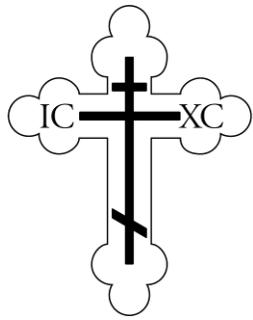
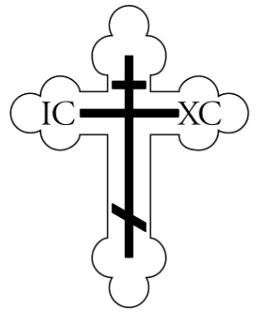


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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 is available before
or after Vespers or by
appointment

August 16, 2020

Commemoration of the Icon “Not-Made-By-Hands Afterfeast of the Dormition

A Sermon on the Dormition by St. John of Kronstadt

Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honorable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation - she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honorably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this

on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the center of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.

We say that our dead have “fallen asleep” or “passed away.” What does this mean? This means that for the true Christian there is no death. Death was conquered by Christ on the cross. But there is a translation, i.e, a rearrangement of his condition, i.e. his soul is in another place, in another age, in another world beyond the grave, eternal, without end, that is what is meant by “falling asleep”. It is as if it were a temporary dream after which, by the voice of the Lord and the fearful yet wonderful trumpet of the Archangel, all the dead shall live and come forth each to his place: either to the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:29). This is what the Christian means by translation. We should be ready for this translation, for the day of the general resurrection and judgment, for this indescribable world event, recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

This preparation for the meeting of the heavenly King before the dread judgment seat, after death, is essentially the person’s preparation throughout the whole of his life. This preparation means a change in all his thoughts, and the moral change of all his being, so that the whole man would be pure and white as snow, washing clean everything that defiles the body and spirit, so that he is adorned with every virtue: repentance, meekness, humility, gentleness, simplicity, chastity, mercifulness, abstention, spiritual contemplation, and burning love for God and neighbor.

Our preparation for meeting the heavenly King, and for the inheritance of eternal life in heaven, should consist of these things. The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact the human soul is more spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in it and will fill it with Himself. “We will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23), says the Lord about the souls who love Him.

And so, you participants in the present feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, you who are brightly adorned with every virtue and translated to the heavenly kingdom, to Her Son and God, proclaim to each and every one about preparing their souls to be the dwelling place of the Lord, about continual repentance, and about the incorruptible adornment of Christian virtue. Let your death also be unashamed and peaceful, serving as the pledge of a good answer at the dread judgment seat of Christ. Amen.

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 2 – Troparion for the Icon not-made-by-hands

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You:

“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//

by coming to save the world.”

Tone 1 – Troparion for Dormition

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.

In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life O Mother of Life,//

and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

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 2 – Kontakion for the Icon not-made-by-hands

Uncircumscribed Word of the Father,
as we behold the victorious image of Your true incarnation,
not made by hands, but divinely wrought
in Your ineffable and divine dispensation towards us, //
we honor it with veneration.

Tone 2 – Kontakion for Dormition

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life, //
she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

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 4 – Prokeimenon for the Icon not-made-by-hands (Psalm 97)

Sing to the Lord a new song / for the Lord has done marvelous things!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4.9-16 (Sunday)

Brethren: I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you: imitate me.

Colossians 1.12-18 (Icon not-made-by-hands)

Brethren: We give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the

kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Gospel: Matthew 17.14-23 (Sunday)

At that time, when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Luke 9.51-56; 10.22-24 (Icon not-made-by-hands)

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Jesus to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord,

do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”

But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”

“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Barbara Gregorash

Alice Sutko

Health & Salv.

Olivia

Jerry

Met. Theodosius

Parker

Michael

Archpr. Peter

Christine

Janice

Mat. Anne

Nicholas

Carl

Pr. Christopher

Natalie

Victoria

Mat. Jennifer

George

Dushawna

Andrew

Diane

Daniel

Gideon

Linda

Elizabeth

Kevin

Larry

Anthony

Jon

Rollie

Janet

Tanya

Joseph

Daryl

Jovan

Nadia

Diane

Julia

Daniel

Carla

Warren

Brendan

Susan

Tom

Sharon

Timothy

Tina

Michael

William

Brittany

Janie

Paul

Jennifer

John

Joseph

Gail

Vern

Claudia

Stacy

Olga

Tom

Jeramie

Mark

Beth

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We continue to take precautions during the present **health crisis**. We can have up to 60 persons in Church at one time, with everyone except celebrants and choir masked and maintaining distance between groups. Our older members and those with complicating health conditions are still encouraged to take advantage of weekday Liturgies. The next will be Saturday, Aug 29 for the **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**.

For **Bible Study** this week read Acts 21-23.

St. Mary's O-Club delivered meals to the staff at **Crown Point Christian Village** last Thursday. Their next delivery will be to St. Anthony's. A date is yet to be determined. Anyone interested in volunteering should email ptvmchurch@gmail.com or contact Juli Grankowski.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard planning the **Fashion Show**, which unfortunately had to be canceled. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we still managed to raise \$13,640.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, August 22**, at Summertree Golf Course in Crown Point. The proceeds will benefit the Church's building fund and be used for the continuation, support, and development of various Church projects, which reach out to the community. Any hole sponsors (\$125), or other monetary or prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Golfers need to let us know as soon as possible so an accurate count can be made for the banquet. Those wishing to help in any way (including making a dessert or appetizer) or to purchase banquet tickets (\$20 each), please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee

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, **in memory of Fr. Thomas and Mat. Nadine Brown**. Donations in any amount toward the icon may be made in their memory.

If anyone would like to donate a little time **tending the landscaping** around our church, please see Melody Rozdelsky or Olga Martin.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 18: **Hall Committee** meeting via Zoom @ 6pm
Parish Council meeting via Zoom @ 7pm

Aug 19: **Bible Study** via Zoom @ 7pm

Aug 22: **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing**

Aug 28: **Great Vespers** @ 6pm

Aug 29: **Divine Liturgy** @ 10am for the **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$4,011

**Glory to God for
all things!**