righteousness before the nations!

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 the Feast

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!

From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.

Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,

you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of our souls, //

Who grants us the Resurrection!

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 1 – Kontakion of the Feast

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb
and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.

Now You have come and saved us through love.

Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,

O only Lover of Man!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Tone 3 – Prokeimenon for the Feast (Luke 1)

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle: Hebrews 7.7-17 (Feast)

Brethren: Beyond all contradiction, the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there He receives them, of whom it is witnessed that He lives.

Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For since the

priesthood is changed, there is also necessarily a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

1 Timothy 4.9-15 (Sunday)

My son Timothy: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Until I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbyters. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40 (Feast)

At that time, the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were completed, so they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple.

And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 19.1-10 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Carlos Abila	John Mostobayev ('22)
Archpr. John Kuchta	Dimitri Stepura ('33)
Ephrem Talley	Kornilia Samosuk ('63)
Ev.Mem Anexei Radivan ('20)	Mitra Yovanoff ('50)
Gregory Kadashov ('20)	Vasilika Markovic ('55)

Health & Salvation:

Archpr. Peter	Jeramie	Larry
Pr. John	Olivia	Rollie
Pr. Christopher	Parker	Joseph
Mat. Jennifer	Melissa	Mark
Andrew	Jonathan	Alexa
Gideon	Matthew	Paula
Kevin	Gail	James
Jon	Maria	Joanne
Tanya	Barbara	Michael
Jovan	Thomas	Joseph
Julia	Carol	Kathleen
Warren	Jessica	Paul
Carol	Eduardo	William
Tom	Christine	Frederick
Elizabeth	Nicholas	Janet
Tina	Natalie	Lea
Brittany	Barbara	Hania
Jennifer	Kristin	James
Lennox	Linda	Gerald
Laila	Phyllis	N.Ill. Brian
Paula	Kay	N.Ill. Jeffrey
Stacey	Fred	N.Ill. Koen

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

Instead of “*It is Truly Meet...*” we sing this for the feast:
O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you!
In the shadow and letter of the Law,
let us, the faithful, discern a figure:
every male child that opens the womb is holy to God.
Therefore, we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who
has no beginning,
the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read Deuteronomy 18, 28-30.

Reports for the Annual Meeting on February 9 are now available in the Narthex.

Our **Spring fashion show** "Tropical Paradise" will be Sunday, Mar 22 at Avalon Manor. Doors open at Noon with the Bake Sale. Luncheon is at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$40.00 and NOT available at the door. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, so please be generous with basket donations (\$150.00 value), cash donations, checks (to PTVM Church), or Scrip to help defray the cost of the baskets that are raffled at the end of the show. Baskets and donations are due Sunday, Mar 1. Please see Elizabeth Pedersen, Sherry Mizamakoski, Rosemary Velasquez, or Nada Buczek for tickets and information.

Mark your calendars:

Jan 29: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Jan 30: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Feb 7: **50th anniversary celebration of Autocephaly** at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine, IL @ 6pm

Feb 8: Chicago Deanery **Celebratory Liturgy** at Sts. Peter and Paul in Burr Ridge, IL to commemorate the **OCA's Fifty Years of Autocephaly @ 9:30am**

Feb 9: **Annual Parish Meeting** after Divine Liturgy

Mar 22: **Spring Fashion Show** at Avalon Manor @ 1pm

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$1,275

Reflections on Autocephaly:

Introductory Letter of His Grace, our Bishop Paul

To all Rectors, Priest-in-charge, Deacons, Monastics and Laity of the Diocese of the Midwest: Glory to Jesus Christ!

Each month starting in January, we will be posting to our Diocesan website a series of reflections on the 50th Anniversary of the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America. As you read the thoughts of various people who are or have been in our diocese, please remember that they are not speaking as official spokespersons of the Church. They are sharing their own observations and thoughts on how the original vision of autocephaly has played out over these first 50 years, and the impact autocephaly itself has had on them and on their own personal experience in the Church.

We have senior and newly ordained priests offering their reflections, as well as laypersons. We wanted different perspectives; and so, we invited reflections from people who were there in the beginning and before, and from those who came into the church between the 1990's and the 2000's.

With some of the essays that you read you may agree; with others you may not. The point of these monthly reflections is not to offer essays in which every writer hits a home run. The goal is to stimulate your own thinking about what the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America means to you. These essays can be used as the springboard for further discussion with your parish priest and in your parishes. To facilitate that purpose, they are uploaded to the Diocesan website as PDFs. As such, they can be downloaded, printed and distributed for use as discussion guides, or in any other useful way.

The first reflection from Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik will be forthcoming shortly. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming deanery celebrations throughout the year in the Midwest. Asking your forgiveness for my inadequacies, I remain,

The unworthy +Paul

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you.