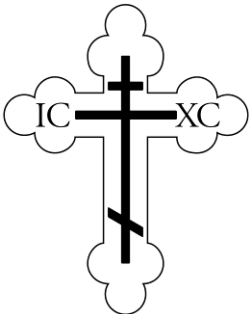


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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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.

October 17, 2021

Holy Prophet Hosea (8th century B.C.) Martyr Andrew of Crete († c. 766 A.D.)

The Holy Prophet Hosea, the first of the minor prophets, belonged to the tribe of Issachar. He lived during the eighth century before Christ in the kingdom of Israel. He was a contemporary of the holy Prophets Isaiah, Micah, and Amos. During this time, many of his fellow Israelites had forgotten the true God and worshipped idols. The holy Prophet Hosea attempted to turn them again to the faith of their Fathers by his wise counsels. Denouncing the iniquities of the people of Israel (the northern kingdom), the prophet proclaimed to them great misfortunes from a foreign people and their removal into captivity by Assyria.

Almost a thousand years before the coming of the Savior, and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet foretold the

end of sacrificial offerings and of the priesthood of Aaron (Hos. 3:4-5), and that the knowledge of the True God would spread through all the earth (Hos. 2:20-23). Hosea spoke also about Christ, how He would return from out of Egypt (Hos. 11:1; compare Mt. 2:15), that He would be resurrected on the third day (Hos. 6 and especially Hos. 6:2; compare with 1 Cor.15:4), and that He would conquer death (Hos.13-14. Compare 1 Cor.15:54-55).

The prophecies of Saint Hosea are included in the book that bears his name. The prophetic service of Saint Hosea continued for more than sixty years. The God-inspired prophet died in deep old age, having devoted all his life to fulfilling the Will of God.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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 the Holy Prophet Hosea

We celebrate the memory

of Your prophet Hosea, O Lord;

through him we beseech You://

“Save our souls!”

Tone 4 – Troparion of St. Andrew

Trained in asceticism on the mountain,

with the weapon of the Cross you destroyed the spiritual assaults of
the hostile powers, O all-blessed one.

Again you bravely prepared for combat

and slew Copronymus with the sword of faith;//

for both struggles you have been crowned by God, monk-martyr

Andrew of eternal memory.

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly
Merciful One!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Prophet Hosea

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 – Kontakion of St. Andrew

Today the Queen of cities
celebrates the radiant feast of your light-bearing memory,
and invites every city and country to join her.
She rejoices for she has gained a great treasure://
your body which sustained many struggles, martyr Andrew, beacon
of Orthodoxy.

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 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.16 – 7.1

Brethren: What agreement has the temple of God with idols?
For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will
dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they
shall be My people.” Therefore, “‘Come out from among them and be
separate,’ says the Lord. ‘Do not touch what is unclean, and I will
receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and
daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty.” Therefore, having these
promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the
flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 8.5-15

The Lord told this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.”

When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Gordon McCune
Archpr. Anastasy Richter

Ev.Mem. Kraina Christoff ('61)
Konstantia Ac Mizow ('91)

Health & Salv.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the **Newly Illumined Emmalee Pavleski**, her father Carl and her godmother Mat. Jenna!

For **Bible Study** this Wednesday, read 4 Kingdoms (2 Kings) 11-14.

This Saturday, the Saturday before the feast of St. Demetrius the Great Martyr (a soldier-Saint celebrated on Oct. 26), is kept as a Memorial Day in Russian Orthodox tradition. It was established in the year 1380 originally to commemorate the soldiers who died freeing Russia from Muslim Tatar rule. It has since become a day on which to remember all of our departed loved ones. We will serve a **Memorial Liturgy at St. Mary's cemetery chapel** at 10am. Bring the names of your departed loved ones for commemoration.

