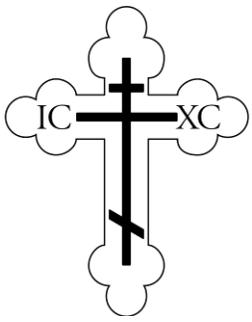


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410  
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## August 8, 2021

# Afterfeast of Transfiguration St. Emilian of Cyzicus († 820 AD)

St Emilian, the Bishop of Cyzicus, lived during the reign of the Iconoclast Emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820). He and other bishops were summoned to the Emperor's tribunal, and Leo told the bishops to refrain from venerating the Holy Icons. St Emilian was the first to tell the Emperor firmly that the question of venerating icons ought to be discussed and decided only within the Church by its spiritual leaders, and not at the imperial court. A period of intense persecution followed; Leo ordered all icons removed from churches. Some monks and bishops protested. St. Emilian, after withstanding Leo and refusing to carry out his edict, was arrested in 815 and sent into exile.

Emilian's exile was a severe cross, as he was beaten and tormented regularly by his captors. Once, his captors burned a blasphemous phrase into the flesh of his forehead using a hot iron. His flesh was so wracked and tormented with beatings and burning that it began to rot while still attached to his body. Eventually, Emilian succumbed to his torments, on August 8, 820.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell,  
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

### **Tone 7 – Troparion of Transfiguration**

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,  
revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.

Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,  
through the prayers of the Theotokos!//

O Giver of Light, glory to You!

### **Tone 3 – Troparion of St. Emilian**

In confessing the Faith, you proclaimed Orthodox doctrine  
and were unjustly exiled for rebuking the wicked king.

Righteous and glorious Emilian,

the boast of Cyzicus,//

entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.

### **Tone 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

When Christ God the Giver of Life,

raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

### **Tone 3 – Kontakion for St. Emilian**

The Church for which you suffered  
glorifies you in hymns, O Emilian;

you were a valiant champion of the Trinity,

therefore we honor your memory.//

Deliver your servants from all assaults of the Enemy!

## **Tone 7 – Kontakion of Transfiguration**

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God,  
and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;  
so that when they would behold You crucified,  
they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,  
and would proclaim to the world//  
that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Tone 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)**

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

### **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of Transfiguration (Psalm 103)**

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;  
in wisdom have You made them all!

### **Epistle: Romans 15.1-7 (Sunday)**

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

### **2 Peter 1.10-19 (Transfiguration)**

Brethren: Be even more diligent to make your call and election sure; for if you do these things, you will never stumble. For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover, I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

### **Gospel: Matthew 9.27-35 (Sunday)**

At that time, Jesus departed from there, and two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him.

And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

### **Matthew 17.1-9 (Transfiguration)**

Now after six days, Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Thomas Kurth

Loretta Molchan

Erik Tjaden

**Ev.Mem.** Julian Burtz ('53)

Dmitro Stavroff ('54)

Magdalena Dudak ('62)

Nicholas Danko ('62)

George Marchuk ('70)

Julia Sereda ('72)

Antonina Leskow ('78)

Anna Bencur ('92)

Emma Biresh ('94)

Elizabeth Kane ('91)

**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

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	Pauline	Cindy
Ayden	Mary	Mary
Hyland	Timothy	Linda
Jason	Lisa	Ivanka
Ted	Lois	Susan
James	Michael	Denise
Pamela	Janice	Valerie
Erin	Ken	Jeffrey
Alexander	Debbie	Aaron
Ronald	Jacqueline	William
Theodore	Dara	Jamie
Robert	Cindy	Karen
Craig	Daniel	Dale
Chuck	Laura	Jack
Scott	Dorothy	Joyce
Mark	Vasiliy	Mary Ann
Christine	William	Junia
Dale	Wanda	Anna

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

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

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor!  
 Your childbearing was without corruption;  
 God came forth from your body clothed in flesh,  
 and appeared on earth and dwelt among men.//  
 Therefore, we all magnify you, O Theotokos.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

For **Bible Study** this week, read 3 Kingdoms (a.k.a. 1 Kings) 11-14.

**Church School resumes on Sunday, September 12.** Please register your children by recording their name and a parent's name and phone number for contact on the registration sheet in the Narthex.

We are beginning a **new ministry for the young girls** of our parish to complement 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 members of the parish in communion and have had their first confession.

The icons of the Life of the Theotokos in memory of Archpriest Spiro Tanaskoski have been completed! Our iconographer, John, is now completing Palm Sunday and Archangel Michael. From this point on, if anyone would like to sponsor more iconography in the Church, please see Fr Jacob to discuss options. John has composed a binder full of sketches which represent our vision for what the Church might look like when complete. These are on the table in the narthex for any to look at. The price of a scene ranges from \$3,000 to \$13,000. Figures from \$350 to \$1,200, depending upon size and complexity. 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:**

**Aug 1-14: Dormition Fast**

**Aug 11: Supplication to the Virgin @ 6pm**

**Aug 14: Great Vespers with Lamentations for the Virgin @ 6pm**

**Aug 20: Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6pm**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,788**

# **On the Ascension of the Lord**

by St. Nikolai Velimirovic

Thus did the One ascend to Heaven Who held heaven within Himself. He who carries hell within himself will end up in hell, but he who bears heaven within his soul will ascend to heaven. And truly, no one can ascend to heaven other than those who have heaven within; and no one can end up in hell besides those who have hell within. The familiar is drawn to what is familiar and unites with the familiar; but it rejects what is not familiar. Matter submits to the spirit to the extent that the human soul is filled with the Divine Spirit; and the laws of nature are obedient to moral laws, which govern the world. Because the Lord Jesus Christ is the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the perfection of moral law, to Him is subject all matter—the entire physical world, with all the laws of nature.

Any person, as a spirit, can be victorious in his life over a certain law of nature, with the help of another law of nature—that is, he can

overcome it with his own spirit. Christ, as the God-Man, could subject the laws of nature to Himself through the law of the Spirit, which is the supreme law of the created world. However, this concept, just as any other spiritual concept, can be but partially explained by ordinary earthly conceptualizations and reasoning—and that only by examples and comparisons.

Spiritual things only become clear beyond a doubt when the spirit sees them and perceives them. In order to see and feel the manifestations of the spiritual world, long and exhausting spiritual practice is needed, after which, by God's grace, spiritual vision may be opened in a person; this vision allows him to see what seems unbelievable and impossible to ordinary mortals. Nevertheless, a person must first believe those who have seen the unbelievable, and strengthen their faith from day to day, striving to see what is inaccessible to the common gaze.

Not in vain does the Lord say, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" [John 20:29]. The Lord God rejoices in their faith just as a father on earth rejoices that his children believe his every word. All the apostles were present at the Ascension of the Lord, gathered on the hill. This was their last collective meeting. However, this was not the last appearance of Christ. Later He appeared in a vision to the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus, to the Apostle John on the island of Patmos, and to other apostles, as well as to martyrs, holy hierarchs, and confessors, over the course of the entire history of the Christian Church.

But the day will come—and that day is not far off—when all the righteous men and women who firmly believed in Him throughout their lives will see Him. And around Him in heaven will gather all those who were baptized on earth in His name—not only with water, but also with the Spirit and Fire. And they will enter into His joy, which the Heavenly Father has prepared for all His chosen, and will inherit a joy that they have never known before.

# Glory to God for all things!