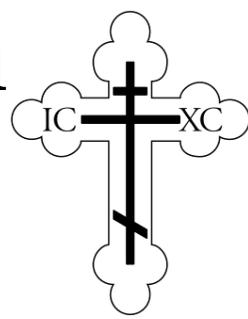
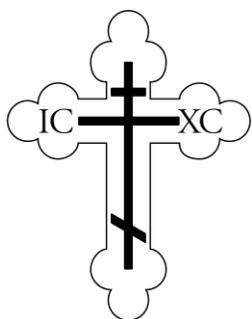


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



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



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Hall: (219)730-4698  
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(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.**

# November 15, 2020

## Holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus of Edessa

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas and Habibus suffered during the persecutions under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The two friends Gurias and Samonas, preachers of the Word of God, were arrested in the city of Edessa. The saints refused to offer sacrifice to the gods and boldly confessed their faith in Christ. For this they were subjected to cruel tortures: they were beaten, hung up by their hands, heavy weights were tied to their feet, and they were cast into a stifling prison.

The martyrs endured everything with firmness, and Samonas uttered this prayer to the Lord, which one of the witnesses to their

death wrote down: "O Lord my God, against Whose will not a single sparrow falls into the snare. It was You Who made room for David in his sorrow (Ps. 4:1), Who proved the Prophet Daniel stronger than lions (Dan. 6), and granted a child of Abraham to be victor over torture and flames (Dan. 3, 14). You know also, Lord, the infirmity of our nature; You see the struggle set before us. Our foe strives to snatch us, the work of Your right hand, away from You and to deprive us of the glory which is in You. With Your compassionate eye watching over us, preserve in us the inextinguishable light of Your Commandments. Guide our steps by Your light, and make us worthy of Your Kingdom, for You are blessed unto ages of ages." By night, they took the martyrs out beyond the city and beheaded them. Christians buried their holy bodies with reverence.

After some years, the last pagan emperor, Licinius (311-324), began a persecution against Christians. Habibus, a deacon of the Church of Edessa, whom the emperor ordered to be arrested for his zealous spreading of the true Faith, presented himself before the executioners when he learned they were searching for him. The saint confessed his faith in Christ and was sentenced to be burned alive. The martyr went willingly into the fire and, with a prayer, surrendered his soul to the Lord. When the fire went out, the mother and relatives of the saint found his body unharmed. They buried the martyr next to Sts. Gurias and Samonas.

After the death of the saints, numerous miracles were wrought by them for those who entreated their help with faith and love. Once, a certain Gothic soldier, sent to serve at Edessa, took the pious virgin Euphemia as his wife. Before this the barbarian vowed to her mother Sophia at the graves of the Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus that he would do his spouse no harm, and would never insult her, but would always love and cherish her. At the completion of his service in Edessa, he took Euphemia with him back to his native land. It turned out that he had deceived her, for he already had a wife at home, and Euphemia was made her slave. Her husband threatened to kill her if she revealed to anyone that they were married. Euphemia suffered much abuse and humiliation. When she gave birth to a son, the jealous Gothic woman poisoned him. Euphemia turned with prayer to the holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, the witnesses to her husband's oath, and the Lord delivered Euphemia from her suffering and miraculously returned her to Edessa, where she was welcomed by her mother.

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.  
You captured hell,  
not being tempted by it.  
You came to the Virgin granting life.//  
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, 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 5 – Troparion for the Martyrs**

O Christ our God, You have granted us the miracles of Your holy martyrs  
Gúrias, Samónas, and Abíbus,  
as a stronghold and protection.  
Through their prayers strengthen those in authority in ev'ry good deed,//  
for You alone are merciful and the lover of mankind!

## **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

When Christ God the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//  
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

## **Tone 2 – Kontakion for the Martyrs**

You received grace from on high, O all-praised martyrs,  
and you intercede for those in the midst of temptations.  
Therefore, O saints, you freed a young woman from bitter death,//  
and are indeed the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world.

### **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 6 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)**

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

### **Epistle: Ephesians 2.4-10 (Sunday)**

Brethren: God who is rich in mercy, through His great love with which He loved us, made us who were dead in trespasses alive with Christ: You were saved by grace. And He lifted us up and established us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For you have been saved by grace through faith. And this is not from yourselves: it is the gift of God, not from works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### **Gospel: Luke 10.25-37**

At that time, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Jesus, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

So, he answered and said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And

when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked and passed by on the other side.

