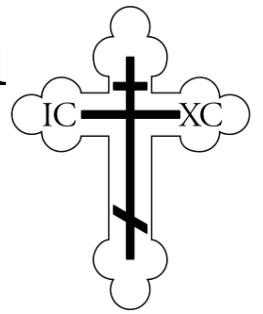
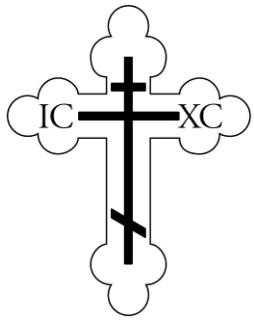


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



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



8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
www.ptvm.com

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.

November 29, 2020

**Holy Martyr Paramon and the 370 with him
in Bithynia (†250)**

Holy Martyr Philoumenus of Ancyra (†274)

The Holy Martyr Paramon and the 370 Martyrs with him suffered for their faith in Christ in the year 250 during the rule of the emperor Decius (249-251). The governor of the Eastern regions, Aquianus, had locked up 370 Christians in prison, urging them to forsake Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols.

They subjected the captives to beatings, hoping by torture and the threat of death to persuade them to renounce Christ and worship the pagan gods. One of the local inhabitants, Paramon by name, openly denounced the cruel governor and confessed his faith in the One True God, the Lord Jesus Christ. They beheaded St Paramon after fierce tortures, together with the other 370 martyrs.

The Holy Martyr Philoumenus suffered for Christ in the year 274, during the persecution against Christians by the emperor Aurelian (270-275). St Philoumenus was a bread merchant in Ancyra. Envious persons reported to the governor Felix that Philoumenus was a Christian, and so he came before a judge.

St Philoumenus did not renounce Christ. For this they hammered nails into his hands, feet and head, and they forced him to walk. The holy martyr bravely endured the torments and he died from loss of blood, giving up his soul to God.

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,
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 4 – Troparion for the Holy Martyrs

Your holy martyrs Paramon and Philumenus and those with them,
O Lord,

through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from
You, our God.

For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//

Through their intercession, save our souls!

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 4 – Kontakion for the Holy Martyrs

Urged on by the commandments of God,
with patience, you cleansed your souls from all defilement.
You reached perfection as spiritual athletes,
and renounced sacrifice to idols.
Imitating Christ, you were slain with a spear,
O most blessed Paramon and Philumenus.//
Always fervently intercede with Christ on behalf of the world!

Tone 4 – 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!

Epistle: Ephesians 4.1-6 (Sunday)

Brethren: I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel: Luke 13.10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.

But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore, come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Mitch Bright
Archbishop David
Sue McCune
Metropolitan Theodosius

Ev.Mem. Simeon Radivan ('29)
Pelagea Labashevich ('52)
Wendy Gonzalez ('57)
Archpr. Peter Rozdelsky ('86)

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
Anthony
Janet
Daryl
Diane
Carla
Susan
Timothy
William
Paul
Joseph
Linda

Claudia	Dominic	Robert
Tom	Declan	Richard
Beth	Hudson	Linda
Elizabeth	TaQuana	Mary Ann
Snezana	Ayden	Juli
Nathan	Hyland	Lara
Kara	Jason	Cheryl
Ryan	Ted	Craig
Barbara	James	Chuck
Thomas	Pamela	Len
Carol	Erin	Denise
Christine	Alexander	Mary Ann
Jon	Ronald	
Zoey	Theodore	

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve a **panikhida** on the occasion of the **34-year memorial for Archpriest Peter Rozdelsky**.

We continue to take precautions during the health crisis. Everyone except celebrants and choir must be masked and maintain distance between groups. Those seeking to limit their exposure to large groups are encouraged to take advantage of weekday Liturgies with lower attendance. The next will be for the feast of the Conception of the Theotokos on **Wednesday, December 9**.

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

After Divine Liturgy, there will be a special collection to help cover the cost of **Christmas gifts**, which the Church school children will wrap on **St. Nicholas Day** for local families in need.

There are **tables set up in the hall with many old books and other items free for the taking**. Next week, we will take it all to Goodwill.

There is no **Bible Study** this week.

Mark your calendars:

Dec 3: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Dec 5: **Christmas Decorating** at the Church @ 9am

Dec 8: **Great Vespers** for the **Conception of the Virgin Mary** @ 6pm

Dec 9: **Divine Liturgy** for the **Conception of the Virgin Mary** @ 9am

Dec 11: **Red Cross Blood Drive** 12-6pm

Dec 24: **Vesperal Liturgy of Christmas** @ 10am

Christmas Vigil @ 6pm

Dec 25: **Festal Divine Liturgy** @ 9am

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,440

Statement on the Surge of COVID-19 Cases

by His Beatitude, Our Metropolitan Tikhon

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

As you know, most parts of the world are currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. [According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), in the United States alone, there were over 184,000 cases and around 1,500 deaths reported on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

My prayers and those of the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America are offered for all those who have suffered and continue to suffer because of this virus, especially our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters. Together with the Holy Synod, I also offer fervent prayers for the medical professionals who care for those who are ill with COVID-19.

The national and local authorities across North America are encouraging a greater level of caution while adopting a series of measures in the attempt of limiting the spread of the virus. After many months marked by the present pandemic, and which have tested us in unprecedented ways, this surge comes right before one of the most beloved civil holidays in America, Thanksgiving.

Thus, observing these important measures requires an even greater spirit of self-sacrifice on our part. While celebrating Thanksgiving this year, we will celebrate with care and caution, born out of love. For it is not solely for our own health, but out of love for our neighbor, that we must do everything we can to protect one another by limiting the spread of this virus not only in our parishes, but in the greater community.

I want to encourage all members of the faithful to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, but with all prudence, caution, and love for our neighbor. Further, I take this moment to reiterate the following to all the parishes, monasteries, institutions, and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America: hold fast to the directives and guidelines put forward by the Holy Synod for the whole Church, and your diocesan bishop in particular for your specific local situation. Remain vigilant in precautions against COVID-19, and continue to practice good hygiene, maintain social distancing, wear masks, and follow carefully the other important measures and practices directed by the diocesan bishops and the public health authorities. Of primary importance is to be particularly attentive to potential symptoms, and refraining from leaving our house if we are in any way sick.

At the same time, I want to encourage all of you not to be fearful but rather to be strengthened and comforted by this blessed season in which we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. I assure you, no steps we take this year to guard against the spread of the coronavirus will prevent us from giving thanks to God for all that he has given us. In anticipation of the coming of the True Light, Jesus Christ, the great Physician and Healer of our souls and bodies, we cling to those words of the Psalmist, "I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my firm foundation, my refuge, and my deliverer (Ps 18.1-2)."

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed eternally with the Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit preserve us in these days and grant us health and his peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for
all things!