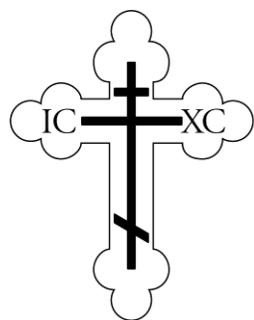
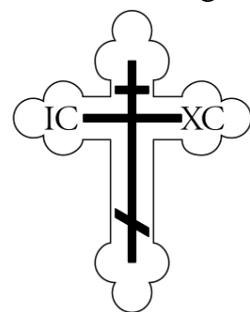


Protection of the Virgin Mary



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.

October 11, 2020

Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787 A.D.)

Today the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius. The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI. The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).

The second Council of Nicaea is the seventh and last Ecumenical Council recognized by the Orthodox Church. This does not mean that there may not be ecumenical Councils in the future although, in holding the seventh place, the Council of Nicaea has taken to itself the symbol of perfection and completion represented by this number in Holy Scripture (e.g. Gen. 2:1-3). It closes the era of the great dogmatic disputes which enabled the Church to describe, in definitions excluding all ambiguity, the bounds of the holy Orthodox Faith. It was not simply the veneration of the holy images that the Fathers defended in these terms but the very reality of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

The council met from September 24 to October 13 in the year 787. In the Slavic tradition, the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Council are commemorated on the Sunday nearest October 11.

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 the Holy Fathers

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!

You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

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 6 – Kontakion of the Holy Fathers

The Son Who shone forth from the Father

was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman.

Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form,
but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.

Thus, keeping the True Faith,//

the Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.

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 1 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

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

Tone 4 – Song of the Fathers (Daniel 3)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified is Your name forever!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9.6-11 (Sunday)

Brethren: This I say: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Hebrews 13.7-16 (Holy Fathers)

Brethren, remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you. Follow their faith, considering the fruits of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who pursue them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Therefore, let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore, by Him, let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Gospel: Luke 7.11-16 (Sunday)

At that time, it happened that Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us," and, "God has visited His people."

John 17:1-13 (Holy Fathers)

And again, Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

“For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Mary Tinney

Ev.Mem. Catherine Callas ('95)

Vasil Koveck ('78)

Michael Yankovich ('58)

Michael Hofman ('48)

Michael Mostabayev ('30)

Health & Salv.

Met. Theodosius

Archbp. David

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. John

Mat. Margaret

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Tom

Tina	Renee	Tom
Brittany	Carissa	Beth
Jennifer	Cynthia	Elizabeth
Gail	John	Snezana
Stacy	Vern	Nathan
Jeramie	Olga	Kara
Olivia	Mark	Ryan
Parker	Jerry	Barabara
Christine	Michael	Thomas
Linda	Janice	Carol
Larry	Dushawna	Christine
Rollie	Daniel	Jon
Joseph	Anthony	Zoey
Nadia	Janet	Dominic
Daniel	Daryl	Declan
Brendan	Diane	Hudson
David	Carla	TaQuana
Sharon	Susan	Gene
Michael	Timothy	Ayden
Janie	William	Hyland
Tanya	Paul	Jason
Christopher	Joseph	Ted
Nina	Claudia	

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the veneration of the cross, we will serve a **Panikhida for Fr. Thomas and Mat. Nadine Brown.**

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 this Saturday, October 17 for the **Holy Prophet Hosea.**

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.

For **Bible Study** this week, read Revelation 9-10.

Mark your calendars:

Oct 14: **Bible Study** (on Zoom) @ 7pm

Oct 17: **Divine Liturgy for St. Innocent, Apostle to America** @ 10am

Oct 22: **Faith Enrichment** (at the Church) @ 9:30am

Oct 24: **Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary's cemetery chapel @ 10am

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$5,740

Rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's

A reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

It is important to undertake one's responsibility to vote at elections. We pray in our services for good laws to be established in our country. This is part of our Christian witness. But we also need to understand that our witness to Christ is a transcendent one, made in this world but pointing beyond this world. So, when we go to the ballot box, we vote on matters that are inevitably part of the fallen world. But whether abortion is legal or not doesn't change things; because from the perspective of Orthodox Christianity, the Church does not bless abortion. We are bound by the teaching of the Church. Whether same sex marriage is legal or not doesn't change things, because same sex marriages cannot be blessed in the Church. Whether you believe in gun control or not doesn't change things, because if someone takes the life of another with a gun or other weapon, that person would still be expected to go to confession in the Church. There is a recognition that to take a life of another even if "justified" is not what we were created for. It is symptomatic of something that has gone wrong in the world. Only Christ, by His death on the Cross can make things right. The thief on the cross still suffered the consequence of his crime (capital punishment), but was also forgiven by Christ at the Cross due to his repentance and was told, "this day you will be with me in paradise."

So, before I address the voting issue, I wanted to share the following thought. I think it is important in family life that ongoing discussions take place between parents and their children about the current events of our day. Since kids do this in school, it is important to bring those discussions into the home. Parents need to help their children understand the teaching of the Church on certain issues and why this is so. It is so important for a parent to be a good listener here. We need to teach the virtue of tolerance to our children. One may not agree with another on a certain issue, so we agree to disagree and treat others with differing viewpoints with respect.

There are no easy answers to these questions. That is why parents need to seek out the guidance of their priest in how to engage in these ongoing discussions with their children. Next week I will continue to discuss voting and civic responsibility.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

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

Glory to God for
all things!