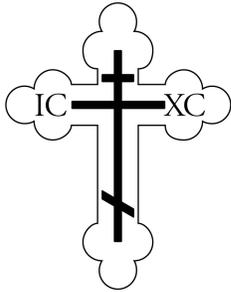
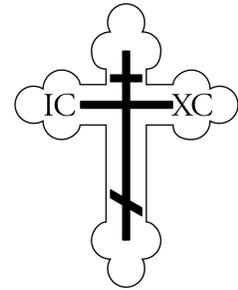


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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

May 3, 2020 Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women Third Sunday of Pascha

The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikodemos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb. According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mk 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulcher, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10). Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Joanna, Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee, Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus, and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James and Joses.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 2 – Troparia for the Third Sunday of Pascha

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord, //
granting the world great mercy.

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: “The Lord is risen, //
granting the world great mercy.”

Tone 2 – Kontakion for the Third Sunday of Pascha

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.
You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles://
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Tone 8 (Special Melody) – Kontakion of Pascha

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, //
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

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

Acts of the Apostles 6.1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15.43 – 16.8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So, when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

NDep. Joseph Clark

Wayne Fritz

Ev.Mem. Gabriel Nush ('23)

Stavre Petroff ('56)

John Melnikow ('57)

Evdokia Basalay ('58)

Mary Krochta ('59)

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

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

In place of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following:

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: 'Rejoice, O pure Virgin!

Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!'

With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, rejoice, all you people!

Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you!

Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection, the resurrection of your Son!

We sing "Christ is risen..." in place of "We have seen the true Light..."

At the Dismissal, the priest says "Glory to You, O Christ..." and the choir sings "Christ is risen..." three times.

Tone 8

And unto us He has given eternal life.

Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have put together a **parish email list** for keeping in touch during this time of isolation. If you are not receiving emails, please send your email address to ptvmchurch@gmail.com to be added.

For **Bible Study** on Wednesday read Galatians 5-6. If you would like to participate but haven't before, email Fr Jacob.

St. Mary's O-Club is partnering with our own Sergei **Ely's Pierogi** truck to bring hot meals to workers at local nursing homes during the health crisis. Their first delivery will be to Miller's Merry Manor in Hobart this Friday. Your donations marked "alms" will go to support this effort. Anyone interested in volunteering should email ptvmchurch@gmail.com or contact Juli Grankowski or Sergei Ely directly.

On June 17 we will host a **Red Cross blood drive** in our parish hall. More details to come!

If anyone in our community is suffering hardship, please contact Fr Jacob. The parish has established a **benevolence fund** to help those in need during this crisis.

Parishioners are asked to **continue their stewardship** either by mail or online through the "donate" button on our website: www.ptvm.com

Our **Spring Fashion Show** was postponed to Friday, May 29. Doors to open at 5pm. Dinner at 6pm. (No further updates at this time)

Mark your calendars:

May 25: **Memorial Day** blessing of graves starting at St. Mary's cemetery @ 9am

May 29: **Spring Fashion Show** @ 5pm

June 17: **Blood/Food Drive**

Pastoral Letter Concerning the Coronavirus

from the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

We are completing the second week of our celebration of the great feast of feasts, Holy Pascha, in which we are reminded of the blessed unbelief of Thomas. All of us have longed to touch the life-giving side of the risen Christ with an eager hand even as Thomas did when our Lord came to the apostles through closed doors. And yet, many of us were deprived of the opportunity, not only to touch His side, but even to enter the temple in order to sing: “Bless God in the congregations, the Lord, O you who are of Israel’s fountain.” (Psalm 68:26)

Our encounter with the pandemic brought about by the coronavirus came upon us in the midst of our journey through the desert of Great Lent. The struggle remains with us during the bright season of the resurrection but now we sense the fragrance of the eternal and physical spring, which brings with it the hope of good things to come. Indeed, with you, the Holy Synod of Bishops longs for the full opening of our churches, missions, monasteries, and seminaries so that we all might return to the fullness of our church life, and with Thomas, offer our worship to the Lord by crying out: “My Lord and my God!”

