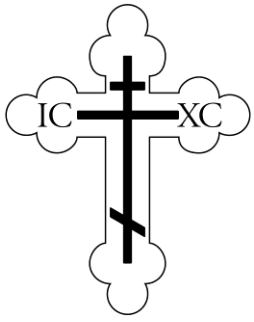
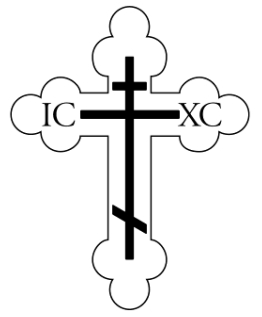


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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
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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Confession available before or
after services.

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

July 5, 2020

St. Sergius of Radonezh

Saint Sergius of Radonezh was born in the village of Varnitsa, near Rostov, on May 3, 1314. His parents were the pious and illustrious nobles Cyril and Maria (commemorated Sept 28). God gave Cyril and Maria a son whom they named Bartholomew. As a child, Bartholomew fell behind in his studies, even though the teacher gave him much special attention. The parents scolded the child, the teacher chastised him, and his classmates made fun of his lack of comprehension. Finally, Bartholomew besought the Lord with tears to grant him the ability to read.

Once, his father sent Bartholomew out after the horses in the field. Along the way he met an angel sent by God in the appearance of a monk. The monk blessed him, gave him a kiss and asked what he wanted. Bartholomew answered, "With all my soul I want to learn reading and writing. Holy Father, pray for me to God, that He may help me to become literate."

The monk fulfilled Bartholomew's request, offering up his prayer to God. Then the Elder took a vessel and gave Bartholomew a piece of prosphora. "Take, child, and eat," said he. "This is given to you as a sign of the grace of God, and for the understanding of Holy Scripture." Bartholomew asked him to visit at the home of his parents. His parents received their guest with joy and offered him their hospitality. The Elder replied that it was proper to partake of spiritual nourishment first, and he bade their son to read the Psalter. Bartholomew began to read, and his parents were amazed at the change that had occurred with their son. In parting, the Elder prophesied of St Sergius, "Your son shall be great before God and the people. He shall become a chosen habitation of the Holy Spirit."

On October 7, 1337 Bartholomew was tonsured by Igumen Metrophanes, taking the name of the holy Martyr Sergius, and he started to build a new habitation to the glory of the Life-Creating Trinity. Suffering temptations and demonic apparitions, St Sergius advanced from strength to strength. Gradually he became known to other monks seeking his guidance. St Sergius accepted all with love, and soon a brotherhood of twelve monks were gathered in the small monastery. Their experienced spiritual guide distinguished himself by an extraordinary love for work. With his own hands he built several cells, he carried water, he chopped wood, baked bread, sewed clothing, prepared food for the brethren and humbly took on other tasks. St Sergius combined the heavy work with prayer, vigil and fasting.

Already during his lifetime St Sergius had been granted the gift of wonderworking. Reports about the miracles worked by St Sergius began quickly to spread about, and the sick began to come to him, both from the surrounding villages and also from remote places. And no one left from St Sergius without receiving healing of infirmities and edifying counsel. Everyone gave glory for St Sergius, and revered him on an equal with the ancient holy Fathers. But human glory did not hold allure for the great ascetic, and as before he remained the example of monastic humility.

In tranquil solitude Saint Sergius fell asleep in the Lord on September 25, 1392. On the night before, the great saint of God summoned the brethren a final time to give them his final instruction: "Brethren, be attentive to yourselves. Have first the fear of God, purity of soul and unhypocritical love...."

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

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. Sergius

From your youth you received Christ into your soul, O ven'erable one,
and above all desired to leave behind the turmoil of the world.

You courageously settled in the wilderness, where you raised
children in obedience, the fruits of humility.

Thus, as an abode of the Trinity, you enlightened all who approached
in faith and granted healing to all.//

Our Father Sergius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Kontakion

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices
with the Prophets and Patriarchs.//

They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 8 – Kontakion for St. Sergius

Having risen from the earth today and shining like the sun,
your precious and incorrupt relics are as fragrant flowers, scented
with miracles,

granting healing to all the faithful, and making glad your flock which
you wisely gathered and tended.

Now as you stand before the throne of the Trinity, entreat God's help
and grace for them and for all Orthodox Christians.//

so that we may sing: "Rejoice, O divinely-wise Sergius!"

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 3 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St. Sergius (Psalm 115)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints!

