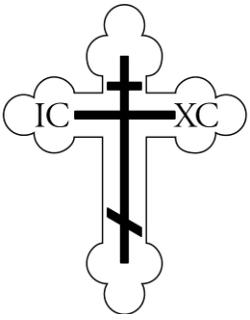
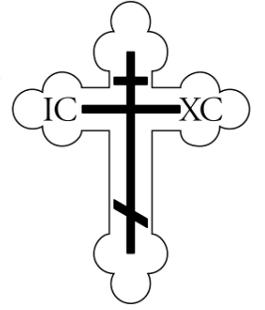


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
Hall: (219)730-4698
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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.

November 21, 2021 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Sts Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted her to the Temple. There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it

up this stairway. But just as they placed her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, she quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence. After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said St Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

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 – Troparion of the Feast

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice and sing to her:
"Rejoice, O Fulfillment//
of the Creator's dispensation!"

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 4 – Kontakion of the Feast

The most-pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,
is presented today to the house of the Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
therefore, the angels of God praise her://
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 5 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)

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

Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos (Luke 1)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle: Galatians 6.11-18 (Sunday)

Brethren: See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Hebrews 9.1-7 (Feast)

Brethren: Indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the

covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance.

Gospel: Luke 12.16-21 (Sunday)

Jesus spoke a parable to His disciples, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'"

But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 10.38-42; 11.27-28 (Entrance)

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me."

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!"

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Petre Ristevski

Paul Sikora

Gorgi Talevski

Ev.Mem. Marina Dorchoff ('18)

John Trich ('243)

Anthony Korzow ('28)

Steve Mastabayov ('61)

Anastasia Shendrick ('81)

Archpr. Benjamin Kedrovsky ('68)

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
Rollie
Joseph
Nadia
Brendan
Tanya
Christopher
Nina
Renee
Carissa
Cynthia

John
Olga
Janie
Michael
David
Sharon
Mark
Jerry
Michael
Anthony
Daryl
Diane
Carla
Susan
Timothy
William
Paul
Joseph
Linda
Claudia
Elizabeth
Snezana
Nathan
Kara
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

Ryan
Carol
William

Jim
N.Ill. Emmalee

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Bake Sale pick-up is today during coffee hour. Thank you to all of our bakers who worked so diligently this week!

The **Outreach Club** will hold its monthly meeting during coffee hour.

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the USA each year dedicates the Sunday before Thanksgiving to the ministry of **International Orthodox Christian Charities**. IOCC works in cooperation with the Orthodox Church and on behalf of Orthodox Christians to offer emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, enabling them to continue to improve their own lives and communities and to have means to live with dignity, respect, and hope. More information about the work of IOCC, and how you can contribute, is available in the narthex and at www.IOCC.org.

Thank you to everyone who took a name from our **Angel Tree** this year! We have volunteers prepared to deliver gifts on Friday, December 3. That means that **next Sunday, November 28, will be the last for dropping gifts here at the Church to be delivered.**

There will be **no Bible Study this week**, due to the holiday. When we return next week, we will begin reading the book of Daniel.

Nancy Rodic has resigned as our hall manager. After finishing out our existing bookings, the parish council has decided that, for the time being, we will not be in the business of renting our hall. It will still be available to members of the Church. If any parishioner would like to hold an event in our parish hall, please see either Nada Buczek or Sergei Ely.

Unfortunately, we have discovered that sometime between Sunday, November 7 and when members of the council met to do the count on Friday, November 12, the uncounted candle money along with whatever cash donations were received that Sunday as well as a known envelope containing \$100 was taken from a locked cabinet in the Church office. Based on typical collections, **we estimate that**

between \$200 and \$300 total was taken. The keys to the cabinet were kept hidden in the office itself, though not very well. We have no good idea who may have taken the money, and we have decided against trying to find out. However, we have determined to take the following simple precautions from now on:

- 1) Keys to the locked cabinet have been removed from the office and copies assigned only to those who need access to it, and
- 2) The door to the office itself will remain closed and locked whenever it is not in use.

If the person responsible for this theft is a member of our parish, I encourage you to contact me (Fr Jacob) confidentially for your own sake. And if any parishioner is in need of financial assistance, please do not be afraid to ask. At this Church, we take care of one another. Donations by check seem not to have been tampered with, but if you gave a donation by check on Sunday, November 7 and would like to ensure that we received it, our treasurer Mike Gruszyk has a list of checks received that Sunday that you can verify against. Also, if you gave a gift in cash that Sunday, please also let him know in what amount. For our internal records, we will credit it toward your stewardship, though we cannot include it on your tax receipt.

Mark your calendars:

Nov 25: Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy @ 9am

Dec 4: St. Nicholas kids' celebration and church decorating @ 9am

Dec 6: Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Nicholas @ 10am

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,187

IOCC Sunday Encyclical

of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of America

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we thank God for His many blessings, we also thank Him for the opportunity to serve Him by serving others. The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops dedicates this Sunday before Thanksgiving to the ministry of International Orthodox Christian

Charities, or IOCC—the Orthodox agency that serves people in need worldwide.

IOCC, the humanitarian and development agency of the Assembly of Bishops, provides Orthodox Christians with a concrete way to serve people in need, near and far. Through IOCC, we can extend a humble reflection of the great mercy Christ shows us. For almost 30 years, IOCC has offered practical assistance to people facing conflict, famine, natural disasters, and economic hardship so that they may live with dignity, respect, and hope. This work continues in a rapidly changing world.

Through the faithful generosity of people like you, IOCC responds amid crisis, offering practical assistance in both the short term and the long term, as communities around the globe rise to meet challenges. Cleanup and emotional care after US disasters; nutritious meals for preschoolers in Gaza to combat malnutrition; counseling for Syrian families who have survived unspeakable trauma; equipment to help small businesses in Greece flourish and emergency response after wildfires there; supplies to help parishes in Uganda safely resume worship amid the pandemic; repairing homes, hospitals, and shops after the devastating explosion in Lebanon's capital—these examples offer glimpses of the work IOCC does in the spirit of Christ's love. IOCC also equips us to care for one another amid crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, still a part of our daily lives, by providing resources like the Care Calls program.

IOCC's mission reflects our shared calling to serve Christ by serving others. St. Paul reminds us that loving each other through humble service is the way to obey Christ: when we support IOCC, we do precisely that, remembering the incarnate Lord's request that we feed, clothe, and minister to one another for His sake. This Thanksgiving, let us thank God for His blessings, and let us continue to answer the call to serve our brethren in need.

This blessed Nativity season, may the Lord shine His mercy upon you and your dear ones, and may His love fill your homes and your hearts to overflowing!

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

+ Metropolitan NICOLAE

Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

*Liaison for IOCC from the Assembly of Canonical
Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America*

Glory to God for all things!