While the dates for a full opening are still unknown, we are convinced that the time has come for us to begin the preparatory work that will bring us closer to those days. This preparatory work will be difficult as we make our way through the spiritual, emotional, and psychological effects of isolation and quarantine. This preparatory work will also be slow, for we must test the procedures and steps that we will collectively take in restoring our church life, so that we might responsibly navigate the many challenges that will confront our communities on the local level.

Above all, we issue a spiritual call to the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America. While the spread of this virus has caused death, sickness, anxiety, and economic distress, this time has offered us, and continues to offer us, an opportunity to strengthen our prayer life, to perform works of charity, and to show compassion and love to our brothers and sisters in the Church and in our communities. All Orthodox Christians should remember in their prayers those who have fallen asleep, those who are sick, those who have recovered, those who are suffering from fear, anxiety, and distress brought upon them by this virus. Further, we should offer our prayers and sincere gratitude to all those laboring to insure the necessities of life, healthcare workers and first responders, food supply workers, and other essential occupations who have sacrificially offered themselves for the benefit of their neighbor.

The Holy Synod also provides the following fundamental principles that will guide our steps forward:

- As we have always acknowledged, each diocesan bishop is entrusted with the spiritual and pastoral care of the clergy and faithful, protecting their wellbeing as he determines necessary, while always remaining of one mind with the Holy Synod. The same principle applies in the process of re-opening the churches. Any interpretation or clarification of the following guidelines should be directed to the diocesan bishop. Decisions requiring approval of the Holy Synod will be addressed as needed.
- To provide for unity and to allow the bishops greater guidance and support regarding how and when to re-open their churches and institutions, the Holy Synod has [adopted new directives](#) for use throughout the Orthodox Church in America. This detailed document, entitled, “Towards a Re-opening of our Churches,” is provided as a reference point for the bishops and should be carefully reviewed by all levels of diocesan leadership (Chancellors, Deans, Diocesan Councils, Rectors, and Parish Councils). Implementation of these synodal directives takes place under the authority of the diocesan bishop.
- It should be understood that there may be variations in the application of these new directives. These variations will parallel those that are found among regions, states, provinces, counties, and municipalities. It is incumbent therefore upon the church leadership, under the direction of their bishop to be familiar with and understand both the civil guidelines and the Church directives that appertain to their local circumstances.
- We must continue to adhere to the civil guidelines, beginning with those of our federal governments and then the particular and localized guidelines from the civil authorities, recognizing that there is a diversity from state to state, province to province, county to county, and even municipality to municipality. While the civil authorities have been reluctant to impose restrictions on the churches, our communities are expected to respond in a way that is consonant with the public welfare. The Holy Synod, concerned for the health and well-being of all, intends to follow in the spirit in which those decrees are given.
- During these initial stages of re-opening, when church attendance will, of necessity, remain limited, the clergy are instructed to consult their diocesan bishop for direction on the celebration of the holy, life-giving mysteries of the Church (the eucharist, baptism and chrismation, marriage, etc). The Holy Synod will consider the need for further church-wide directives in these areas as the process of re-opening unfolds.

The above principles, in conjunction with the synodal directives, are offered with the understanding that they are general principles and directives that may provide for the possible opening of parishes, as long as the local conditions warrant this, and with the consent of the bishop. These are not mandatory steps that must be taken by a certain calendar date.

Finally, we note that there is much to cause anxiety in the current circumstances, from political debates to scientific quarrels and the pitting of experts against other experts. We remind the clergy and the faithful that this current pandemic is unprecedented and that even the experts, faithfully following the scientific method, must have time to gather and analyze data. In such a fast-moving situation, even these studies are provisional and subject to correction. This is the nature of the scientific model.

While being mindful of all this, we also offer a word of encouragement to our clergy and faithful by reminding them of the words of the psalmist: *Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.* Let us trust the Lord to guide us, rely on each other to support and help one another, and kindle in our hearts the fire that Luke and Cleopas felt burning in themselves when the risen Lord appeared and spoke to them on the road to Emmaus.

With our paternal blessing and love,

+Tikhon

+Alejo

+Irénée

+David

+Nathaniel

+Mark

+Michael

+Paul

+Benjamin

+Melchisedek

+Alexander

Glory to God for all things!