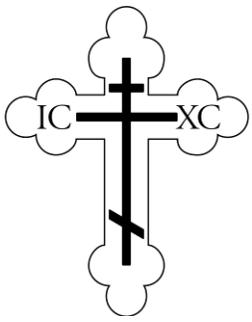
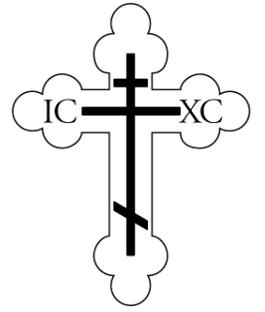


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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

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.

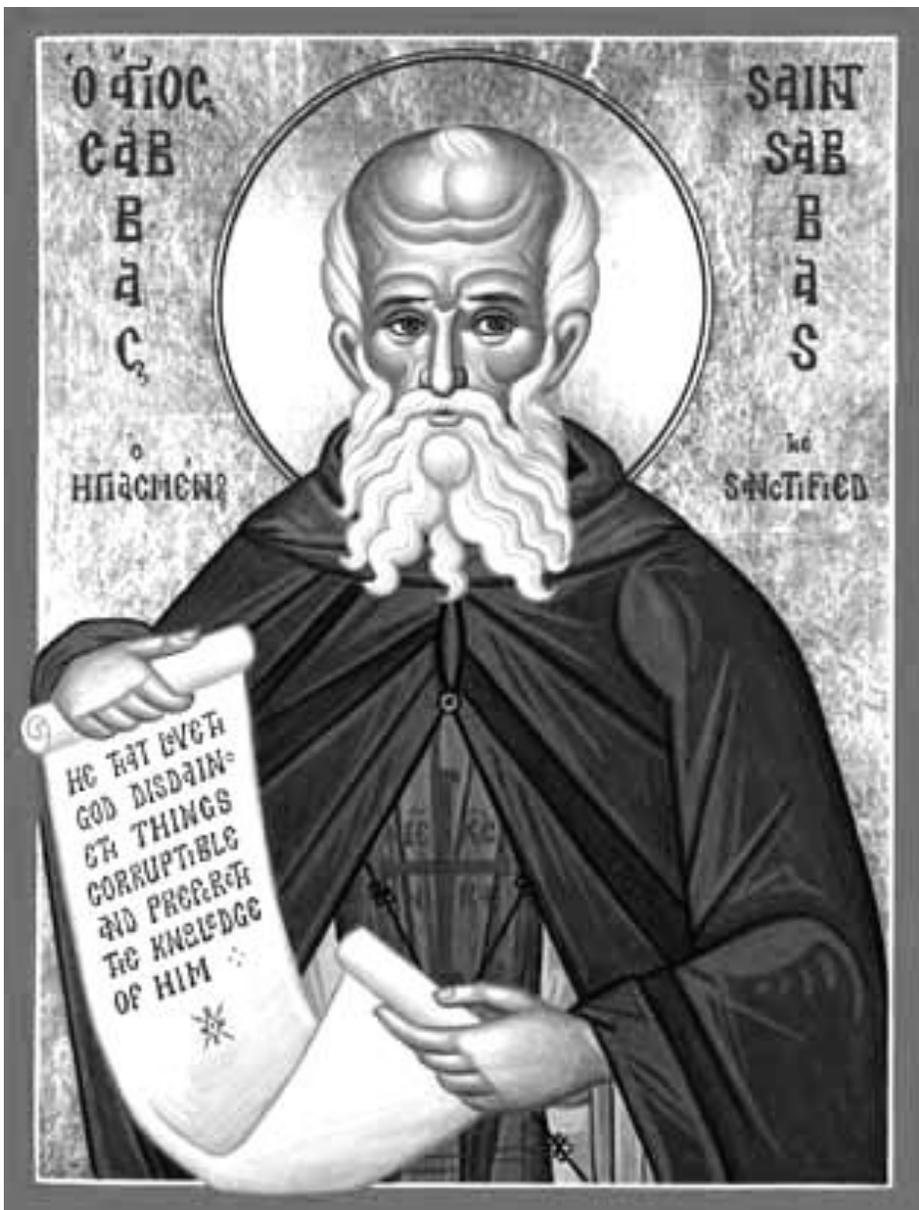
December 5, 2021

St. Sabbas the Sanctified

The unknown village of Mutalaska, in the province of Cappadocia, became famous through this great luminary of the Orthodox Church. Sava (or Sabbas) was born there of his parents John and Sophia. At the age of eight, he left the home of his parents and was tonsured a monk in a nearby monastic community of St. Flavian. After ten years, he moved to the monasteries of Palestine and remained longest in the Monastery of St. Euthymius the Great and Theoctistus. The clairvoyant Euthymius prophesied of Sava that he would become a famous monk and a teacher of monks and that he would establish a lavra greater than all the lavras of that time (a lavra is a monastery in which the monks live as hermits most of the time but gather for Divine Liturgy and a common meal on Sundays and certain feast days). After the death of Euthymius, Sava

withdrew to the desert, where he lived for five years as a hermit in a cave shown to him by an angel of God.