Mark your calendars:

Oct 19: **Hall committee meeting @ 6pm**
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm

Oct 20: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Oct 21: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

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: \$4,849

Opening Address of Archbishop Paul to the 60th Midwest Diocesan Assembly (abridged; his full address may be found at www.domoca.org)

Dear Clergy and Lay Delegates of the Assembly,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 18:1-3)

I don't want to dwell on the Pandemic in this address, but it is clear that it has affected us. How do we get to point we can experientially, and not intellectually realize our unity in Christ? We have all been baptized into Him. I began with these words from Matthew because they offer us a way forward.

What is it about a child that caused our Lord to state we need to become like children if we wish to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

First children know and do; as adults we think and persevere. Children know who their parents are; especially if they have been raised in an environment of love. Once they come to know who mom and dad are, what usually happens when a child is in trouble? They run to mom or dad and seek their embrace. They don't need to think about it, they know and do.

Secondly children know that despite what up and down behaviors they exhibit that are part of being formed in Christ; they understand all that is good comes to them from those who created them. It reminds me of the words from Proverbs: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). With all our learning and schooling, it seems like everyone has a better idea. The challenge for us is to trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding. Lord knows we seem to have a hard time trusting anything else these days. I also would ask we focus on two other issues in the coming year.

First, let us learn to be good listeners. I notice in some conversations I have had with people the tendency is to interrupt someone before they can finish their thought. Let us give ourselves over to completely listening to someone without thinking about what I may want to say. Let us learn to listen and not judge the content of what is said before we respond. Let us always seek to clarify what someone says by repeating what you or I hear to make sure we have listened and understood. Then we can respond and not react to what is said.

Finally, I want to reiterate what a priest recently said to his son and daughter in law at their recent wedding. He told them to "fill their house with prayer." Let us do the same driving away any enmity and discord from our hearts. Having said this I want to speak on some of the good things that are happening in our Diocese even with what has happened since March of 2020.

Growth during Pandemic

I would like to report that in a number of our parishes, there have been reports of increased growth even during this pandemic. People have been visiting our parishes in the last two years and many of those visitors have converted to the Faith. People are joining some of our churches in substantial numbers (5 or more). Whether wearing a mask or not, the work of the Church continues, it is not hindered. I wish I could be more specific on actual amounts. I base this on conversations I have had with clergy throughout the

diocese. We have eight students in our seminaries; but upon graduating, one of them will be transferring to ROCOR. I think the reason for this good number is that we have been praying at our liturgies for our Lord to motivate and call people to the priesthood. We will continue to do so. We currently have two openings in parishes and I anticipate an additional three will open up next year. Let us continue to pray for vocations in our parishes.

St. Andrew of Crete Liturgical Music Ministry

A group of 8 or 9 people have been meeting this past year to develop this ministry. Several Zoom Meetings were held with a larger group from the Diocese to do some fact-finding and learn what their parish liturgical needs are. Protinica Michelle Jannakos and Khouria Jennifer Sawchak have been co-chairing this effort. At today's Diocesan Council Meeting, Khouria Jennifer presented on the St. Andrew Ministry outlining its scope and proposed a yearly budget of \$22,000 for funding this ministry. Once the Diocesan Council signs off on this, a major effort will be made to introduce the ministry on our diocesan website and begin the actual work of supporting the liturgical music life in our parishes.

Clergy and Lay Initiatives

For the last year the Diocesan Council has been working with Bill Marianes to improve our vision and strategy to better improve our ability to follow through on what we say we want to do. We are proposing initiatives to take place in the next few years to better lend support to our clergy and lay people. Fr. Paul Jannakos will discuss this in his report tomorrow.

My status

I think I am getting to the point in my life that I need to prepare for retirement. I am approaching my 70 birthday in April of 2023. I have made my feelings known to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. I still have not decided on an exact date. I am concerned about my declining health and how that might be hindering my ministry as the Bishop of this Diocese. Please keep me in your prayers that the Lord will help me to properly discern His will for me as I approach 70 years old. Thank you to all for your patience with me.

With love in Christ,

Archbishop Paul