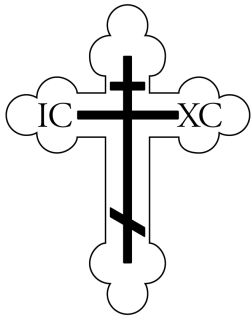
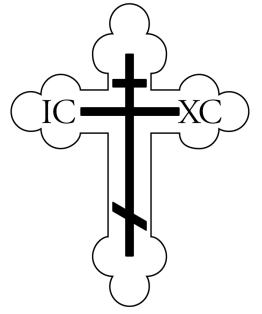


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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 • 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 22, 2020

Sunday of the Cross

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

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

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 1 – Troparion of the Cross

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 7 – Kontakion of the Cross

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;

it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.

The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;

for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell://

‘Enter again into Paradise!’

Instead of “*Holy God...*” we sing:

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and

Your holy Resurrection we glorify! (3x)

Glory... now and ever... And Your holy Resurrection we glorify!

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and

Your holy Resurrection we glorify!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Cross (Psalm 27)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 4.14 - 5.6 (Cross)

Brethren: Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses; He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also, Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You."

As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel: Mark 8.34 - 9.1 (Cross)

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ev.Mem John Swalla ('85)
Michael Alexeychuck ('67)
Andrew Najmolovsky ('62)

George Dormichoff ('54)
John Mosak ('88)
Michael M. Shendrick (2016)

Health & Salvation:	Maria	Joseph
Archpr. Peter	Stacy	Kathleen
Pr. John	Jeramie	Paul
Pr. Christopher	Olivia	William
Mat. Jennifer	Parker	Frederick
Andrew	Barbara	Janet
Gideon	Thomas	Lea
Dn. Nicholas	Jessica	Hania
Kevin	Eduardo	James
Jon	Christine	Gerald
Tanya	Nicholas	Miriana
Joan	Natalie	Nadia
Julia	Barbara	Charlene
Warren	Kristin	Milka
Carol	Linda	Daniel
Tom	Phyllis	Russell
Elizabeth	Kay	Brendan
Tina	Fred	Benjamin
Brittany	Larry	William
Jennifer	Rollie	Kara
Lennox	Joseph	Nathan
Laila	Mark	Sharon
Paula	Alexa	Michael
Melissa	Paula	John
Jonathan	James	Vern
Matthew	Joanne	
Gail	Michael	

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Pascha sausage fundraiser** has been canceled.

Our **Spring Fashion Show**, previously scheduled for today, has been postponed to Friday, May 29. Doors will open at 5pm. Dinner is at 6pm.

The **women's book group** is still reading **The First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journal through the Canon of St. Andrew**, by Frederica Mathewes-Green. Discussion is scheduled for Friday, April 10 (Western Good Friday). Stay tuned for a possible rescheduling.

The O-Club has finished collecting for its **Easter Dinner Baskets**. Thank you to all who donated! Please remember to support your local food pantry in this time of need.

Instead of the planned **Memorial Liturgy**, at 1pm this Saturday, March 28, there will be, weather permitting, an **open-air panikhida at our St. Mary's cemetery** (4801 W Ridge Rd, Gary, IN). The general blessing of graves will follow. Parishioners are welcome to add the names of their departed loved ones for commemoration by emailing them to ptvmchurch@gmail.com. We will not go inside the chapel but pray outdoors among the tombs, maintaining healthy space between families.

If any have lost work or require assistance with errands or any other need during this time of crisis, please call or email Fr Jacob. Many members of our parish have already expressed a willingness to support their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mark your calendars:

Mar 25: **Great Feast of Annunciation: Vespereal Liturgy @ 6pm**
(Livestreamed)

Mar 28: **Panikhida and General Blessing of Graves at St. Mary's Cemetery @ 1pm**

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$2,270

Archpastoral Letter

of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

March 17, 2020

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

As is well-known, these recent days have been seemingly unprecedented in the life of the modern world. One would have to go back to the beginning of the twentieth century at the time of the Spanish Influenza pandemic, or the cholera pandemics of the nineteenth century to find something comparable. In these pandemics, millions upon millions of people died. If society has learned anything from the lessons of these pandemics, and also from recent experiences of pandemics like H1N1, MERS, or Zika, it is this: preventative measures are required to limit the effects of a pandemic. In the current crisis, the measures advocated to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus include the maintenance of social distance so as to limit our exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and thus cut down on the probability of being infected, carrying the virus, and becoming sick from it. Health care professionals speak forcefully about the positive effects that such measures would have, namely, “flattening the curve” of new infections so that our health care system does not become overwhelmed.

We hear this advice, as well as the admonishments to wash our hands frequently, cover our coughs, and keep our Churches clean. Civil authorities are issuing emergency orders to close schools and limit public gatherings. We are also advised to work from home if at all possible. The members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America have issued statements advising all members of the Church to follow the directives of the Center for Disease Control, and our own further pastoral directives. In our dioceses, we have responded with even further directives that our Churches and

institutions should follow. I reiterate here: please become familiar with what the CDC directs, follow our directives, both at the Synodal and at the Diocesan level.

My beloved children in the Lord, none of the measures adopted by any part of the Church should cause scandal or anxiety. They should also not be used as the subject for mockery, vile jokes, sarcasm, or – God forbid! – division or disunity. They have been taken as our Christian response to protect our brothers and sisters. Our Lord tells us, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).” The life we “laying down” now is our normal life, because these are extraordinary times. We are making a sacrificial effort, which is in keeping with the present season of repentance and ascetical striving. Like the ascetics of old who would depart from their monasteries for the forty days of Lent in preparation for Holy Week, we should take this opportunity to prayerfully reflect on our life in Christ and increase our desire to be with Him.

No one should feel any concern about the canonical implications of being absent from the divine services. We find ourselves in extraordinary circumstances that require extraordinary, but *temporary* responses. The holy body and precious blood of our Lord can never be a source of disease, it is after all for the healing of soul and body, but the COVID-19 virus can still be passed through the congregation. Out of love for our neighbor, we must do everything we can to protect the vulnerable by slowing the rate of infection not only in our parishes, but in the greater community, and thereby allowing the hospitals and medical community to more adequately care for those most at risk.

I call on the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to make good use of this time and renew their faith and hope in God through prayer and fasting, and by being of service to their brothers and sisters. The exhortation of the great Prophet Isaiah should guide us. He called out to the ancient people of Israel “If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,” in

Other words, if we stay united, relieve one another of the burdens that this virus has placed on us, “if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday (Isaiah 58.10).” In the darkness of anxiety and sickness, in the gloom of the disruption of our lives, these words of the prophet point us to the True Light, Jesus Christ, the great Physician and Healer of our souls and bodies, who gave his life for us so that we might live with Him eternally. May our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed eternally with the Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit preserve us in these days and grant us health and his peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for all things!