Afterward, when he had been perfected in the monastic life, he began by divine providence to gather around him many who were desirous of the spiritual life. Soon, such a large number gathered that Sava had to build a church and many cells. Some Armenians also came to him, and for them he provided a cave where they would be able to celebrate services in the Armenian language. When his father died, his aged mother Sophia came to him, and he tonsured her a nun. He gave her a cell located at a distance from his monastery, where she lived a life of asceticism until her death. This holy father endured many assaults from all sides: from those who were close to him, from heretics, and from demons. But he triumphed over them all: those close to him, by kindness and indulgence; the heretics, by his unwavering confession of the Orthodox Faith; the demons, by the sign of the Cross and calling upon God for help. In all, Sava established seven monasteries. He



and Theodosius the Great, his neighbor, were considered to be the greatest lights and pillars of Orthodoxy in the East. They corrected emperors and patriarchs in matters of the Faith, and to everyone they served as an example of saintly humility and the miraculous power of God. After a toilsome and very fruitful life, St. Sava entered into rest in the year 532, at the age of ninety-four. Among his many wondrous and good works, he was the first to compile the Order of

Services for use in monasteries, now known as the Jerusalem Typicon. His Lavra outside the old city of Jerusalem remains one of the oldest active monasteries in the world.

How great St. Sava the Sanctified was in faith and hope in God is best shown by the following incident: One day, the steward of the monastery came to Sava and informed him that the following Saturday and Sunday he would be unable to strike the semantron, according to tradition, to summon the brethren to the communal service and meal because there was not a trace of flour in the monastery nor anything at all to eat or drink. For this same reason, even the Divine Liturgy was not possible. The saint replied without hesitation: "I shall not cancel the Divine Liturgy because of the lack of flour; faithful is He Who commanded us not to be concerned about bodily things, and mighty is He to feed us in time of hunger." And he placed all his hope in God. In this extremity, he was prepared to send some of the ecclesiastical vessels or vestments to be sold in the city so that neither the divine services nor the brother's customary meal would be omitted. However, before Saturday some men, moved by divine providence, brought thirty mules laden with wheat, wine and oil to the monastery. "What do you say now, Brother?" Sava asked the steward. "Shall we not strike the semantron and assemble the fathers?" The steward was ashamed because of his lack of faith and begged the abbot for forgiveness. Sava's biographer describes this saint as "severe with demons but mild toward men." Once, some monks rebelled against St. Sava, and for this they were driven from the monastery by order of Patriarch Elias. They built themselves huts by the river Thekoa, where they endured privation in all things. Hearing that they were starving, St. Sava loaded mules with flour and brought it to them personally. Seeing that they had no church, he built one for them. At first, the monks received him with hatred, but afterward they responded to his love with love and repented of their former misdeeds toward him.

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 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:
Enccompass 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 8 – Troparion for St Sabbas

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.
By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe.//
Our Father Sabbas, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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 8 – Kontakion for St Sabbas

From your youth you offered yourself to God as a blameless sacrifice,
having been dedicated to Him before your birth, O blessed Sabbas.
You were an adornment of the righteous and a praiseworthy citizen
of the desert.//
Therefore, we cry to you: “Rejoice, O ever-glorious Father!”

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 7 – Prokeimenon for St. Sabbas (Psalm 115)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints!

Epistle: Ephesians 2.14-22

Brethren: Christ Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Galatians 5.22-6.2

Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 17.12-19 (Sunday)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has saved you."

Matthew 11.27-30 (St. Sabbas)

Jesus said to His disciples: "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Selma Zorka

Penny Hall

Petre Ristevski

Paul Sikora

Ev.Mem. Theodosia Skupyaka ('19)

Daniel Krochta ('31)

Gregory Pactiskach ('37)

Mat. Julia Kedrovsky ('75)

Michael Hootnick ('76)

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	Scott	Denise
Elizabeth	Mark	Valerie
Carol	Christine	Jeffrey
Snezana	Dale	Aaron
Ryan	Pauline	William
Nathan	Mary	Jamie
Kara	Timothy	Karen
Christine	Lisa	Dale
Jon	Lois	Jack
Zoey	Michael	Joyce
Dominic	Janice	Junia
Declan	Ken	Anna
Hudson	Debbie	Sandra
Ayden	Jacqueline	Linda
Hyland	Cindy	Stephen
Jason	Daniel	Megan
Ted	Laura	William
James	Dorothy	Jim
Pamela	Vasiliy	Camille
Erin	William	John
Alexander	Wanda	Martha
Ronald	Cindy	Mark
Theodore	Mary	Michelle
Robert	Linda	Steven
Craig	Ivanka	Brenda
Chuck	Susan	

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the Newly Converted Steven and Brenda and their sponsors!