Epistle: Romans 6.18-23 (Sunday)

Brethren: Having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness (I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh). For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 5.22 – 6.2 (for St. Sergius)

Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 8.5-13 (Sunday)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Luke 6.17-23 (for St. Sergius)

And Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Alice Sutko

Mark Gulab

John Sutko

Mat. Nadine Brown

Ev.Mem. Philip Golin ('28)

Christ Sugareff ('51)

Zachary Lavrick ('52)

John Panchak ('61)

Pauline Czarnecki (2009)

Health & Salvation

Met. Theodosius	Thomas	Brendan
Archpr. Peter	Jessica	William
Pr. John	Eduardo	Kara
Pr. Christopher	Christine	Nathan
Mat. Jennifer	Nicholas	Sharon
Andrew	Natalie	Michael
Gideon	Barbara	John
Kevin	Kristin	Vern
Jon	Linda	Olga
Tanya	Phyllis	Mark
Jovan	Kay	Jerry
Julia	Fred	Daniel
Warren	Larry	Joanna
Carol	Rollie	Myah
Tom	Joseph	Michael
Elizabeth	Mark	Wanda
Tina	Alexa	Prudence
Brittany	Paula	Clay
Jennifer	James	Ann
Lennox	Joanne	Janice
Laila	Michael	Carl
Paula	Joseph	Victoria
Melissa	Kathleen	Dushawna
Jonathan	Paul	Daniel
Matthew	William	Elizabeth
Gail	Frederick	Janet
Maria	Janet	Daryl
Stacy	Lea	Diane
Jeramie	Hania	Carla
Olivia	James	Claudia
Parker	Nadia	N.Ill. Brandi
Barbara	Milka	N.Ill. Aria
	Daniel	

*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. Our older members and those with complicating health conditions are still encouraged to take advantage of weekday

Liturgies, which will continue. The next of these will be **tomorrow @ 10am for the feast of Sts Peter and Paul.**

The **O-Club** has begun assisting a new ministry: **MAKS Bags** was cofounded by our own Liz Wysocki to provide newly-placed **foster children with backpacks** full of essential and comfort items to help them adjust on their first night away from home. You can support this effort with an alms donation and/or by bringing in items from the list posted in the Narthex.

In September, **iconographer John Jurewicz** will begin work on a series of frescos in our Church of scenes from the Life of the Theotokos. This project is being sponsored by the **St. Clement's group**. The first icon will be **our feast-day, the Protection of the Virgin Mary**, on the west wall of the nave above the door. It has been the intention of the parish council for some years to have this icon done **in memory of Fr. Thomas Brown**, our former rector, as a token of our parish's appreciation for all of **Mat. Nadine's** work for our parish in the years since his passing. In the wake of her own recent passing, the council has decided to dedicate it to the both of them. Donations in any amount toward the icon may be made in their memory.

There will be **no Bible Study** this week.

Message from Elizabeth Wysocki: **Everyone is invited to Shaun's High School graduation Open House.** Come help us celebrate Shaun with yummy food and live entertainment Saturday, August 1, 2-6pm. RSVP by July 25 at 219-381-7591.

The annual **Golf Outing** has been scheduled for August 22. Information is available in the narthex.

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:

Jul 13: **Divine Liturgy @10am** for the Holy Archangel Gabriel

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

Aug 22: **Annual Golf Outing**

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$1,856

Message on Independence Day

from His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, my Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,

I wish you all a happy and safe 4th of July! As this Independence Day comes in the midst of a viral pandemic and renewed social tensions, it is fitting to recall that the fundamental principle that we celebrate today is that “all men are created equal.” Let us joyfully “let freedom ring!” as we celebrate this American principle!

Yet, we must admit, our nation remains “in travail”, struggling to “give birth” to a society in which all are treated as equals. Despite some progress, racism has not been fully stamped out. As the Church, in which “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free,” we oppose racism, for we believe that “all are one in Christ Jesus.”

Crucially, evils such as racism are only stamped out when each of us individually takes responsibility for his or her actions. Each of us has the independence of free will to choose to do good or evil. The claim that groups are responsible for evil, rather than individuals, is a claim which risks ignoring individual free will.

We must search out the evil in our own hearts, and labor to remove it, and then let Christ enter and take His place in our hearts, and then we will see social change. We take responsibility for the evil we contribute to, and then act responsibly to make Christ’s kingdom present now through our words and deeds, and change will happen.

For the meaning of being created “in the image of God”, of all men and women being created equal, is that each of us has freedom of will. And it is only through each of us freely choosing to do “the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do” that evil will be stamped out, bit by bit, in society.

So, this Independence Day, let us remember that freedom is not just an American ideal, but a sacred responsibility given to each of us through our God-given free will. We are each “independent” to do what we may will; but through following the example of Christ, may each of us do the will of His Father always, this day, and every day.

With love in Christ,

+ Tikhon