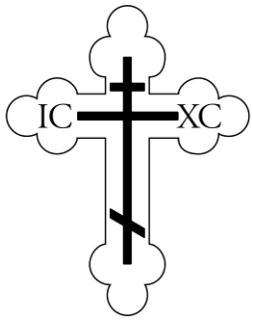
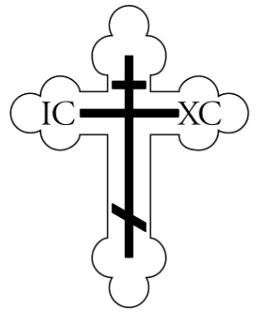


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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
(219)384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before or
after Vespers or by appointment

Welcome visitors!
Please join us in the
parish hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

September 27, 2020

Holy Martyr Callistratus

St Callistratus was a native of Carthage. His ancestor, Neochorus, had served the emperor Tiberius in Palestine, under Pontius Pilate, the procurator of Judea, and was a witness to the voluntary death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The saint's father was a Christian, and he raised his son in faith and piety. Also like his father, St Callistratus became a soldier and excelled among his pagan military comrades by his good conduct and gentle disposition.

At night when everyone slept, he usually stayed up at prayer. Once, a soldier sleeping nearby heard St Callistratus invoking the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he reported this to the military commander, who in turn summoned Callistratus, interrogated him and wanted to make him offer sacrifice to idols. The saint resolutely refused to do this, so the military commander ordered

that the saint be beaten. Then, covered with wounds, the saint was dragged over sharp stones. The beating and the torments did not sway the firm will and brave endurance of the sufferer.

The saint was sewn up in a leather sack and drowned in the sea. By God's mercy, however, the sack struck a sharp rock and was torn open. St Callistratus came to dry land unharmed, carried by dolphins. Viewing such a miracle, forty-nine soldiers came to believe in Christ. Then the military commander threw St Callistratus and the believing soldiers into prison. Before this, all of them were subjected to innumerable floggings.

In jail St Callistatus continued to preach the Word of God to the soldiers and he bolstered their spirits for martyrdom. Summoned again before the military commander, the sufferers firmly confessed their faith in Christ, after which they were bound hand and foot and thrown into the depths of a great lake behind a dam. But there their bonds broke, and with bright faces the holy martyrs stood in the water, rejoicing in their Baptism, which coincided with the act of martyrdom.

Beautiful bright crowns appeared over their heads, and all heard a voice: "Be brave, Callistratus, with your company, and come rest in the eternal habitations." At the same time, the earth shuddered and an idol standing nearby fell down and smashed. Seeing this, another 135 soldiers also believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The military commander, fearing a mutiny in the army, did not put them on trial, but again imprisoned St Callistratus with his 49 companions, where they fervently prayed and gave thanks to the Creator for giving them power to endure such sufferings.

At night the martyrs were cut to pieces with swords by order of the military commander. Their holy relics were buried by the 135 soldiers who remained alive. Later, a church was built on the spot of their sufferings, as St Callistatus had foretold.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Your Cross You destroyed death.

To the thief You opened Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.

And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,

to proclaim that You are risen,//

granting 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 3 – Troparion for St. Callistratus

In contest you were strengthened by the Holy Spirit, O Martyr Callistratus,
and were glorious in casting down the Enemy.
You offered a noble army of athletes
as sweet-smelling incense to Christ.//
With them pray for us who praise you with hymns!

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion

The dominion of death
can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 4 – Kontakion for St. Callistratus

Like stars you have shone upon the world,
shedding the light of your contests and miracles upon all who cry to you:
“Rejoice, Martyr Callistratus and fellow company of martyrs!”

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 7 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)

The Lord shall give strength to His people.
The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.1-10

We then, brethren, as fellow-workers with Him, also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in unrest, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fasting; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Gospel: Luke 5.1-11

At that time, as the multitude pressed about Jesus to hear the word of God, He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When Jesus had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Jesus.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Mary Tinney

Timofey Martin ('56)

Ev.Mem. George Kostoff ('19)

Anna Zayats ('88)

Marina Cheechowsky ('44)

Health & Salv.

