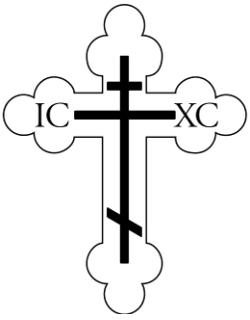
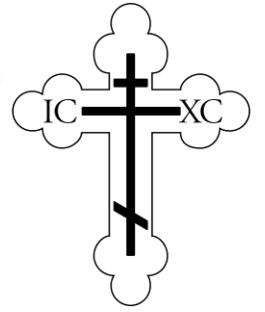


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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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.

June 6, 2021

6th Sunday of Pascha: The Blind Man

Virgin Martyrs Archelais, Thekla, and Susanna at Salerno

The Holy Virgin Martyrs Archelais, Thekla and Susanna sought salvation in a small monastery near Rome. During the persecution by Diocletian (284-305), the holy virgins dressed themselves in men's clothing, cut their hair and went to the Italian province of Campania. Settling in a remote area, they continued to pursue an ascetical life of fasting and prayer. They received the gift of healing from God and treated the local inhabitants, converting many pagans to Christ.

When the governor of the district heard about them, he had them brought to Salerno. He threatened St Archelais with torture and death if she did not offer sacrifice to idols. With firm hope in the Lord, the saint refused to submit to the command, and she

denounced the folly of worshipping soulless statues. Then the governor ordered the saint to be torn apart by hungry lions, but the beasts meekly lay at her feet. In a rage the governor ordered the lions to be killed, and locked the holy virgins in prison.

In the morning, having suspended St Archelais with ropes, the torturers began to rake her with iron utensils and pour hot tar on the wounds. The saint prayed even more loudly, and suddenly a light shone over her and a voice was heard, "Fear not, for I am with you."

The saint was defended by the power of God. When they wanted to crush her with an immense stone, an angel pushed it to the other side, and it crushed the torturers instead. A judge ordered soldiers to behead the holy virgins, but the soldiers at first did not dare to put their hands upon the saints. Then Sts Archelais, Thekla and Susanna said to the soldiers, "If you do not fulfill the command, you shall have no respect from us." The holy martyrs were beheaded in 293.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 8 – Kontakion of the Blind Man

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
and call to You in repentance://
"You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness."

Tone 4 – Kontakion of Pascha

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women,//
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the
fallen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Epistle: Acts 16.16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.”

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Gospel: John 9.1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore, the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

Therefore, they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

Then they said to him, "Where is He?"

He said, "I do not know."

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore, some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight.

And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, they would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So they again called the man who was blind and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Warren Rubel
Helen Korotky
Mary Weidemann
Giancarlo Alexander
Louis Milton

Ev.Mem. Michael Wahner ('84)

Karp Zayetz ('51)
Nicholas Diachuk ('51)
Andrew Dubowski ('29)
Luba Goranovich ('29)
Konstantin Petrukavich ('27)
Mat. Ivanka Tanaskoski (2006)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Margaret
Mat. Anne
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
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
Timothy
Lisa
Lois
Michael
Janice
Ken
Debbie
Jacqueline
Dara
Cindy
Daniel
Laura
Dorothy

Vasiliy
William
Wanda
Cindy
Mary

Linda
Ivanka
Susan
Denise
Valerie

Aaron
William
Jamie

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

Paschal Theotokion (*Instead of "It is Truly Meet..."*)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead."
Rejoice, O you people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of your Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve a **panikhida** for Mat. Ivanka Tanaskoski's 15-year anniversary and for the newly departed Warren Rubel.

A big **Thank You!** to the many members who volunteered and donated essentials to our **annual golf outing yesterday**, especially to our organizers Rich and Linda Svhirra and Lara Richards. God blessed us again with beautiful weather, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the fun and hospitality.

The Congregations of Merrillville is hosting a **car show to support the Feeding the Flock ministry** at the First Presbyterian Church today from 4pm to 7pm. We will have beautiful car entries from Winamac Car Club and the Corvette Club. A DJ will entertain, and there will be hot dogs, popcorn, and snow cones for sale. Please come and join in the fun.

For **Bible Study** this week, read 2 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 2 Samuel) 13-16.

This Thursday is 40 days since Pascha, when we celebrate our Lord's **Ascension** into heaven. Festal services will be as usual

(Vespers on the eve @ 6pm, Liturgy @ 10am). At this feast **we say goodbye to “Christ is risen...”** until next year, but we do not yet add back the prayer to the Spirit “O Heavenly King...” until Pentecost, two Sundays later. For these 10 days we begin our prayers both in Church and at home simply with “Holy God...”

Fr Jacob will be on vacation next weekend. There will therefore be **no Great Vespers next Saturday** evening. We welcome **Fr Danial Doss**, who will preside on Sunday.

We are hosting another **Red Cross Blood Drive on June 18**. If anyone is available and would like to help man the check-in desk anytime between 12-6pm, please let Fr Jacob know.

Mark your calendars:

June 7: **Funeral Service for Warren Rubel** at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Valparaiso @ 11am. Visitation from 10am.

June 9: **Great Vespers for the Feast of Ascension @ 6pm**
Bible Study @ 7pm

June 10: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Ascension @ 10am**

June 12: **No Great Vespers**

June 18: **Red Cross Blood Drive @ 12pm**

June 19: **Memorial Saturday Liturgy** at St. Mary's cemetery @ 10am

June 21: **Divine Liturgy and picnic at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago** for their parish feast @ 9:30am

June 29: **Divine Liturgy at Sts Peter and Paul Orthodox Church** in Burr Ridge, IL for their parish feast @ 9:30am

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,988

Christ is risen!