“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

“On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’

“So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Sue McCune

Met. Theodosius

Gary Tincher

Gene Lukas

**Ev.Mem.** Max Hutka ('94)

Michael Truchan ('81)

Christ Masoff ('76)

Steven Barnacky ('61)

Fred Savedoff ('41)

Lydia Bartosh ('18)

Simeon Georgieff ('16)

**Health & Salv.**

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

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	Nathan	Ted
Anthony	Kara	Daniel
Janet	Ryan	Tiffany
Daryl	Barabara	James
Diane	Thomas	Pamela
Carla	Carol	Erin
Susan	Christine	Alexander
Timothy	Jon	Jerome
William	Zoey	Ronald
Paul	Dominic	Theodore
Joseph	Declan	Robert
Linda	Hudson	Richard
Claudia	TaQuana	Linda
Tom	Gene	Mary Ann
Beth	Ayden	Juli
Elizabeth	Hyland	Lara
Snezana	Jason	

\*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. Those with complicating health conditions are encouraged to take advantage of weekday Liturgies with lower attendance. The next will be this **Saturday, November 21** for the **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**.

This Advent season we are collecting **Christmas gifts for local foster children**. There is a flyer with more information in the Narthex, as well as a drop-box to leave your gifts.

Next Sunday is **IOCC Sunday**. Please read the message at the end of your bulletin from the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in the U.S.A. to learn more about the work of **International Orthodox Christian Charities**. Next Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy, we will take a special collection for the work of IOCC.

The **Thanksgiving Bake Sale** is on this year! Order forms are available in the Narthex. Order forms are due Wednesday. Pick-up is next Sunday.

For **Bible Study** this week, read Revelation 18-19.

## **Mark your calendars:**

Nov 17: **Hall Committee** meeting @ 6pm  
**Parish Council** meeting @ 7pm

Nov 18: **Bible Study** (on Zoom) @ 7pm

Nov 20: **Great Vespers** for the **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** @ 6pm

Nov 21: **Divine Liturgy** for the **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** @ 10am

Nov 22: **Bake Sale Pick-up** after Liturgy

Nov 26: **Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy** @ 9am

### **Our Gifts to the Lord**

Nov 1: \$4,317    Nov 8: \$2,539

# **A Message from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the U.S.A.**

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each Sunday before Thanksgiving, Orthodox faithful in the United States give thanks to God for His many blessings and for the privilege of serving Christ by serving others. The Assembly of Bishops has designated this Sunday to mark the ministry of International Orthodox Christian Charities, or IOCC, whose mission is to serve people in need worldwide.

In a year when we have been unable to gather as we normally do in our parishes, when so many have been touched by heartache, anxiety, isolation, and a deep disruption of our lives, the challenges we face are perhaps a reminder of how firmly we must hold to our faith. In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We remain His Church, and He calls us to love and service.

This is IOCC's work. As the humanitarian and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, IOCC is a way for Orthodox Christians to extend to others the great mercy that Christ shows each of us. Since it began

in 1992, IOCC has served people facing war, famine, natural disasters, and economic hardships, so that they may have the means to live with dignity, respect, and hope. And the work continues, even amid a global pandemic.

In fact, here in the United States, IOCC has created its Care Calls program as a response to the pandemic—a way for each one of us to reach out and connect with others who may be struggling, offering the love of Christ in a trying, stressful time. At a moment when many of us are isolated, IOCC reminds us that we must care for each other in great and small ways.

With the generous gifts of people like you, IOCC works tirelessly amid crisis, offering practical assistance as communities near and far build resilience: cleanup after U.S. disasters, nutritious meals for preschoolers in Gaza, counseling for Syrian families who have survived unspeakable trauma, training to help small businesses in Greece flourish, a new science lab at a rural, church-run school in Uganda, hot meals after the devastating explosion in Lebanon's capital, training so farmers in Georgia can sell more at market and feed their families—these are only a few examples of the service IOCC offers in the Spirit of Christ's love.

As an agency of the Assembly, IOCC belongs to all Orthodox Christians, reflecting our shared calling to serve Christ by serving others. St. John asks us to love one another because we know God's love for us: with IOCC, we can do precisely that, remembering the incarnate Lord's request that we feed, clothe, and serve one another for His sake. As we thank God for His blessings, seen and unseen, let us also give as we are able to serve our brethren in need.

May the Lord shine His mercy upon you and your families this blessed Nativity season, and may His peace fill your homes and your hearts!

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

+Metropolitan NICOLAE

Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

*Liason for IOCC from the Assembly of Canonical*

*Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America*

# Glory to God for all things!