Thank you to everyone who organized and attended the St. Nicholas celebration and Church decoration yesterday.

We are now half-way through **Advent**: 40 days to prepare to receive the new-born Christ through added **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. It is also appropriate to make a **confession**.

After coffee hour today, we will celebrate **Great Vespers for the feast of St. Nicholas**.

For **Bible Study** this week, read **Daniel 3-4**.

Mark your calendars:

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

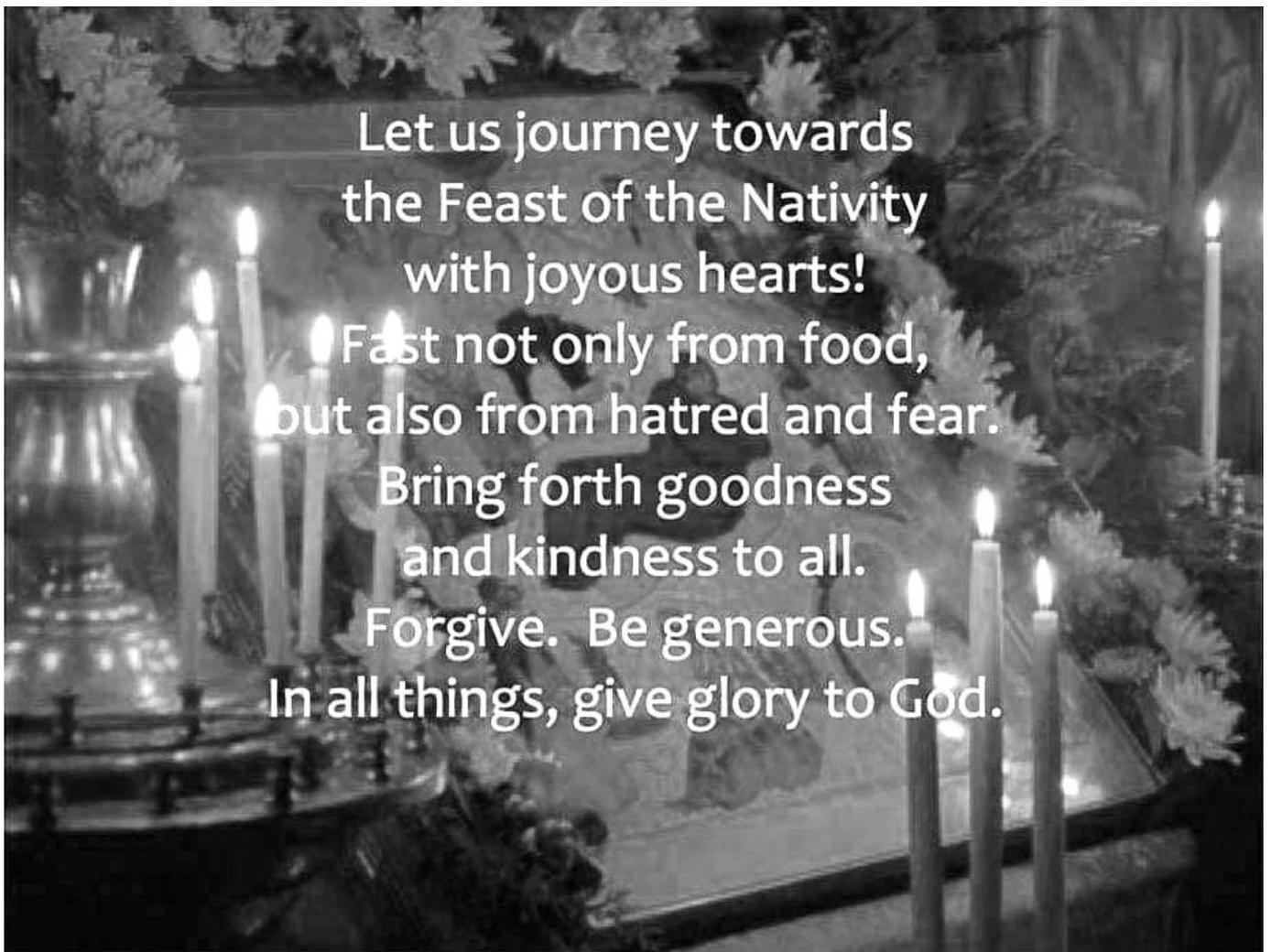
Dec 8: Bible Study @ 7pm

Dec 12: A final Great Vespers service at St. Michael Orthodox Church in Burbank, IL for the feast of St. Herman of Alaska @ 4pm

**Dec 24: Vespereal Liturgy of Nativity @ 10am
Nativity Vigil @ 6pm**

**Dec 25: Festal Divine Liturgy of Nativity @ 9am
No evening Great Vespers**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,697



Glory to God for all things!