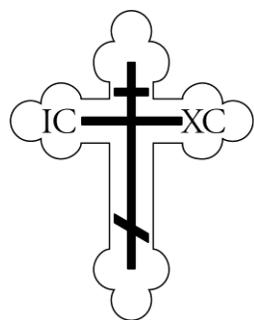
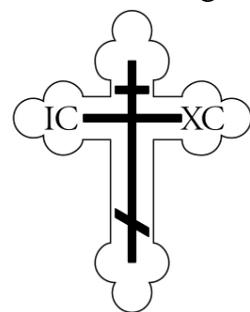


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before
or after Vespers or by
appointment

August 9, 2020

St. Herman of Alaska

Afterfeast of the Transfiguration

Excerpt from the sermon of Bishop Dmitri of Berkley on the occasion of the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska:

“Seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12.1).

The Church on earth lives in a loving fellowship with the saints who have already run their race, who have fought the good fight, and have received their crowns. This is what the Apostle means when he says that we are compassed about or surrounded by the witness-martyrs or saints. We are assured both of their presence and their interest in us. In fact, they are concerned about

the whole world and its salvation, for “there is joy in heaven over the repentance of one sinner” (Luke 15.7).

Further, and this is the most important point, it is because we have this great cloud of witnesses that we have any hope of running the race that is set before us. We have their example to imitate, and we have their guidance, intercession, protection and loving fellowship.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to reconcile man to God, and to show, by taking on human nature and by living the life of a man, what man’s response to God was supposed to be. We are convinced that if there were no saints the way of Christ would be an abstraction, an ideal impossible and unattainable for man.

Christ promised to send and did send the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, “to endow His Apostles with power from on high,” to sanctify the Church and to “guide her in all truth.” Holiness is the real proof that Christ did send the Spirit and that the Spirit fills and permeates the Church. The reality of the saints demonstrates that the holiness to which Christ calls us all is a definite possibility, that in all generations since the time of Christ, holiness has been attained in spite of all the world’s evil and all the temptations and obstacles that would keep Christians from reaching their goal. Holiness is our primary vocation as Christians in this century, in the face of all the greed, power, madness, collapse of morality, cruel exploitation, and the loss of practically every spiritual value in life. Although we are concerned here with a saint who fell asleep over a hundred years ago, we see, on reading the history of St. Herman, that the human failings, the sinfulness with which he was confronted are the same basic sicknesses of mankind today.

St. Herman came to America as a missionary. He had not only the task of preaching the Gospel to the natives of this land, but he also had to protect them from people who already had the Christian faith. He truly followed Christ. He took up his cross and followed Him faithfully. Those whom he taught and served were convinced of his sanctity even during his lifetime.

Very simply, his purpose must become our purpose, and his goals our goals. God has guided us to a new position of responsibility in two things. We have taken the name of America and consequently the responsibility before Christ for America’s salvation. And then, He has given us a saint, as both example and protector. It is now left to us to respond.

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 7 – Troparion for Transfiguration

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,

revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.

Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,

through the prayers of the Theotokos!//

O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Tone 7 – Troparion for St. Herman

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ,

guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom,

teacher and apostle of the True Faith,

intercessor and defender of the oppressed,

adornment of the Orthodox Church in America:

Blessed Father Herman of Alaska,

pray to our Lord Jesus Christ//

for the salvation of our souls!

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly

Merciful One!

Tone 3 – Kontakion for St. Herman

The eternal light of Christ our Savior

guided you, O blessed father Herman,

on your evangelical journey to America

to proclaim the Gospel of peace.

Now you stand before the throne of glory:

intercede for your land and its people,//

asking peace for the world and salvation for our souls.

Tone 7 – Kontakion for Transfiguration

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God,

and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;

so that when they would behold You crucified,

they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,

and would proclaim to the world//

that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

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

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3.9-17 (Sunday)

Brethren: We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

2 Corinthians 6.1-10 (St. Herman)

Brethren: Working together with Him, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, "In an acceptable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Gospel: Matthew 14.22-34 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Gospel: Matthew 10.23-31 (St. Herman)

Jesus said to His disciples: "When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household? So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

"What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a

penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Barbara Gregorash

Pr.Dn. Gregory Norris

Alice Sutko

Health & Salv.

Met. Theodosius

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Tom

Tina

Brittany

Jennifer

Gail

Stacy

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Christine

Nicholas

Natalie

George

Diane

Linda

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Daniel

Brendan

Sharon

Michael

Janie

John

Vern

Olga

Mark

Jerry

Michael

Janice

Carl

Victoria

Dushawna

Daniel

Elizabeth

Anthony

Janet

Daryl

Diane

Carla

Susan

Timothy

William

Paul

Joseph

Claudia

*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 is this Saturday @ 10am for the feast of the **Dormition of the Theotokos**.

Bible Study will resume next week.

St. Mary's O-Club is still delivering meals to workers at local nursing homes during the health crisis. Our next delivery will be to **Crown Point Christian Village this Thursday, August 13**. 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. We did livestream the basket raffle yesterday, and winners have been contacted.

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. This is a major fundraiser for us. 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.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 12: **Supplication to the Theotokos @ 6pm**

Aug 14: **Lamentations for the Theotokos @ 6pm**

Aug 15: **Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the Dormition of the Theotokos**

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

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$1,731

The Prophetic Way

a reflection by His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

At Metropolitan Leonty's funeral, Fr Alexander Schmemman said of him that he "had no fears, no suspicions, no frustrations. He was equally alien to pseudo-conservative negativism and to pseudo-progressive compromise." These are the very polarizing tendencies that we find in our world today: some lamenting that the world has drifted further from God and needs to be forcibly brought back to its senses; others feeling that the Church has become irrelevant to the modern condition and needs to adapt herself to ever-changing circumstances. Partisans of both tendencies cry for the Church and her leaders to exercise a prophetic witness to the faithful of the Church and to the surrounding culture.

But there are different ways to understand prophecy. Fr Zacharias of Essex reminds us that: "In the New Testament, a prophet is not so much a person who foretells future events, but rather someone who has knowledge of the mystery of the ways of salvation for every soul." St Gregory the Great also speaks of prophecy taking place when "the secrets of [the] heart are made manifest." One of the most important legacies of Metropolitan Leonty was that he was a man of God who touched and changed people's hearts with the humility and love of Christ. In the words of Fr Alexander, "He lived in and by God, and no one has ever approached him without feeling that he has touched and entered the reality of the spiritual world." In this way, he lived as a true prophet who brought people into the presence of Christ by his life and own presence.

As Christians, we ought to be, first of all, followers and disciples of Jesus Christ and children of His Bride, the Church, who gives birth to us. We cannot contribute to the life of the world if we have not grafted ourselves onto the living body of the Church by striving to conform ourselves to what the Church is. We cannot be a part of the Body if we do not live a life of communion with Christ, in sanctity of life, with love towards our neighbor, and with zeal for the mission of the Gospel. This is our prophetic witness.

Glory to God for all things!