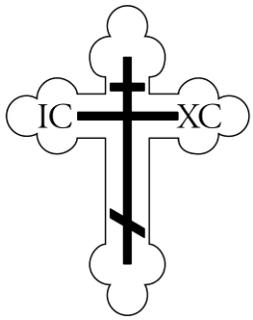
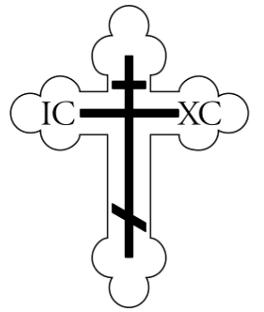


# Protection of the Virgin Mary



## Orthodox Church



A Parish of the  
Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



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(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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 4, 2020

### Sunday after the Feast of the Protection of the Virgin Mary

### Holy Hieromartyr Hierotheus of Athens (1<sup>st</sup> c.)

The miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the all-night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ St. Andrew, at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes toward the heavens and beheld our most holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded

by an assembly of the Saints. On bended knees the most holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the bishop's throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer, she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The most holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." St. Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision, and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy father, and I am in awe."

The ever-blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His most holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession: "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help."

## 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 4 – Patronal Troparion**

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illumined 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 1 – Troparion for St. Hierotheus**

We the faithful all praise Hierótheus, the disciple of Paul,

Hierarch of Athens,

the world's teacher and a preacher of the Faith,

who revealed to us Christ's Mysteries

and poured forth streams of godly doctrine.//

His life was well-pleasing to God, Who is greatly merciful.

### **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 8 – Kontakion for St. Hierotheus**

Hierarch of Athens, we praise you for you have instructed us in  
awesome and ineffable things,  
and you were revealed to be a divinely-inspired writer of hymns.  
Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may  
cry to you://  
Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierotheus!

### **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 8 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)**

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

### **Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos (Luke 1)**

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

### **Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.16 – 7.1 (Sunday)**

Brethren: What agreement has the temple of God with idols?  
For you are the temple of the living God, as God has said: “I will  
dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they  
shall be my people.” Therefore, “Come out from among them and  
be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will  
receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and  
daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse  
ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting  
holiness in the fear of God.

## **Hebrews 9.1-7 (Protection)**

Brethren: Even the first covenant had ordinances for divine service and an earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, which is called the sanctuary, contained the lampstand, the table, and the showbread; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All contained the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the Law. And above it were the cherubim of glory, overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Now, when these things had been prepared, the priests would always go into the first part of the tabernacle to perform the services. But the high priest went alone into the second part only once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance.

## **Gospel: Luke 6.31-36**

Jesus said to His disciples: "Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and the evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

## **Luke 10.38-42; 11.27-28 (Protection)**

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me."

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

<b>N.Dep.</b> Mary Tinney		Theodore Kaziol ('50)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> George Marchuk ('94)		Pera Petroff ('50)
Pearl Gregor ('79)		Joseph Mediesko ('42)
Rade Koleff ('66)		Philip Zayatz ('40)
Joseph Wolotka ('62)		Vladimir Maksymchuuk ('20)
<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Larry	Daryl
Met. Theodosius	Rollie	Diane
Archpr. Peter	Joseph	Carla
Archpr. John	Nadia	Susan
Mat. Margaret	Daniel	Timothy
Mat. Anne	Brendan	William
Pr. Christopher	David	Paul
Mat. Jennifer	Sharon	Joseph
Andrew	Michael	Claudia
Gideon	Janie	Tom
Kevin	Tanya	Beth
Jon	Christopher	Elizabeth
Tanya	Nina	Snezana
Jovan	Renee	Nathan
Julia	Carissa	Kara
Warren	Cynthia	Ryan
Tom	John	Barabara
Tina	Vern	Thomas
Brittany	Olga	Carol
Jennifer	Mark	Christine
Gail	Jerry	TaQuana
Stacy	Michael	Gene
Jeramie	Janice	Ayden
Olivia	Dushawna	Hyland
Parker	Daniel	Jason
Christine	Anthony	
Linda	Janet	

\*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 Tuesday, October 6 for **St. Innocent of Alaska**.

For **Bible Study** this week, read Revelation 7-8.

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.

**Thank you** to everyone who helped prepare for and celebrate our **parish feast day** on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

**Thank you** also to all the volunteers who helped at Friday's Red Cross Blood Drive.

The **new icon of our parish feast** on the West wall is complete. Thanks be to God! The iconographer will be back this week to complete the scene on the back wall of our altar.

## Mark your calendars:

Oct 6: **Divine Liturgy for St. Innocent, Apostle to America @ 10am**

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

Oct 8: **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: \$4,616**

# One New Man in Place of the Two

A reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

*... 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. 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 2:15-16, 19)

Last week I quoted from Ephesians 2:13-19 and stated this should be the “Canon” we live by in bearing witness to Christ in this life and in the world to come. I want to focus on these verses to address the question I raised last week, “How do we preserve our witness as exemplified in Ephesians 2?”

Becoming one new person does not mean getting someone to convert to my point of view. St. Paul did not teach Gentiles to become Jews, nor Jews Gentiles. Too often we get bogged down in the need to be right, even in church discussions. Our goal is to win the argument and get the other person to accept our point of view. This can make life in our churches quite contentious. This was the problem St. Paul encountered in the church at Corinth.

Sectarianism was strong:

*My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Corinthians 1:11-13)*

So also, in today’s time we have to guard against division in the church along political party lines, along liturgical practices, along covid practices. The list goes on. In Galatians 3, Paul makes the point very clear:

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

(Galatians 3:26-28)

So, if I can take the analogy from Ephesians further. When St. Paul says Christ has created one new man in the place of two. It would be like taking something made of tin and something made of steel, and then creating one new substance made of gold. So, no one wins and no one loses. The one new person made of gold may even have some features in it that bears some similarity to the previous substances. But the substance of gold is created in reference to the Kingdom of Heaven. Which takes us to the concluding verses from Ephesians cited above; as a new people made of gold we become “citizens with the saints and fellow members of the household of God.” We may be American citizens, and patriotism is fine; but we are first and foremost citizens of the household of God. We are to be faithful to our citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven, and this trumps everything else (no political pun intended here).

When we lose this reference point to the Gospel and the Kingdom of Heaven, we lose the ability to have profitable and healthy discussions about the issues we encounter in the Church. My advice to all is to make worship a priority even in this time of Covid. We have all we need in the Church to help us make sense of the difficult concerns we face today. Don't use social media to promote your agenda. I think it is quite dangerous for clergy in particular to take political stands in these platforms.

So moms and dads, if there is anything I said here that makes sense, talk with your children about these issues. Ask them to chew on what I have shared. Forgive me if I have failed to share anything useful here.

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](http://www.midwestfamily.org)

**Glory to God for all things!**