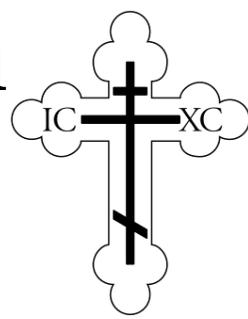
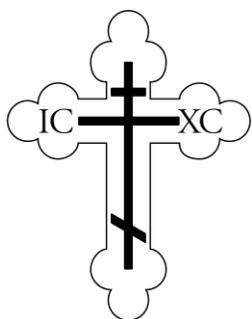


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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 25, 2020

Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius of Constantinople (†335 A.D.)

The Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius served in a Constantinople cathedral. Marcian was a reader and Martyrius a subdeacon. They both performed in the capacity of notaries, i.e. secretaries, for the Holy Patriarch Paul the Confessor.

Arian heretics expelled and secretly executed the righteous Patriarch Paul. His throne was given to the heretic Macedonius. The heretics attempted to entice Sts Marcian and Martyrius over to their side by flattery. They offered them gold and promised to consecrate them as archbishops, but all the efforts of the Arians were in vain.



Then the impious threatened to slander them before the emperor, and sought to intimidate them with torture and death. But the saints steadfastly confessed Orthodoxy, as handed down by the Fathers of the Church. Marcian and Martyrius were sentenced to death. Before death, the martyrs prayed, “Lord God, Who has invisibly created our hearts and directed all our deeds, accept with peace the souls of Your servants, since we perish for You and are

considered as sheep for the slaughter. We rejoice that by such a death we shall depart this life for Your Name. Grant us to be partakers of life eternal with You, the Source of life.” After their prayer the martyrs, with quiet rejoicing, bent their necks beneath the sword of the impious.

Their holy bodies were reverently buried by Orthodox Christians. Later, by decree of St John Chrysostom, the relics of the holy martyrs were transferred to a church built in their honor. Believers here were healed of many infirmities through the prayers of the saints, to the glory of the One Life-Creating Trinity.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

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 Sts Marcion and Martyrius

In holy zeal you dispelled the error of Arius
and proclaimed the Trinity, one in essence.
Holy martys Marcian and Martyrius,
unshaken bulwarks of Orthodoxy,
entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Kontakion

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices
with the Prophets and Patriarchs.//
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 4 – Kontakion for Sts Marcian and Martyrius

From your youth you were good athletes, wise Marcian and Martyrius,
vanquishing the Arian heretics;
you kept the faith perfect by following in the footsteps of your
 bishop and teacher Paul,
therefore, you are worthy to be with him in eternal life, //
as respected defenders of the Holy Trinity.

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 3 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Epistle: Galatians 1.11-19

Brethren: I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Luke 16.19-31

Jesus spoke this parable: "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores.

"So it was, that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

"But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but

now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

"Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

"And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

"But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Gary Tincher

Gene Lukas

Mary Tinney

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

Brittany

Jennifer

Ev.Mem. Peter Goyda ('56)

Mary Medved ('63)

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
Jon
Zoey
Dominic
Declan
Hudson
TaQuana

Gene
Ayden
Hyland
Jason
Ted
Daniel
Tiffany
James
Pamela

*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 this Saturday, October 31 for **St. John of Chicago**.

Unfortunately, the planned trip to the pumpkin patch this afternoon had to be canceled because of the cold weather. After Coffee hour today, the Church school children are welcome to stay and **decorate pumpkins** in the hall.

Many thanks to Nicholas and Janet Korzow for helping to **remodel the side-altar workroom** this week. It looks beautiful, and should be a much more useful space for the behind-the-scenes work that Mike and the boys do to make each Divine Liturgy run smoothly.

For **Bible Study** this week, read Revelation 13-14.

Mark your calendars:

Oct 28: **Bible Study** (on Zoom) @ 7pm

Oct 31: **Divine Liturgy** for the feast of St. John of Chicago @ 10am

Last week's offerings to the Lord: \$1,410

Living Out the Sweetness of Life

A reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

In a recent Family note I asked the following question: How do we keep the embittered political discord of our society from entering the life of the Church? As we learn from 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. (Read Exodus 15:22-27)

The political discord in our society can affect us as Orthodox Christians. How do we continue to live our lives in such a way that we can taste and experience those waters of Marah now made sweet by the wood of the Cross?

It is one thing to smile at each other when we go to church. But those smiles can also be a means to cover up resentment and bitterness we hold in our lives over many things, not just our political viewpoints. It is like wearing a mask to hide what is really going on. This façade is not the new man spoken of by St. Paul in Ephesians 2.

Our Lord speaks to this when He condemns the Pharisees and Sadducees in Matthew:

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisee! First cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside also may be clean.
(Matthew 23:25-26)*

The way to clean the inside of the cup is to heed the call that Jesus makes to the rich man in Matthew 18:21:

“If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

This word to the young rich man is a call, by God's grace, to free ourselves of worldly attachments. Those attachments can involve so many different things. Regarding political discussions, we don't need to win a debate. We share our thought on an issue, then learn to let it go. We need to engage in the ascetical fight

(spiritual exercise) to do violence to our passions. This enables us to “take the Kingdom of Heaven by force” (Matthew 11:12). The Church gives us the medicines of prayer, fasting, confession, and almsgiving to achieve detachment from the fallen world and its problematic influence. To receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist is the ultimate defeat of evil in this world. The Eucharist is the realization of the new man in us spoken of by St Paul in Ephesians 2. As we acquire this spirit of detachment, then we can engage the world we live in with a right mind.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

The unworthy +Paul

Glory to God for
all things!