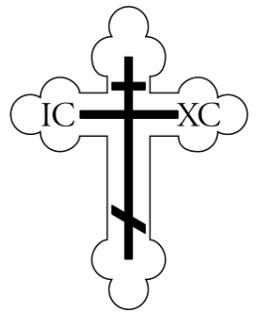


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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
(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.**

March 15, 2020

Second Sunday of Great Lent

St. Gregory Palamas

On the Sundays of Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: page 101 of the black Liturgy books.

An Excerpt from the Statement of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America on the Corona Virus made on March 13, 2020

The Church is the mystical body of Christ. Nothing can affect or change this sacred mystery. Furthermore, nothing that is done in all reverence, piety, and fear of God in response to this virus should be construed as anything other than a

prudent pastoral and temporary response to a situation that has the possibility of severe consequences. As the body of Christ, we should meet the challenges posed by this virus with the assurance of faith, in oneness of mind, and in imitation of the Great Physician and Healer of souls and bodies, our Lord Jesus Christ. All members of the Church should seek to console the anxious, assist those afflicted, and encourage those working in medical professions. All faithful should pay special attention to those who might be at risk of more serious complications from this virus: the young, the elderly, and those who already have respiratory or cardiac illnesses.

In the midst of our Lenten journey to Pascha, beloved children in the Lord, we are given an opportunity to honor and serve our neighbor as we struggle with this virus. May our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, enable us to bear the struggle that is set before us, granting us the wisdom and discernment to know what is well-pleasing to him, and the strength to accomplish it.

To read their entire statement, visit www.OCA.org

In accordance with the directives included in the full statement of the Holy Synod of Bishops, we at Protection of the Virgin Mary will begin implemented the following practices this week:

1. Until further notice, all services will continue as scheduled.
2. Any who exhibit symptoms of the virus (sore throat, coughing, fever) should remain home and seek medical attention. Any who have been advised by their doctor to avoid going out have a blessing to refrain from Church gatherings until the disease has passed. Please let Fr Jacob know if this is your intention, and he can arrange to bring you communion at home.
3. Sunday school has been suspended.
4. When venerating the icons, cross, chalice, etc., please refrain from touching them, especially with your mouth. A reverent bow will suffice.

5. Likewise, at the kiss of peace there should be no physical contact. Please bow to one another and exchange the usual greeting: "Christ is in our midst... He is and ever shall be."
6. Choir members should not share stands.
7. The Holy Eucharist will be served as always for the healing of soul and body. Prospophora will be distributed by an altar server, who has washed his hands for that purpose, and only disposable cups will be used for the wine.
8. There is coffee hour today after Liturgy. Please do not touch anything that others must touch, but allow the volunteers to serve you. Beginning next Sunday, coffee hour will be suspended.

These directives have been given to us by our bishops. I encourage everyone to abide by them as best we can, in all faith and love for our fathers in Christ and for those whose suffering we may avert by our prudence. Thank you.

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 – 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 8 – Troparion for St. Gregory Palamas

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation,
O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians,
O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and
preacher of grace, //

always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of Great Lent

Now is the time for action!

Judgment is at the doors!

So let us rise and fast,

offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:

“Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;

but forgive us, O Master of all, //

so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion for St. Gregory Palamas

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom,

joyful trumpet of theology,

together we sing your praises, O God-inspired Gregory.

Since you now stand before the Original Mind, guide our

minds to Him, O Father, //

so that we may sing to you: “Rejoice, preacher of grace!”

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 5 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)

You, O Lord, shall protect us

and preserve us from this generation forever!

Tone 1 – Prokeimenon for St. Gregory (Psalm 48)

My mouth shall speak wisdom,

the meditation of my heart shall be understanding!

Epistle: Hebrews 1.10-2.3 (Sunday)

Brethren: God says of the Son, "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?

Epistle: Hebrews 7.26-8.2 (St. Gregory)

Brethren: Such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Gospel: Mark 2.1-12 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered

together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

John 10.9-16 (St. Gregory)

Jesus said to His disciples: "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life

for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ev.Mem Paul Shuman ('50)

Fred Dorza ('50)

Ignaty Shuman ('50)

Gregory Shwetky ('53)

Health & Salvation:

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Dn. Nicholas

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Carol

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Brittany

Jennifer

Lennox

Laila

Paula

Melissa

Jonathan

Matthew

Gail

Maria

Stacy

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Barbara

Thomas

Jessica

Eduardo

Christine

Nicholas

Natalie

Barbara

Kristin

Linda

Phyllis

Kay

Fred

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Mark

Alexa

Paula

James

Joanne

Michael

Joseph

Kathleen

Paul

William

Frederick

Janet

Lea

Hania

James

Gerald

Miriana

Nadia

Charlene

Milka

Daniel

Russell

Brendan

Benjamin

William

Kara

Nathan

Sharon

Michael

John

Vern

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today during coffee hour is our **Lenten Soup Sale**. Quart and pint-sized containers are available for \$8 and \$4 respectively.

The **O-club meets** today during coffee hour.

Our **Spring Fashion Show**, scheduled for March 22, will be postponed. We should have a new date set with Avalon Manor by next Sunday. Please bear with us!

The **women's book group** is reading **The First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journal through the Canon of St. Andrew**, by Frederica Mathewes-Green. Lunch and discussion is scheduled to follow the 10am Presanctified Liturgy on the last day of Lent: Friday, April 10 (Western Good Friday).

In the month of March, the O-Club is collecting items for **Easter Dinner Baskets** for the Ross Township food pantry. We need the following: Canned vegetables, boxed potatoes (+gravy, if mashed), and cake icing.

A new **men's group will make sausage** for a Pascha fundraiser. Order forms are in the narthex, and are due back Sunday, March 29. Please share with your friends and family! Sausage will be ready for pick-up April 10-12.

Mark your calendars:

Mar 17: **Hall committee meeting @ 6pm**

Parish Council meeting @ 7pm

Mar 18: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 6pm** (no Lenten potluck)

Mar 20: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am**

Mar 25: **Great Feast of Annunciation: Vesperal Liturgy @ 6pm**

Mar 28: **Memorial Liturgy and General Blessing of Graves** at St. Mary's Cemetery @ 10am

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$3,495

Glory to God for all things!