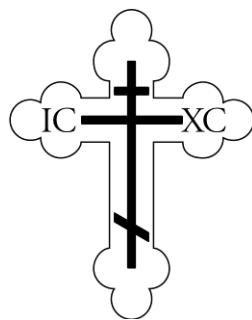
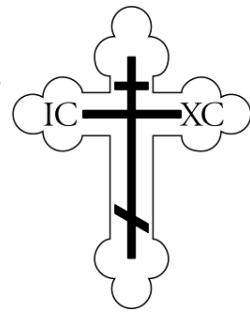


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
Hall: (219)730-4698  
[www.ptvm.com](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacovansickle@gmail.com](mailto:frjacovansickle@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.**

## October 10, 2021

## Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council

### HYMNS OF THE DAY

#### Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Your Cross You destroyed death.

To the thief You opened Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.

And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

#### Tone 8 – Troparion of the Holy Fathers

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!

You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

## **Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

The dominion of death

can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.

Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:

“The Savior has come to those in faith; //  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

## **Tone 6 – Kontakion of the Holy Fathers**

The Son Who shone forth from the Father

was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman.

Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form,  
but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.

Thus, keeping the True Faith, //

the Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.

## **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 7 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)**

The Lord shall give strength to His people.

The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

### **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)**

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,

and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

### **Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.1-10 (Sunday)**

Brethren as fellow-workers with Christ, we also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in

beatings, in imprisonments, in unrest, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fasting; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

### **Hebrews 13.7-16 (Holy Fathers)**

Brethren, remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you. Follow their faith, considering the fruits of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who pursue them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Therefore, let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore, by Him, let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

### **Gospel: Luke 7.11-16 (Sunday)**

At that time, it happened that Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us," and, "God has visited His people."

## **John 17:1-13 (Holy Fathers)**

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

"For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**N.Dep.** Gordon McCune  
Archpr. Anastasy Richter  
Archpr. Sergei Glagolev

**Health & Salv.**  
Archpr. Peter  
Archpr. Moses  
Mat. Margaret  
Mat. Anne  
Mat. Trudi  
Michal  
Annika

**Ev.Mem.** Matt Grishevich ('73)  
Max Konowalik ('95)

Sarah	Kevin
Archpr. Michael	Jon
Pr. Christopher	Tanya
Mat. Jennifer	Jovan
Andrew	Julia
Gideon	Tom
Dn. Nicholas	Tina
Sophia	Jennifer

Gail	Snezana	Debbie
Stacy	Nathan	Jacqueline
Jeramie	Kara	Cindy
Olivia	Christine	Daniel
Parker	Jon	Laura
Christine	Zoey	Dorothy
Larry	Dominic	Vasiliy
Rollie	Declan	William
Joseph	Hudson	Wanda
Nadia	Ayden	Cindy
Brendan	Hyland	Mary
Tanya	Jason	Linda
Christopher	Ted	Ivanka
Nina	James	Susan
Renee	Pamela	Denise
Carissa	Erin	Valerie
Cynthia	Alexander	Jeffrey
John	Ronald	Aaron
Olga	Theodore	William
Mark	Robert	Jamie
Jerry	Craig	Karen
Michael	Chuck	Dale
Anthony	Scott	Jack
Daryl	Mark	Joyce
Diane	Christine	Junia
Carla	Dale	Anna
Susan	Pauline	Sandra
Timothy	Mary	Linda
William	Timothy	Stephen
Paul	Lisa	Megan
Joseph	Lois	Ryan
Linda	Michael	Carol
Claudia	Janice	
Elizabeth	Ken	

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is no Bible Study this Wednesday.

The annual Diocesan Assembly will take place October 11-13 in Cleveland, OH. The Assembly will adopt a budget for the Diocese for

2022 and discuss future work. If anyone has any concerns about Diocesan operations, please raise these with either Fr Jacob or our lay delegate Michael Gruszyk, who will also attend. We are both empowered to raise questions at the assembly on behalf of our parish.

**A message from Dn. Nicholas:** Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Please accept our sincere gratitude for your generosity to us as we continue to grieve Tresja's death and learn how to adapt to our new life. We are grateful for your donation, which will be put to good use. We convey special thanks for your prayers and support. This will be a long journey; thank you for accompanying us.

