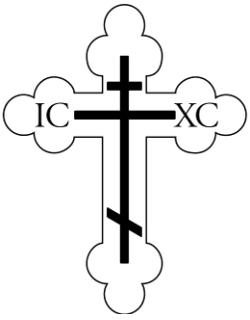
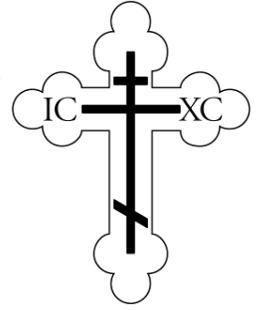


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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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.**

## August 29, 2021 Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus.

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod,

danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The girl, on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias, asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

## 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 2 – Troparion of St. John the Baptist**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,  
but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner.

Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,  
for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan

Him Whom they foretold.

Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,

thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,

Who takes away the sin of the world,//

and grants us great mercy.

### **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 5 – Kontakion for St. John the Baptist**

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner

became an act of divine dispensation,

for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior.

Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder,

loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life,//

but that which is false and temporal.

### **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 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 St. John the Baptist (Psalm 63)**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him!

### **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4.9-16 (Sunday)**

Brethren: I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we

entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you, imitate me.

### **Acts 13.25-33 (St. John)**

“And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.’

“Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death.

“Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. And we declare to you glad tidings – that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’”

### **Gospel: Matthew 17.14-23 (Sunday)**

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down to Him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this

mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

### **Mark 6.14-30 (St. John)**

In those days, King Herod heard of Jesus, for His name had become well known. And he said, "John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

Others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets."

But when Herod heard, he said, "This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!"

For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. Because John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

Therefore, Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!"

Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.

When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb. Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Mat. Tresja Denysenko  
Charles Swallow  
Thomas Kurth  
Loretta Molchan

**Ev.Mem.** John Melevsky ('13)  
Mary Marakovich ('23)  
Stephan Lopeka ('27)  
Dorothy Georgieff ('31)  
James Kuzmanoff ('85)

### Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter  
Mat. Margaret  
Mat. Anne  
Pr. Christopher  
Mat. Jennifer  
Andrew  
Gideon  
Dn. Nicholas  
Sophia  
Kevin  
Jon  
Tanya  
Jovan  
Julia  
Tom  
Tina  
Jennifer  
Gail  
Stacy  
Jeramie  
Olivia  
Parker  
Christine  
Larry  
Rollie  
Joseph  
Nadia  
Brendan

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  
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	Wanda	William
Debbie	Cindy	Jamie
Jacqueline	Mary	Karen
Dara	Linda	Dale
Cindy	Ivanka	Jack
Daniel	Susan	Joyce
Laura	Denise	Junia
Dorothy	Valerie	Anna
Vasiliy	Jeffrey	Sandra
William	Aaron	

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read 3 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 1 Kings) 19-22.

**Church School resumes on Sunday, September 12.** Please register your children by recording their names and a parent's name and phone number for contact on the registration sheet in the Narthex, or by visiting [www.ptvm.com](http://www.ptvm.com) and clicking the "Church School" tab.

On **Saturday morning, September 25**, our bakers will offer a **tutorial on baking the prosphora** (offering bread) for any who would like to learn. We will start at 9am and finish with lunch together, which will be provided. Please let Elizabeth Pedersen or Fr Jacob know if you plan to attend, so that we can be sure to have enough supplies.

We are beginning a **new ministry for the young girls** of our parish analogous to the altar boys. They will be given responsibilities during the Divine Liturgy, including greeting at the door and serving the blessed bread and wine during communion. Please let Fr Jacob know if your daughter or granddaughter would like to serve. Girls should be communing members of the parish and have had their first confession.

Congregations of Merrillville is holding a luncheon **fundraiser for the Feed the Flock** ministry on Saturday, September 25. Details are on fliers in the narthex. See Mary Ann Bertram or Janet Andrus during coffee hour for tickets.

The **icons of the Life of the Theotokos** in memory of Archpriest Spiro Tanaskoski have been completed. From this point on, if anyone would like to sponsor more iconography in the Church, please see

Fr Jacob to discuss options. Right now, icons of Archangel Michael, St. John the Baptist, and Thomas Sunday are slated to be done on the ground level of our East Wall by the end of this year. A perpetual plaque will be installed in the entryway of the Church to commemorate those in whose memory icons are being completed.

**Mark your calendars:**

**Sept 1: Bible Study @ 7pm**

**Sept 8: Nativity of the Virgin Mary: 6pm Great Vespers on the Eve, 10am Divine Liturgy on the Feast**

**Sept 10: Fall Clean-Up @ 9am**

**Sept 12: First Sunday of Church School**

**Sept 25: Prospora baking tutorial @ 9am**

**Oct 1: Feast of the Protection of the Virgin Mary: Archbishop Paul will be present for services. Service times TBA**

**Oct 3: 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration following Divine Liturgy**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,247**

**Glory to God for  
all things!**