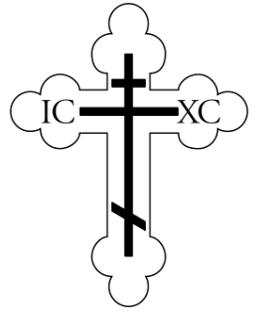


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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

Confession available before or
after services.

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

June 21, 2020

All Saints of America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians. The following list is of all those Saints who lived in or labored in America known and glorified by the Church.

- St. Alexander Hotovitzky: Missionary to America, and Hieromartyr under the Bosheviks
- St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre: Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America, leader of ex-Uniates into Orthodoxy

- St. Anatole (Kamensky) of Irkutsk: New Hieromartyr and Archbishop of Irkutsk
- St. Vasily (Basil) Martysz: hieromartyr in Poland
- St. Bogolyub Gakovich of Chisholm: missionary to America and hieromartyr under the Nazis
- St. Brendan the Voyager: perhaps the first Orthodox saint to set foot in North America, leader of short-lived 6th c. Irish monastic community in Canada
- St. Herman of Alaska: Wonderworker of All America, first missionary to Alaska
- St. Innocent of Alaska: Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to America, missionary bishop to Alaska
- St. Yakov (Jacob) Netsvetov: Enlightener and Baptizer of the Native Peoples of Alaska
- St. John Kochurov: Missionary to America and First Hieromartyr under the Bolshevik Yoke
- St. John (Maximovitch) the Wonderworker: Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco
- St. Juvenaly of Alaska: Missionary to Alaska and hieromartyr
- St. Mardarije (Uskokovic): Serbian Bishop of America
- St. Matej Stiyachic of Chisholm: missionary to America, and hieromartyr under the Nazis
- St. Nikolai (Velimirovich): Bishop of Zhicha, rector of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Wilkes Barre, PA.
- St. Peter the Aleut: New Martyr of America
- St. Raphael (Hawaweeny): bishop of Brooklyn
- St. Sebastian (Dabovich): Archimandrite, "Apostle to America"
- St. Seraphim (Samoylovich) of Uglich: missionary in Alaska and hieromartyr under the Soviets
- St. Teofan Beatovich of Chisholm: missionary in Minnesota, hieromonk and martyr under the Communists
- Patriarch St. Tikhon (Belavin) of Moscow: Enlightener of North America, hieromartyr under the Bolsheviks in Russia
- St. Varnava (Nastić): the New Confessor, born in Gary, Indiana

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those Saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!”

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 of All Saints of North America

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation,

the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints who
have shone in them.

By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace//

through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,

raising the world with Yourself.

Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://

“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

Tone 3 – Kontakion of All Saints of North America

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America

now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With them the Angels glorify Him, and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; // and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You!

Tone 7 –Prokeimenon for All Saints of North America (Psalm 115)

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

Epistle: Romans 2.10-16 (Sunday)

Brethren: Glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2 (North American Saints)

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 4.18-23 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Matthew 4.25 – 5.12

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Mark Gulab
John Sutko
Mat. Nadine Brown

Kostas Zissides
Archpr. Paul Lazor
Ev.Mem. Peter Evanocich ('36)

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Wednesday's **blood drive was a huge success!** We had 56 donors, more than twice the Red Cross' goal for events like ours.

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 Saturday Liturgy, which will continue.

For **Bible Study** on Wednesday night, read **Acts 13-15**. 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 meals to workers at local nursing homes. Our next delivery will be to Clarendon in Schererville next Thursday, July 2. Anyone interested in volunteering should email 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 23: Great Vespers for the **Nativity of John the Baptist @ 6pm**

Jun 24: Divine Liturgy for the **Nativity of John the Baptist @ 10am**
Bible Study @ 7pm (via Zoom)

Jun 29: Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul @ 10am**

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

Aug 22: **Annual Golf Outing**

Being Afraid to Love

a reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:25-29)

Once again, we are being challenged with the continued racial inequality that exists in our country, with the horrendous death of George Floyd and the resulting protests (most peaceful, though

some violent) that have put us all on edge. This is on top of the pandemic, which appears to be impacting Afro American communities more than others. It is not as if we needed more reasons to be anxious or nervous. Many would argue that racism has gotten better in our country, so why do we need to continue to address this? But race still continues to impact the way we view people in the world.

The above words from Galatians teach us that we are united in Christ through baptism. The color of a person's skin is not to be a determining factor when it comes to being received into the Orthodox Church. Yet when I visit the parishes of the Midwest, it is very clear to me that in many of our parishes there are no people of Afro-American descent, and if there are, the numbers are very low. I realize I may be too simplistic in this characterization, as there are people of many different ethnic backgrounds that attend our churches; but the fact remains, there are very few Afro-Americans. There is, I believe, a spiritual and moral challenge that we need to face in order to understand why this is the case. I think the nature of racism amongst us is subtle and not as overt.

I can only speak for myself here. But in my upbringing, it was modeled to me to be afraid of Afro-Americans (then it was black people). When Afro-Americans began to move into our neighborhood in Detroit in the early 1970's, we left and joined the mass white flight to the suburbs of metropolitan Detroit. My family and I were motivated by fear. We never bothered to get to know our new neighbors as they moved in, which was sad. We prejudged the people moving in, making assumptions not based on any actual experience of having known them. We were not mean to anyone, nor did we mistreat anyone; but we avoided getting to know each other. I think this is racism. We were afraid to love, and that, in a nutshell, was the problem.

So, for those parents today who are going about the challenge of forming the life of Christ in their children, what can we do overcome the subtle forms of racism that impact our lives? I will continue this next week.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy Archbishop Paul

Glory to God for all things!