### **Mark your calendars:**

**Oct 22: Blood Drive @ 12pm**

**Oct 23: Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Cemetery Chapel @ 10am**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$4,306**

## **Sermon of Metropolitan Tikhon to the Heads of the Orthodox Churches in the United States**

Your Eminences and Your Graces,

**Speaking plainly.** The great Apostle Paul tells us that God has spoken to us in many and diverse ways (Heb 1:1): through dark sayings, in parables and riddles, in prophecy and law, and in teaching and words of wisdom. The words that have been spoken in Scripture are given over to us in mystery, which often requires that we, like the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:31), need a guide in order to understand properly what they reveal to us.

However, the words of our Lord that the Evangelist Luke presents for us today are not so. The Lord teaches us today directly, clearly, unambiguously to love one another without distinction. The love we have for those whom we hold near and dear is the same love we are to have for our enemies, for sinners, for exactly and precisely those whom we do not hold near and dear.

In fact, our Lord reveals to us that *we will be sons* of the Most High (Lk 6:35). And here we should let this sink into our ears, our minds, and into our hearts: *we will be sons*, sharing and participating in some way with the Most High God, which

constitutes something truly inexplicable, unexplainable, truly a mystery. *We will be sons* of the Most High—when we love our enemies; when we do good; when we lend; when we give, expecting nothing in return, out of the great abundance of our riches; when we are merciful to the sinners, the ungrateful, the selfish in exactly the same way that our Heavenly Father is. When we do all these things, then our reward will be great in the Kingdom. We will be accounted sons of the Most High God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the God who summoned light out of darkness.

**Having this light.** These words of our Lord shine resplendently off the pages of Luke's Gospel. Hearing them, we are illumined by them as any light illuminates the darkness. This light is not any light, however. It is the light that has shone forth from the first day of creation down to our present day. It is the light that darkness cannot overcome, because in this light we have life (Jn 1:4–5). And it is this light, the light that enlightens the whole of creation, that shines in our hearts and gives us the very knowledge of God in the face of Christ, as the Apostle Paul teaches us today (2 Cor 4:6). These words of Luke are words of life and light and knowledge, because they teach us the will of God for us.

Needless to say, hearing, knowing, coming to understand, and then doing the will of God is absolutely necessary for all Christians, whether clergy or lay. There is no distinction, no mitigation, no way around this fundamental truth. God's will *is* for all His faithful. Each of us are to have our lives enlightened by the knowledge of this will: bishops, priests, deacons, monastics, men and women. We are to love not only those who love us, but those who hate us. We are to be merciful to those who spurn or reject our mercy. We are to be compassionate to those who fall into sin. We are to seek in all things and every way to do good. Out of our abundance, our riches, our possessions, we are to give, to lend, and to expect nothing in return.

**Living by this light.** As we know, this light that illumines us with the knowledge of the will of God shines throughout creation. The rays and beams of light fall upon rich and poor, weak and strong, the vulnerable and the powerful—God shows no distinction. As the righteous Judge, whom we will encounter on the last day, He shows no partiality. To each of us He will ask: "Did you do good? Did you show mercy, compassion, and love to your enemies, to the weak, to the ungrateful and the selfish?" He will say: "From the beginning of creation, when the earth was without form and void, I separated light from darkness so that you could live by this light. I spoke by

patriarchs and prophets, and gave you the Law. I sent you My Son, who gave you knowledge of My will."

What will we say in response? "Lord, I covered my eyes. I cowered in the darkness. I preferred the shades and shadows and death to light and life." May it never be so! May each of us gathered today in this sacred gathering hear this teaching, be illumined by it, and from this day, from this hour, from this very minute, strive to love God above all else, each other as ourselves, and seek to do God's will in all things throughout our life.

**This gathering.** Our Lord has summoned us today in this our sacred and solemn gathering to receive these words, and also to receive the very Body and Blood of the Exalted Word. We also gather to be with one another. We have been gathered together from this city, but also throughout this country. We would be remiss, my brothers and sisters, if we did not start right now leading our lives according to what has been taught to us this day. Along with love for one other, we should offer one another forgiveness. Along with forgiveness, we should offer one another the right hand of fellowship, in the knowledge that if we cannot do these things here and now, we are not fulfilling the will of God.

To my brother bishops, I offer this final word: This week as we gather in our meetings, as we consider and discuss, as we hear reports and see presentations, we should never lose sight, in fact we *cannot* lose sight — it is a matter as clear as light and darkness, as serious as life and death — that the precious Church of God, in which are the lives of the faithful whom God has entrusted to us as bishops, is called to do nothing else but guide people to the knowledge of the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures, bringing them to the sacred and sanctifying illumination that leads to life, life that begins now and continues to the ages of ages. Amen.

# Glory to God for all things!