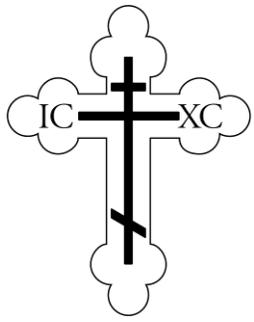
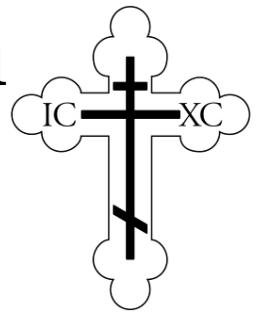


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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

January 24, 2021

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Holy New Martyrs of Russia

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church remembers the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. Countless martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, St. Alexander Hotovitzky, and St. John Kochurov.

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 New Martyrs

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy,

praising her new martyrs and confessors;

hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing

princes and princesses,

venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.

Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of

godless persecution,

they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//

By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in

Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

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 3 – Kontakion for the New Martyrs

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the

Lamb of God,

and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:

“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor,

and power, and strength be to our God//

unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

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 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Tone 7 –Prokeimenon for the New Martyrs (Psalm 45)

God is our refuge and strength,
a help in afflictions that severely befall us!

Epistle: Colossians 3.4-11 (Sunday)

Brethren: When Christ, who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Romans 8.28-39 (New Martyrs)

Brethren: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are the called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, those whom He predestined He also called; those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also

freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Luke 18.35-43 (Sunday)

At that time, a certain ruler asked Jesus, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

So, Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So, when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?"

But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Luke 21.8-19 (New Martyrs)

Jesus said to His disciples: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore, do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places and famines and pestilences, and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Jeffrey Smith		Stephen Cozmanoff ('84)
Blythe		Anna Kane ('81)
Darrell Hall		Stephanie Tomaszawsky ('71)
Pr. James Doyle		Chris Kuzmanoff ('61)
Rodney Veselica		Tsanka Vangeloff ('43)
Mildred Drozik		Irene Kukeach ('37)
Mary Ann Caravana		Anna Romanyak ('28)
Ernst Pedersen		Helene Frentsko ('23)
Ev.Mem. Frank Abila (2001)		Angelina Petroff ('14)
Julia Chicos ('89)		Andrey Zuyev ('13)
Health & Salv.	Warren	Rollie
Archpr. Peter	Tom	Joseph
Mat. Margaret	Tina	Nadia
Mat. Anne	Brittany	Brendan
Pr. Christopher	Jennifer	David
Mat. Jennifer	Gail	Sharon
Andrew	Stacy	Michael
Gideon	Jeramie	Janie
Kevin	Olivia	Tanya
Jon	Parker	Christopher
Tanya	Christine	Nina
Jovan	Linda	Renee
Julia	Larry	Carissa

Cynthia	Claudia	Ted
John	Tom	James
Vern	Beth	Pamela
Olga	Elizabeth	Erin
Mark	Snezana	Alexander
Jerry	Nathan	Ronald
Michael	Kara	Theodore
Janice	Ryan	Robert
Anthony	Thomas	Lara
Janet	Carol	Craig
Daryl	Christine	Chuck
Diane	Jon	Scott
Carla	Zoey	Mark
Susan	Dominic	Christine
Timothy	Declan	Dale
William	Hudson	Ashley
Paul	Ayden	Abbey
Joseph	Hyland	Hillary
Linda	Jason	Pauline

*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 20-year **Panakhida for Frank Abila.**

This year, His Beatitude will lead a **virtual March for Life event** which will be **live-streamed on Thursday, January 28** beginning at 6:30pm on **oca.org/live**. The live-stream will feature a prayer service led by Met. Tikhon, followed by reflections. The main address will be given by Dr. Ana Iltis of Wake Forest University, a leading Orthodox Christian bioethicist. The broadcast will also highlight Orthodox organizations that support women in crisis pregnancies.

Please contact Fr Jacob if you would like to **schedule a house blessing this year.** Otherwise, I have prepared a short service of blessing that you may use to bless your own home with Holy Water from the Church. A service booklet may be picked up from the table in the Narthex.

For **Bible Study Wednesday** read **1 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 1 Samuel) 5-7.**

Mark your calendars:

**Jan 19: Hall Committee meeting @ 6pm
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm**

Jan 27: Bible Study @ 7pm (Zoom)

Jan 28: OCA March for Life Livestream @ 6:30p=> oca.org/live

Jan 30: Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the Three Hierarchs

Feb 1: Great Vespers @ 6pm for the Meeting of the Lord

Feb 2: Divine Liturgy @ 10am for the Meeting of the Lord

Feb 14: Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy

Feb 19: Red Cross Blood Drive 12p-6p

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,216

A Message on the Sanctity of Life **from His Eminence, our Metropolitan Tikhon**

To the Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America:

Over the past year, Orthodox Christians have become urgently aware of the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society. In the face of a global pandemic, it became necessary for the world and even our Church to take a series of extraordinary measures in order to safeguard the life and the health of the elderly, the infirm, the defenseless, and the weak. In doing so, we pray that we were given the grace to fulfill the prophetic word, the evangelical command, and the apostolic exhortation not only to show mercy to one another, but also to defend the well-being of all members of the Church and of the world.

In exactly the same spirit, as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, I take this Sunday – the Sunday that we as a Church dedicate to the proclamation of the Sanctity of Life – as an opportunity to reiterate unequivocally our commitment to the defense of the defenseless, and the protection of the most vulnerable, and thus our opposition to abortion. As Christians, it cannot be any other way. Our Lord has taught us throughout the Holy Scriptures to be merciful as He is merciful, to bear one

another's burdens and so fulfill His law, to defend the widow and the orphan, to welcome the stranger and the sojourner, and to love one another even as He has loved us. This essential message found throughout Scripture must be all-encompassing and extend to the precious lives carried in the womb. If we are to love even our enemies, as He has commanded us, surely we must also love, defend, and seek to protect precious lives being formed within their mothers' wombs.

Beloved children in the Lord, following the example of our response to the pandemic, we can look to concrete ways in order to fulfill what our Lord has commanded us to do. In other words, the teaching of the Lord should inspire us to seek out ways to provide necessary support for mothers or families who might otherwise consider having an abortion. I, together with the members of the Holy Synod, exhort our clergy and faithful to consider different ways that we might be able to serve and assist pregnant mothers, especially within our own local communities. To this end, we should extend the right hand of fellowship to these mothers and their families, provide material support when needed, and assist them in caring for the children who will be born of them. Above all, I believe, we should affirm to the world – to anyone considering an abortion, to anyone counseling someone to have an abortion, or to anyone who supports this practice – the lessons we have been taught by our Master: the ways of mercy, compassion, and love. In so doing, I pray that we will enkindle in their hearts and minds a change, so that they too will learn to walk in these same ways, and will be moved to protect and defend the most vulnerable among us.

May our Lord Jesus Christ inspire us to remain faithful to the vision of human life as a sacred gift, as we recommit ourselves to defending the lives of the unborn, to offering acts of mercy and kindness to struggling single mothers and families facing hardship, and to praying for the salvation of all of mankind.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for all things!