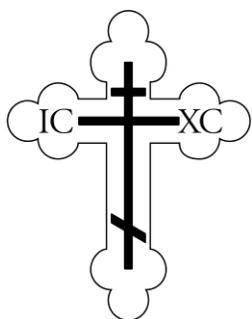
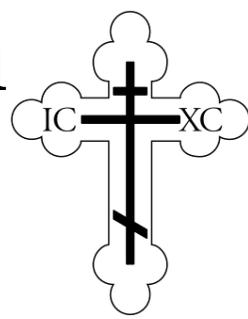


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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

Welcome visitors!
**Please join us in the
parish hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.**

April 4, 2021

Third Sunday of Great Lent: The Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

*On the Sundays of Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine
Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.*

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be

saved. “He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both “the power of God and the wisdom of God” for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – 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 1 – Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation!

Tone 7 – Kontakion of the Cross

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;
it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;
for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell://
“Enter again into Paradise!”

Instead of the Trisagion Hymn we sing:

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify! (*3x, with prostrations*)

Glory... Now and ever... And Your holy Resurrection we glorify!

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify! (*with a prostration*)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Cross (Psalm 27)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 4.14 – 5.6 (Sunday of the Cross)

Brethren: Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses; He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also, Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”

As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Gospel: Mark 8.34 – 9.1 (Sunday of the Cross)

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Erin Brady

Nicholas Lile

Ev.Mem. Anna Elieff ('92)

Helen Tchalo ('92)

Ivan Beliff ('82)

Nicholas Rapaich('19)

Dimitri Vorobey ('18)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Margaret

Mat. Anne

Pr. Anastasy

Mat. Trudy

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Tom

Tina

Jennifer

Gail

Stacy

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Christine

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Brendan

David

Sharon

Michael

Janie

Tanya

Christopher

Nina

Renee

Carissa

Cynthia

John

Olga

Mark

Jerry

Michael

Anthony

Janet

Daryl

Diane

Carla

Susan

Timothy

William

Paul

Joseph

Linda

Claudia

Elizabeth

Snezana

Nathan

Kara

Ryan

Thomas

Carol

Christine

Jon

Zoey

Dominic

Declan

Hudson

Ayden

Hyland

Jason

Ted

James

Pamela

Erin

Alexander

Ronald

Theodore

Robert

Craig

Chuck

Scott

Mark

Christine

Dale

Pauline

Mary

Jessika & family

Timothy

Lisa

Lois

Michael

Ivanka

Janice

Ken

Debbie

Jacqueline

Dara

Cindy

Daniel

Laura
Dorothy

Vasiliy
William

Wanda

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

Communion Hymn for the Cross:

The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 larger groups are encouraged to take advantage of **weekday services** with lower attendance.

Thank you to everyone who donated, those who purchased, and especially all the ladies who baked, for another successful **Pascha Bake Sale** this year.

Our **men's group** is once again making **sausage** in time for Pascha. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Our first work day is this Saturday afternoon starting @ 1pm.

This Saturday morning, we will serve a **Memorial Divine Liturgy** at our cemetery chapel @ 10am. (4801 W Ridge Rd., Gary, IN) This is an opportunity to remember all our departed loved ones by name before the Lord at Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to come and add their list of names to those who will be remembered.

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians **make more time for prayer, deny themselves rich and satisfying foods** (meat, dairy, and fish), and find opportunities to **help those in need** (this is almsgiving). They also examine their consciences and repent of their sins before the Lord in the **Sacrament of Confession**. Confession is available before or after evening services. You can also make an appointment with Fr Jacob any time, including before Sunday Liturgy, if necessary.

The parishes of the Chicago deanery each year usually collaborate to host a series of **Lenten Sunday Vespers** services. These Sunday Vespers are back again this year, but because of the pandemic,

parishioners from other Churches are asked to remain home and participate via livestream. **Pick up a flyer** in the Narthex for information about when Sunday Vespers are happening this year and where you can find the Livestreams.

Mark your calendars:

Apr 7: Presanctified Liturgy @ 6pm

Apr 9: Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am

Apr 10: Memorial Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's cemetery (4801 W Ridge Rd) @ 10am

Apr 15: Great Canon of St. Andrew with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt @ 10am

Apr 16: Blood Drive @ 12pm

Apr 17: Spring Cleaning the Church @ 9am

Apr 19: Livestream with Archbishop Paul: Who is Jesus Christ? @ 7pm www.midwestfamily.com

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,979

Children During Lent

Ideas from an Orthodox Mom

(posted on www.midwestfamily.com)

I remember my first ever Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha in the Orthodox Church. The reflection and anticipation of Lent, with its dogged mission to bring my sins and need for repentance to the forefront of my mind each day; the solemnity of Holy Week, with its invitation to completely enter into the cosmic events that changed humanity forever; and Pascha, oh Pascha, with its unabashed joy in the proclamation that “Christ has risen from the dead, trampling down death by death”—all of these confirmed to me that I had truly come Home. And this is the Home that I am raising my children in.

As parents we want to help our children understand and experience Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha; however, daily life can get in the way and make the task seem too large, the burden too

heavy. We rationalize, “We go to Liturgy. They’ll get it at Church School.” Or, “My children are too young to really understand, anyway.” And we (I mean I) miss an opportunity to share in the mysteries of Christ and the Church with our children.

Here, then, are a few ideas (gained from my limited experience, from the much more helpful advice of other parents, and from the wise counsel of various spiritual fathers) of simple, yet profound ways to involve our children during Lent:

Prayer

- If you are not already doing so, begin a time of family prayers in the evening, morning, or both.
- During evening prayers, pray the Prayer of St. Ephraim. Young children, especially, seem to intuitively understand that the entire body should be involved in prayer and enjoy the prostrations. I was surprised and amazed when my (then) three-year-old son was able to learn this beautiful prayer through nightly repetition.
- Conclude your time of prayer with a Lenten hymn. We have often sung “Having Suffered” together, which, again, has prostrations that appeal to children.

Almsgiving

- Bring your children along with you to the grocery store and invite them to pick out food or health items to bring to Church on Sunday (if your church collects donations for the needy). Let them place the items in the donation basket.
- Set up a family change jar. Watch it grow throughout Lent and then decide as a family how best to donate it.
- Volunteer together at a local charity (be sure to ask in advance about the policies regarding children). Add that charity to your prayer list in your icon corner.

Fasting

- There are many different views about how and at what age fasting is appropriate for children. Speak to your spiritual father about this matter first.
- Children can fast from certain excesses such as ice cream, soda, etc.
- Speak to your children about why you are fasting. Read passages in the Scriptures and from the Church Fathers about the importance of fasting.

Repentance

- Bring your child with you to Forgiveness Sunday Vespers. This service is extremely powerful to children. The prostrations and the repetition of asking others to forgive them can make a deep and lasting impression on a young heart.
- Discuss confession as a family. You can even bring young children with you when you come to confess. One parent can remain in the fellowship hall with the child and answer questions while the other parent confesses.

Services

- Listen to or read Sunday's Gospel before coming to Church. Children are more likely to pay attention to and retain what they hear twice. Ancient Faith Radio has an excellent series called "The Gospel Told for Younger Children" that families can listen to.
- Sing hymns for the services beforehand so that the child is familiar with them and can participate more fully. There is nothing more beautiful than seeing a toddler belt out, "Christ is risen from the dead!"
- And, finally, **give yourself grace**. No parent can do it all. We can, however, help our children to feel welcomed in and a part of this Home we share.

Glory to God for all things!