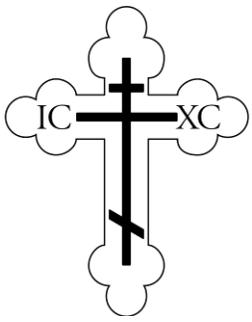


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.

September 26, 2021

Holy Apostle John the Theologian

The Holy, Glorious All-laudable Apostle and Evangelist, Virgin, and Beloved Friend of Christ, John the Theologian was the son of Zebedee and Salome, a daughter of St Joseph the Betrothed. He was called by our Lord Jesus Christ to be one of His Apostles at the same time as his elder brother James. This took place at Lake Gennesareth (i.e. the Sea of Galilee). Leaving behind their father, both brothers followed the Lord.

The Apostle John was especially loved by the Savior for his sacrificial love and his virginal purity. After his calling, the Apostle John did not part from the Lord, and he was one of the three apostles who were particularly close to Him. Saint John the Theologian was present when the Lord restored the daughter of Jairus to life, and he was a witness to the Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor.

During the Last Supper, he reclined next to the Lord, and laid his head upon His breast. He also asked the name of the Savior's betrayer. The Apostle John followed after the Lord when they led Him bound from the Garden of Gethsemane to the court of the iniquitous High Priests Annas and Caiphas. He was there in the courtyard of the High Priest during the interrogations of his Teacher and he resolutely followed after him on the way to Golgotha, grieving with all his heart.

At the foot of the Cross he stood with the Mother of God and heard the words of the Crucified Lord addressed to Her from the Cross: "Woman, behold your son." Then the Lord said to him, "Behold your mother." From that moment the Apostle John, like a loving son, concerned himself over the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and he served Her until Her Dormition.

After the Dormition of the Mother of God the Apostle John went to Ephesus and other cities of Asia Minor to preach the Gospel, taking with him his own disciple Prochorus. They boarded a ship, which floundered during a terrible tempest. All the travellers were cast up upon dry ground, and only the Apostle John remained in the depths of the sea. Prochorus wept bitterly, bereft of his spiritual father and guide, and he went on towards Ephesus alone.

On the fourteenth day of his journey he stood at the shore of the sea and saw that the waves had cast a man ashore. Going up to him, he recognized the Apostle John, whom the Lord had preserved alive for fourteen days in the sea. Teacher and disciple went to Ephesus, where the Apostle John preached incessantly to the pagans about Christ. His preaching was accompanied by such numerous and great miracles, that the number of believers increased with each day.

During this time there had begun a persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero (56-68). They took the Apostle John for trial at Rome. t John was sentenced to death for his confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Lord preserved His chosen one. The apostle drank a cup of deadly poison, but he remained alive. Later, he emerged unharmed from a cauldron of boiling oil into which he had been thrown on orders from the torturer.

After this, they sent the Apostle John off to imprisonment to the island of Patmos, where he spent many years. Proceeding along on his way to the place of exile, Saint John worked many miracles. On the island of Patmos, his preaching and miracles attracted to him all the inhabitants of the island, and he enlightened them with the light of the Gospel. He cast out many devils from the pagan temples, and he healed a great multitude of the sick.

Sorcerers with demonic powers showed great hostility to the preaching of the holy apostle. He especially frightened the chief sorcerer of them all, named Kinops, who boasted that they would destroy the apostle. But the great John, by the grace of God acting through him, destroyed all the demonic artifices to which Kinops resorted, and the haughty sorcerer perished in the depths of the sea.

The Apostle John withdrew with his disciple Prochorus to a desolate height, where he imposed upon himself a three-day fast. As Saint John prayed the earth quaked and thunder rumbled. Prochorus fell to the ground in fright. The Apostle John lifted him up and told him to write down what he was about to say. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev 1:8), proclaimed the Spirit of God through the Apostle John. Thus in about the year 67 the Book of Revelation was written, known also as the "Apocalypse," of the holy Apostle John the Theologian. In this Book were predictions of the tribulations of the Church and of the end of the world.

