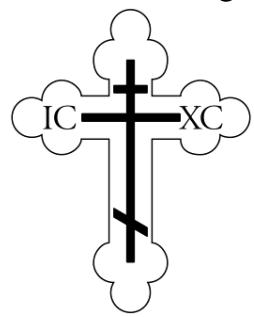
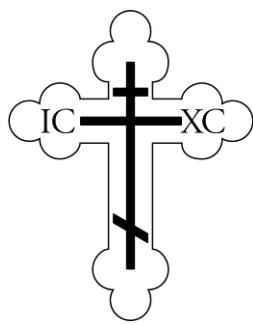


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219)384-6826 • frjacovansickle@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.**

January 26, 2020

New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia under Communism

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity, suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ

during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, St. Alexander Hotovitzky, and St. John Kochurov.

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,

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 4 – Troparion for the New Martyrs of Russia

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a chorus,

praising her new martyrs and confessors;

hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing
princes and princesses,

venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.

Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days
of godless persecution,

they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//

By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land
in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

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 3 – Kontakion for the New Martyrs of Russia

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before
the Lamb of God,

and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:

“Blessing and glory and wisdom and praise and honor,

and power and strength be to our God//

unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

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)

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

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for the New Martyrs (Psalm 45)

God is our refuge and strength,

a help in afflictions that severely befall us!

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 8.28-39 (New Martyrs)

Brethren: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are the called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, those whom He predestined He also called; those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 15.21-28 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Then she worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Luke 21.8-19 (New Martyrs)

Jesus said to His disciples: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places and famines and pestilences, and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Carlos Abila
Archpr. John Kuchta
Ephrem Talley
Mary Dula
Mat. Nadia Metulynsky
Ev.Mem Dimitri Ormakov ('17)
Gregory Shavruk ('27)

Anthony Perstenok ('43)
William Cidylo ('53)
Kornilia Samosuk ('63)
Trajan Mitrovich ('74)
Mary Kuzmanoff ('78)
Nadja Titow ('90)
Mary Markowicz (2010)

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Bible Study this week, read Deuteronomy 9-11, 13.

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

Our **Spring fashion show "Tropical Paradise"** will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2020 at the Avalon Manor Banquet Center. 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. Please be generous with either basket donations (\$150.00 retail value), cash

donations, checks (to PTVM Church), or Scrip purchased to help defray the cost of the baskets that are raffled at the end of the show. Baskets and donations are due Sunday, March 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: \$1,913

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!