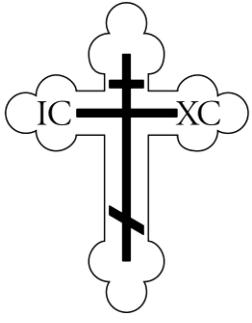
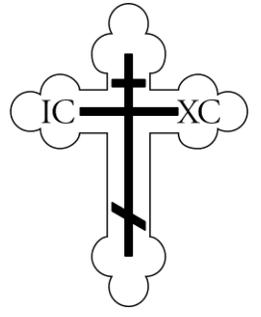


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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.

January 19, 2020

St. Macarius the Great of Egypt

Archpastoral Message on Sanctity of Life of His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

From ancient times, all who have believed in the One God have believed that He takes special care in the formation of each human being. As God Himself expressed to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." In the moment of conception in the mother's womb, a human being comes into existence. Yet even before being conceived and formed, this human being is known by God. God exists outside of time, and already knows and loves each one of us personally. As Solomon proclaims, "God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. *For he created all things that they might exist.*" God wants us to be alive, and this is why we must speak against abortion and its legalization in our country: it is in opposition to God's loving plan to bring a human being into the world to live. Our lives are intended to be a period of sanctification, each one of us helping in the

salvation and sanctification of our neighbor, and in this way being sanctified ourselves. Because of this, we must give every human being the opportunity to live their life and work toward sanctification, just as we have been given that opportunity.

We must also begin to sanctify ourselves and the world by preaching the truth about evil. Above all, we reject Cain's first sin of murder, in all of its loathsome forms: murder against the unborn, murder through violence, murder by starvation or deprivation, and murder of the ill and elderly. We reject greed, lust, and selfishness, and we reject harming others, dismissing and hating others. We become imitators of God in caring for one another, by speaking the truth in love, and by emptying ourselves for the sake of others. Remembering that "this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life," we couple our efforts of care for humanity with a call to the world to believe in the Son of God, Jesus the Savior of the human race, who was "given as a ransom for all," because His Father "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

We know that despite our efforts, each of us falls at times and does evil. But our God loves each and every human being, even those who have made terrible mistakes and have worked evil. If our purpose in life is to become images of God, we must also forgive, help, pray for, and love all who have committed wrong. In imitation of God, whose mercy is immeasurable, we too must love those who have fallen into the evil of abortion, showing mercy to the poor, desperate, and confused parents who have committed abortions, and praying fervently for the repentance of abortion doctors and advocates. We must love them and forgive them, knowing that God loves all of humanity and is willing to forgive all sins. At the same time, we cannot excuse abortion. We must ever strive to prevent abortions, making sure our local communities know of the many Christian-supported pregnancy crisis services available to unprepared and confused young parents. In turn, our churches must ever be willing to love and help such parents and their unborn children.

As we mark the 47th anniversary of legalized abortion, we remember to hate the sin of abortion, while loving the misguided and confused ones who have been involved in abortions. In this way, we fulfill the purpose that God has given us to become His images and presence in the world, helping others – unborn and born alike – to come to "the knowledge of the truth" and fulfill their own God-intended purposes. For "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. *For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*"

Today we baptize Koen Seelig

*After the **Great Litany**, we consecrate the **baptismal water** and anoint the initiate with the **Oil of Gladness**. At each application of the oil, all respond: "**Amen!**" The initiate is then disrobed and **baptized**. We read **Psalm 31** and sing the troparion:*

Tone 8 – Troparion of Vesting

Grant unto me the robe of light,
O Most Merciful Christ our God,
who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment!

*We sing the **Beatitudes**, make the **Little Entrance**, and sing the day's **Appointed Hymns** as usual while the initiate is dressed.*

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 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illumined 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 1 – Troparion for St. Macarius

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body
You were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing
Father Macarius.
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer;
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

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 4 – Kontakion for St. Macarius

The Lord truly placed you in the house of abstinence,
as a star enlightening the ends of the earth,//
Venerable Macarius, Father of Fathers.

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 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

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

Tone 3 – Prokeimenon of Baptism (Psalm 26)

The Lord is my light and my Savior; / whom shall I fear?

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1.15-17 (Sunday)

Brethren: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 6.3-11 (Baptism)

Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried, therefore, with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have

been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 18.35-43 (Sunday)

At that time, it happened as Jesus was coming near Jericho that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Matthew 28.16-20 (Baptism)

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Carlos Abila	Radica Kuyevich ('21)
Archpr. John Kuchta	Michael Klimoff ('28)
Ephrem Talley	Natalia Karta ('68)
Mary Dula	Dicho Georgiev ('72)
Mat. Nadia Metulynsky	Afanasy Holok ('84)
Ev.Mem Sara Safady ('24)	Andrew Pilnock ('84)

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

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

*After "Blessed be the name..." 2x, the sponsors bring the newly-illuminated forward to receive the **Ablution and Tonsure**.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the **newly-illuminated Koen**, his parents, and his Godparents!

Tonight is the annual **Pan-Orthodox Sanctity of Life Service** at Sts. Peter and Paul in Burr Ridge, IL @ 6pm

For **Bible Study** this week, read Deuteronomy 5-8.

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 22: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

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

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$2,608

A Message from the PTVM O-Club President

Our "O" Club has been a vital part of our parish's life almost from the very beginning of our parish itself. Having roots as the "R" club, I remember MANY good times growing up as a kid in both the Junior organization and later the Senior organization. But whether it be "R" club or "O" club, there is one common denominator – service to our parish and to our beautiful Orthodox faith!

Unfortunately, our organization is NOT DOING WELL these days! Recently our numbers have dwindled to less than 20, and we have yet to have more than six attend a monthly meeting. You can't accomplish much with such poor support. As "O" Club President, I have tried to have a frank and open

discussion about this at several meetings. However, I come away feeling that I am preaching to the people who ARE there and who DO try their best to help. I was asked at our last meeting to make one more push for support for our organization, even if it seems pointless. So here goes: What does our "O" Club do – why do we exist? I am glad you asked!

1. We provide support to our parish on a regular basis.
2. We donate to our Deanery, Diocese, and our Orthodox Church in America supporting such projects as IOCC and our three seminaries, to name just a couple.
3. As the Outreach and Alms arm of our parish, we offer donations and/or loans to those who request them, including our own parishioners from time to time.
4. We keep Fr. Jacob supplied with scrip cards to donate to those who come seeking help from our parish.
5. We regularly donate to local area organizations such as FEED THE FLOCK, MEALS ON WHEELS, and others.
6. We support several local Food Pantries through area Township Trustee's offices.
7. We sponsor money-making activities such as TRIVIA NIGHT to earn money to pay for all the above. Yet support from our own parishioners for Trivia Night has been scant at best!
8. Lastly, we handle Coffee Hour week in and week out for our parish. This means we provide the schedule for volunteers to bring the food we enjoy. We set up and take down the tables and chairs each week. We purchase and supply the needed supplies for Coffee Hour, Bible Study Meetings, and Lenten Pre-Sanctified Liturgies – coffee, tea, cups, silverware, plates, and napkins.

I know I have probably forgotten something else that we do regularly, but I feel each of these DIRECTLY impacts the life of our parish community. Won't you please consider joining us? We would welcome you working alongside of us – with your sleeves rolled up – serving BOTH our parish family and the greater NWI community. If enough support isn't garnered soon, our "O" Club will become just a part of our parish history. Thanks for your consideration.

Glory to God for all Things!