After his prolonged exile, the Apostle John received his freedom and returned to Ephesus, where he continued with his activity, instructing Christians to guard against false teachers and their erroneous teachings. In the year 95, the Apostle John wrote his Gospel at Ephesus. He called for all Christians to love the Lord and one another, and by this to fulfill the commands of Christ. The Church calls Saint John the "Apostle of Love", since he constantly taught that without love man cannot come near to God.

In his three Epistles, Saint John speaks of the significance of love for God and for neighbor. Already in his old age, he learned of a youth who had strayed from the true path to follow the leader of a band of robbers, so Saint John went out into the wilderness to seek him. Seeing the holy Elder, the guilty one tried to hide himself, but the Apostle John ran after him and besought him to stop. He promised to take the sins of the youth upon himself, if only he would repent and not bring ruin upon his soul. Shaken by the intense love of the holy Elder, the youth actually did repent and turn his life around.

Saint John reposed when he was more than a hundred years old. He far outlived the other eyewitnesses of the Lord, and for a long time he remained the only remaining eyewitness of the earthly life of the Savior.

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 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illumined 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 for St. John

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,
hasten to deliver a defenseless people!
He Who allowed you to recline on His breast,
receives you as you bow before Him.
Implore Him, O John the Theologian,
to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens//
entreating for us peace and great mercy!

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man//
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. John

Who shall declare your greatness,
O virgin disciple,
for you pour forth wonders and are a source of healings//
and pray for our souls as theologian and friend of Christ.

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 5 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)

You, O Lord, shall protect us
and preserve us from this generation forever!

Tone 8 – Prokeimenon for St. John (Psalm 18)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the universe!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1.21 – 2.4 (Sunday)

Brethren: It is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also sealed us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God as witness against my soul, that it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but we are fellow workers with you for your joy; for by faith you stand.

But I determined for myself that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is there to make me glad when you who would have done so are saddened by me? And I wrote as I did to you so that when I came, I would not have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy would be your joy. For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

1 John 4.12-19 (St. John)

Beloved: No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love,

and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

Gospel: Luke 5.1-11 (Sunday)

At that time, as the multitude pressed about Jesus to hear the word of God, He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When Jesus had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Jesus.

John 19.25-27; 21.24-25 (St. John)

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Gordon McCune
Archpr. Anastasy Richter
Archpr. Sergei Glagolev
Mark Bertram

Mat. Tresja Denysenko
Ev.Mem. Lena Motrichuk ('51)
Catherine Kollar ('88)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Margaret
Mat. Anne
Mat. Trudi
Michal
Annika
Sarah
Archpr. Michael
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
Debbie
Jacqueline
Cindy
Daniel
Laura
Dorothy
Vasiliy
William
Wanda
Cindy
Mary
Linda

Ivanka
Susan
Denise
Valerie
Jeffrey
Aaron

William
Jamie
Karen
Dale
Jack
Joyce

Junia
Anna
Sandra
Linda
Stephen
Megan

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be **no Bible Study this Wednesday**, as we prepare to celebrate our Patronal Feast Thursday evening and Friday morning.

Our **parish feast day and anniversary celebration** are around the corner! Archbishop Paul will join us for the services of the Protection of the Virgin Mary on September 30 and October 1. Great Vespers with a Lity will begin at 6pm followed by a reception in our hall. Divine Liturgy is at 9am, followed by a luncheon. Fr Peter and Mat. Cynthia Bodnar will be in town for the celebration and to receive an award from His Eminence.

On Sunday, October 3 we will hold our **110th Anniversary celebration** following the Divine Liturgy with a catered dinner. No tickets necessary, but there will be a free-will offering taken and a cash bar to help cover the expense.

Mark your calendars:

- Sept 30: **Great Vespers with Archbishop Paul** for our **Parish Feast @ 6pm**, followed by a reception
- Oct 1: **Feast of the Protection of the Virgin Mary:** Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Paul @ 9am
- Oct 3: **110th Anniversary Celebration** dinner following Divine Liturgy
- Oct 9: **Feed the Flock** at First Presbyterian Church in Merrillville
- Oct 22: **Blood Drive @ 12pm**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,180

Glory to God for all things!