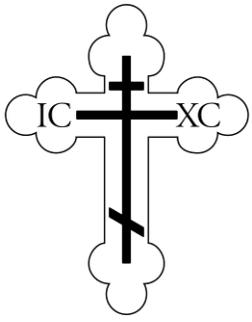
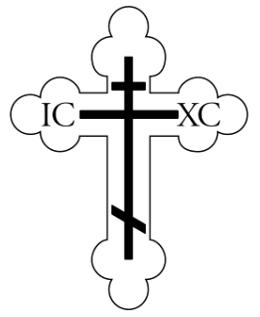


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays
Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession available before or
after services.

June 14, 2020

Sunday of All Saints

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of

virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (Jn 12.24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Doxastikon of Vespers).

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Roman Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of Theophano, her husband started to build a church intending to name it after her as its patron Saint, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Troparion of All Saints

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,

Your Church has been adorned with Your martyr's blood shed throughout all the world.

She cries to You, O Christ God:

"Send down Your bounties on Your people,//

grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

Tone 8 – Kontakion of All Saints

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.

By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace// through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Tone 4 –Prokeimenon for All Saints (Psalm 67)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Epistle: Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2

Brethren: Through faith, the Saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not receiving deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, and by chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, because God had provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: Matthew 10.32-33, 37-38; 19.27-30

The Lord said to His disciples, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My

Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?”

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. John Sutko

Mat. Nadine Brown

Kostas Zissides

Archpr. Paul Lazor

Ev.Mem. Anna Baus ('30)

Tatiana Savich ('47)

Evdokia Shendrick ('51)

Michael Sherba ('57)

Kalenik Melnik ('58)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

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

Nadia

Charlene

Milka

Daniel

Russell

Brendan

Benjamin

William

Kara

Nathan

Sharon

Michael

Vern

Olga

Mark

Jerry

Daniel

Joanna	Prudence	Carl	Elizabeth
Myah	Clay	Victoria	Claudia
Michael	Ann	Dushawna	N.Ill. Brandi
Wanda	Janice	Daniel	N.Ill. Aria

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have entered “phase three” of **reopening the Church**. We can have up to 60 persons at one time, maintaining distance between groups. Those over 65 are also now welcome to Sunday services at their own discretion. Those with complicating health conditions such as diabetes, heart, lung, or kidney disease are still encouraged instead to take advantage of Wednesday and Saturday Liturgies, which will continue. Please contact Fr Jacob if you would like to attend one of these services, or if you have any questions about the precautions we are taking.

This Wednesday we are hosting a **Red Cross Blood Drive** 12-6pm. All who give blood that day may take advantage of **free COVID antibody tests**. We are also collecting on that day donations for the Merrillville food pantry.

For **Bible Study** on Wednesday night read **Acts 13-15**. If you would like to participate but haven't before, email Fr Jacob.

Next Saturday, **Great Vespers will be served at 5pm** rather than the usual 6pm.

St. Mary's O-Club is partnering with our own **Sergei Ely's Pierogi** truck to bring meals to workers at local nursing homes during the health crisis. Our next delivery will be to Clarendon in Schererville next Friday. Anyone interested in volunteering should email ptvmchurch@gmail.com or contact Juli Grankowski or Sergei Ely.

The annual **Golf Outing** has been scheduled for August 22. Stay tuned for more details.

Our **Fashion Show** has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 9. Lunch will be served at 12pm. Please contact Elizabeth Pedersen, Sherry Mizimakoski, or Nada Bucek if you need to return tickets or buy new ones.

Mark your calendars:

Jun 16: **Parish Council meeting @ 7pm (via Zoom)**

Jun 17: **Divine Liturgy @ 10am (contact Fr Jacob to attend)**
Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6pm
Bible Study @ 7pm (via Zoom)

Jun 20: **Divine Liturgy @ 10am (contact Fr Jacob to attend)**
Great Vespers @ 5pm

Aug 9: **Fashion Show at Avalon Manor @ 11pm**

Aug 22: **Annual Golf Outing**

Masks and Other Changes

a reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

These are stressful times for us. We are in the process of cautiously re-opening our churches. When I issued my May 5th directives along with those of the Holy Synod, I said we were going at 10mph. Now that number has gone up to 20-25 mph – a faster speed but still not at the speed limit of many roads (30 mph or more). I have blessed more churches to up their attendance from 20 to 30+ attendees based on stats on the virus in their local areas or modifications in state directives. But with these increasing numbers, I have also directed that masks be worn at services, and I have offered different variations of how communion is to be given with the spoon. This has caused some concern among some parents, so I want to explain my motivations to you in my weekly note. I begin with St. Paul and Romans Chapter 15:

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. (Romans 15:1-2)

Nothing has been done on my part that has been motivated by fear or lack of faith. Fr. Paul Lazor of blessed memory would often tell seminarians at our common meals during Great Lent: “we set our table for our weaker brother.” So in directing that we wear masks at services (especially as our numbers increase to over 20), I am motivated by two factors.

One is the knowledge I have gained from reading and advice received from various sources that tell me the most effective way of

minimizing any risk of the virus spreading in our churches is through a combination of wearing masks and social distancing. Second, my motivation for directing that masks be worn is motivated by my love for all of you. I don't want us doing anything as a fallen people seeking salvation that would bring harm to our brothers and sisters.

So, when you are speaking to your children about wearing masks (especially to those over 7 years old), tell them we are doing this because of love, not fear. When people go to hospitals now to visit the sick, everyone is told to wear a mask so that we reduce the risk of spreading something to patients that might cause them to get sicker. The challenge the Covid virus still presents is that people can be feeling fine and have no symptoms to report, but be infected with the virus and pass it on from person to person. Plus, the longer we are together in church, the less effective social distancing is. Thus, we wear the facemask out of love for others as an added precaution to cause no harm to others. I don't want people to get used to wearing masks, because I believe there will be a time in the near future when we will not need to do so.

In regards to the way we receive communion in our churches, I have the following thoughts to share. Some believe strongly that we should not change the practice we have been following for the last 800 years. That is certainly a powerful argument. However, I have heard from others that while they believe they can't get sick from the Eucharist itself, they worry that they might get the disease from the communion spoon. This has caused anxiety on their part to approach the cup. They are still people of faith, but they are perhaps like the Father who cried out to Jesus in Mark 9:24, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief." So I **temporarily** required either sanitizing communion spoons with alcohol, or using a different, clean spoon for each communicant. Recently, I have also blessed using just one spoon and allowing the Eucharist to be given in wide-open mouth without touching one's mouth to the spoon. All of this has been done to mitigate the anxiety people of faith may have to enable them to come to the cup. All of the Bishops on the Holy Synod are of one mind to eventually return to the practice of one spoon as was done prior to the outbreak of Covid 19.

I want to end by relating a story from the TV show "The Love Boat." A man (played by Louis Nye) came aboard the cruise ship wearing a life jacket, and he wouldn't take it off for fear of the water. Many tried to convince him to take off the life jacket, but he became

more adamant and refused out of fear. Eventually, all the other passengers on the cruise ship started wearing life jackets to express their love for this fearful man and to stand with him. He was so grateful for people showing this expression of love and understanding towards him. The story ends with him taking off his life jacket of his own free will and joyfully jumping into the pool.

It is with this attitude in mind that I ask you to approach these issues we are addressing for the short term. The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

With love in Christ,

The unworthy Archbishop Paul

Glory to God for
all things!