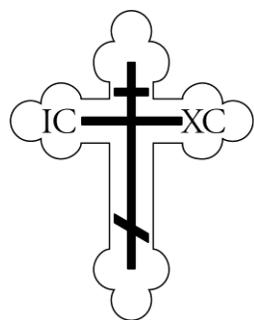
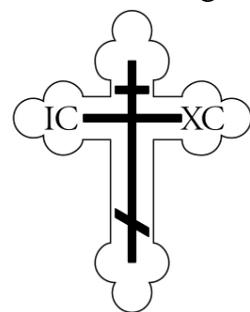


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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

September 13, 2020

Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Dedication of the

Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Today we celebrate the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by St Constantine the Great and his mother, the empress Helen. After the Passion and Death on the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the holy place of His suffering was long trampled on by pagans. When the Roman emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in the year 70, he razed the city and destroyed the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah, leaving there not a stone upon a stone, as our Savior foretold (Mt. 13:1-2).

Later on, the zealous pagan emperor Hadrian (117-138) built on the site of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city named Aelia Capitolina for him (Hadrian Aelius). It was forbidden to call the city by its former name. He gave orders to cover the Holy Tomb of the Lord with earth and stones, and on that spot to set up

an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, he constructed a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Venus in 119. In Bethlehem, at the place the Savior was born, the impious emperor set up an idol of Adonis. He did all this intentionally, so that people would forget completely about Christ the Savior and that they would no longer remember the places where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

At the beginning of the reign of St Constantine (306-337), the first of the Roman emperors to recognize the Christian religion, he and his pious mother the empress Helen decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. They also planned to build a church on the site of the Lord's suffering and Resurrection, in order to reconsecrate and purify the places connected with memory of the Savior from the taint of pagan cults. The empress Helen journeyed to Jerusalem with a large quantity of gold, and St Constantine wrote a letter to Patriarch Macarius I (313-323), requesting him to assist her in every possible way with her task of the renewing the Christian holy places.

After her arrival in Jerusalem, St. Helen destroyed all the pagan temples and reconsecrated the places desecrated by the pagans. She was zealous to find the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and she ordered the excavation of the place where the temple of Venus stood. There they discovered the Sepulcher of the Lord and Golgotha, and they also found three crosses and some nails.

In order to determine upon which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius gave orders to place a dead person, who was being carried to a place of burial, upon each cross in turn. When the dead person was placed on the Cross of Christ, he immediately came alive. With the greatest of joy the empress Helen and Patriarch Macarius raised up the Life-Creating Cross and displayed it to all the people standing about.

The holy empress quickly began the construction of a large church which enclosed within its walls Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion of the Savior, and the Sepulcher of the Lord, located near each other. The Church of the Resurrection was ten years in building, and the holy empress Helen did not survive to see its completion. She returned to Constantinople, and reposed in the year 327. After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress built churches in Bethlehem, on the Mount of Olives, at Gethsemane and in many other places connected with the life of the Savior and events in the New Testament.

The construction of the church of the Resurrection, called "Martyrion" in memory of the sufferings of the Savior, was completed in the same year as the Council of Tyre, and in the thirtieth year of the reign of St Constantine. Therefore, at the assembly of September 13, 335, the consecration of the temple was particularly solemn. Hierarchs of Christian Churches in many lands: Bythnia, Thrace, Cilicia, Cappadocia, Syria, Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Arabia, Palestine, and Egypt, participated in the consecration of the church. The bishops who participated in the Council of Tyre, and many others, went to the consecration in Jerusalem. The Fathers of the Church established September 13 as the commemoration of this remarkable event.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 – Troparion for the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your
glory on earth
to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos,
strengthen it for ever and ever
and accept our supplication
which we ceaselessly offer to You therein,//
the life and resurrection of all!

Tone 4 – Troparion of the Cross

We offer in supplication
the life-creating Cross of Your goodness, O Lord,
which You have granted to us
although we are unworthy.
Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians O only Lover of man!

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.

You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, //
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light,
which enlightens all the faithful. //

Standing within it we cry: “Establish this house, O Lord!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Cross (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

Tone 4 – for the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Psalm 92)

Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, / forevermore

Epistle: Galatians 6.11-18 (for the Cross)

Brethren: See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

2 Corinthians 1.21-2.4 (Sunday)

It is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also sealed us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God as witness against my soul, that it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to

Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but we are fellow workers with you for your joy; for by faith you stand.

But I determined for myself that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is there to make me glad when you who would have done so are saddened by me? And I wrote as I did to you so that when I came, I would not have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy would be your joy. For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Hebrews 3.1-4 (Dedication of the Church)

Holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling: consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

Gospel: John 3.13-17 (Sunday before the Cross)

The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Matthew 22.1-14 (Sunday)

Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

“Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’”

But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So, he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 16.13-18 (Dedication of the Church)

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ev.Mem. Joseph Callas ('95)

Alex Lesak ('62)

Jacob Osipchuk ('46)

Michael Aderychoff ('40)

Mary Polk ('23)

Stephen Vuchkovich ('13)

Health & Salv.	Christine	Dushawna
Met. Theodosius	Linda	Daniel
Archpr. Peter	Larry	Anthony
Archpr. John	Rollie	Janet
Mat. Margaret	Joseph	Daryl
Mat. Anne	Nadia	Diane
Pr. Christopher	Daniel	Carla
Mat. Jennifer	Brendan	Susan
Andrew	Sharon	Timothy
Gideon	Michael	William
Kevin	Janie	Paul
Jon	Tanya	Joseph
Tanya	Christopher	Claudia
Jovan	Nina	Tom
Julia	Renee	Beth
Warren	Carissa	Elizabeth
Tom	Cynthia	Snezana
Tina	John	Nathan
Brittany	Vern	Kara
Jennifer	Olga	Ryan
Gail	Mark	Barabara
Stacy	Jerry	Thomas
Jeramie	Michael	Carol
Olivia	Janice	Christine
Parker	Victoria	N.Ill. Lauren

*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**. Everyone except celebrants and choir must be masked and maintain distance between groups. Our older members and those with complicating health conditions are encouraged to take advantage of weekday Liturgies. The next will be tomorrow, Sept 14, for the **Exaltation of the Cross**.

For **Bible Study** this week, read Revelation 3-4.

Thank you so much to the more than dozen people who came yesterday morning for our **Fall outdoor Clean-up**. So much was accomplished, in spite of poor weather.

The Hall Committee is looking for a **new manager for the Orthodox Center** to begin January 2021. Nick Rozdelsky is retiring after years of faithful service. This is a paid position, requiring weekend flexibility. Please let Nick or Fr Jacob know if you are interested.

Progress has begun on our feast-day icon, 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. **Archbishop Paul** will be here to **bless the icon at our feast-day Vespers** the evening of Sept. 30th. He will also serve Liturgy on Oct. 1.

Mark your calendars:

Sept 14: **Divine Liturgy @ 10am** for the **Exaltation of the Cross**

Sept 15: **Hall Committee meeting @ 6pm**
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm

Sept 16: **Bible Study via Zoom @ 7pm**

Sept 30: **Great Vespers for the Feast of Protection (Pokrov)** with Archbishop Paul and the blessing of our new icon @ 6pm

Oct 1: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Protection (Pokrov)** with Archbishop Paul @ 10am

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$9,023

**Glory to God for
all things!**