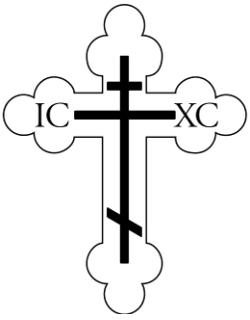
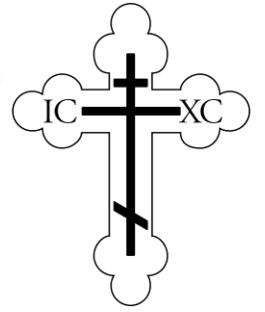


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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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.

July 4, 2021 All Saints of America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day. Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included

Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetov died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to

Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!”

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 8 – Troparion of All Saints of America

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation,

the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints who
have shone in them.

By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.

Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://

“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

Tone 3 – Kontakion of All Saints of America

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America

now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With them the Angels glorify Him, and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; // and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for All Saints of America (Psalm 115)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

Epistle: Romans 2.10-16 (Sunday)

Brethren: Glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2 (All Saints of America)

Brethren: Through faith, the Saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not receiving deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, and by chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy.

They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, because God had provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: Matthew 4.18-23 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Matthew 4.25 – 5.12 (All Saints of America)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Erik Tjaden
George Samardzija
Warren Rubel
Helen Korotky

Mary Weidemann
Giancarlo Alexander
Ev.Mem. Catherine Darosky ('62)
Onufrey Borisenko ('34)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Margaret
Mat. Anne
Pr. Christopher
Mat. Jennifer
Andrew
Gideon
Kevin
Jon
Tanya
Jovan
Julia
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

Jeffrey
Aaron
William

Jamie
Karen
Dale

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We are still looking for help rebooting coffee hour since the COVID restrictions have been lifted. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex where you can let us know if you are willing to sponsor coffee hour on an upcoming Sunday. More than one person/family can share the load. We have volunteers already to make the coffee and set up tables. Sponsors will bring and set out food (as simple as you like), and make sure to stay until the end for clean-up/tear-down (there are always helpers!). For now, on any unclaimed Sundays, the O-Club has graciously offered to bring donuts.

Mark your calendars:

July 6: Sunday School excursion to **Six Flags**, leaving @ 8:15am

July 18: **Blessing of Vehicles** after Divine Liturgy

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,605

“Let us Think of the Fire as a Rose”

A reflection by His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul

You then, beloved, stand your ground and quietly contemplate the fire that He who Is in the highest has sent from on high. Do not be afraid, for the coals do not burn. Do not be amazed, for this fire does not consume, but as prudent men remember how of old the three youths received fire, how their bodies were not burned, nor a single hair, how that which received the three showed them to be four, for it gave up with interest those it had received. ...Why then should we be afraid of a flame that does not burn? Let us think of the fire as a rose, as indeed it is, for it has been placed on our heads like flowers with which he has crowned us, adorned us, made us resplendent in the All-Holy Spirit.

(St. Romanos, Pentecost Kontakion, Stanzas 11-12)

The Scripture readings for Pentecost describe Christ and the Holy Spirit in various terms.

- “If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:37-38)
- “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)
- When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

As you have discussions with your children on the various meanings of these titles and the description of “tongues as of fire” descending upon the Disciples, remember:

- We believe in the History of Pentecost, but don’t forget that in the Pentecost Icon, St. Paul is depicted sitting with the Disciples when he had yet to be converted.
- The Kontakion verses from St. Romanos point to the mystery of this event. The fire is likened to something deeper and goes beyond the literal meaning of what happened at Pentecost
- Romanos says the tongues of fire can be likened to “flowers with which he has crowned us, adorned us, and made us resplendent, in the All-Holy Spirit.”
- These words concern Salvation History, which is the history of the All-Holy Trinity working in the midst of Creation to make God known to us.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

Archbishop Paul

Glory to God for all things!