Met. Theodosius

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. John

Mat. Margaret

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Tom

Tina

Brittany

Jennifer

Gail

Stacy

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Christine

Linda

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Daniel

Brendan

David

Sharon

Michael

Janie

Tanya

Christopher

Nina

Renee

Carissa

Cynthia

John

Vern

Olga

Mark

Jerry

Michael

Janice

Dushawna

Daniel

Anthony

Janet

Daryl

Diane

Carla

Susan

Timothy

William

Paul

Joseph

Claudia

Tom

Beth

Elizabeth

Snezana

Nathan

Kara

Ryan

Barabara

Thomas

Carol

Christine

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 our parish Feast Day, the **Protection of the Virgin Mary, on Thursday, October 1.**

There is no **Bible Study** this week. Instead, on Wednesday we will celebrate Vespers of our feast day.

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.

Archbishop Paul will be here to celebrate the services of our parish feast day the **Protection of the Virgin Mary** on Wednesday evening (Vespers) and Thursday morning (Liturgy). At Vespers, he will **bless the new icon of the feast**. An outdoor reception will follow Wednesday Vespers. After Thursday Liturgy, there will be a bring-your own picnic on the patio.

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.

Mark your calendars:

- Sept 30: **Great Vespers for the Feast of Protection (Pokrov)** with Archbishop Paul and the blessing of our new icon @ 6pm, followed by an outdoor reception.
- Oct 1: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Protection (Pokrov)** with Archbishop Paul @ 10am
- Oct 2: **Red Cross Blood Drive** in our parish hall 12-6pm
- Oct 8: **Faith Enrichment** @ 9:30am
- Oct 24: **Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary's cemetery chapel @ 10am

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$5,325

Family Life in a Divisive, Polarized World

A reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:13-19)

Consider the above words from Ephesians as an important “Canon” to follow on how we are to bear witness to the Truth in this fallen world; a world when it was initially created by God, he “saw it was good.”

We are all aware of the polarization going on in the world we live in today. Our political parties are more divided than ever in how we look at the challenges facing today’s world and the solutions to address them. We have people making statements that one cannot be a Christian if one votes for such and such a candidate. Whether the issue is Covid 19, Black Lives Matter, Systemic Racism, Police Abuse, Law and Order or Moral Issues, we seem to struggle with having meaningful conversations without intolerant, judgmental behavior ruling the day. One is either a secular, liberal, Socialist, and rainbow Democrat who wants the government to solve our problems, or a greedy conservative, Capitalist, and white Republican who wants to keep the government out of our lives. By the way, these descriptions of Democrats and Republicans are caricatures. I don’t accept either as being accurate. Nonetheless, this rhetoric exists and impacts on us.

So what has this got to do with Family Life and forming the life of Christ in our children? Children go to school and discuss these issues impacting their lives in current events discussions. I am sure some of this gets discussed online classes and in home school sessions.

In the weeks to come I want to address the following issues related to the above:

- How do we properly teach our children that we are in the world but not of it?
- As our children get older, how do we talk to them about civic responsibility, like voting and taking stands on issues like the ones I listed above (or do we at all)?
- How do we preserve our Christian witness, as exemplified in Ephesians 2?
- How do we keep the embittered political discord of our society from entering the life of the Church? As we learned this week in the Feast of the Exaltation, the bitter waters of the Israelites' lives were made sweet when the Wood was tossed into the bitter waters of Marah and the waters became sweet.
- How can we agree to disagree on some matters and still be respectful and tolerant of one another?
- Feel free to add to this list if there is anything you want me to address.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

With love in Christ,

Archbishop Paul

For more of Archbishop Paul's reflections, visit:
www.midwestfamily.org

Glory to God for all things!