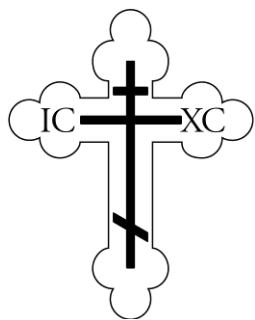


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



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



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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.

January 23, 2022

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia under the Soviets

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

The experience of each and every one of these martyrs and confessors was unique. Even if their manner of death or suffering

was similar in many cases, each of them brought with them to that moment of confession or martyrdom a unique soul, a unique set of experiences and circumstances. If we were to enter into the mind and heart of each one of these saints and observe the unique way in which they experienced their suffering and the knowledge of their coming martyrdom, we would see a wondrous tapestry of experience. And the thread which holds all this tapestry together is love, love for Christ.

Martyrdom is the same thing as Christianity. These two words have the same meaning. Hatred against Christ and His followers should not surprise us. It is natural, it was foretold by the Lord Himself, Who said: “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you” (John 15:18).

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000 far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country.

Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God. In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way. Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, St. Alexander Hotovitzky, and St. John Kochurov of Chicago.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell,
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, 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:
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 4 – Troparion to the New Martyrs of Russia

Today the Church of Russia forms a joyful chorus,
praising her new martyrs and confessors;
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes
and princesses,
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.
Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of
godless perecution,
they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in
Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion

When Christ God the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 3 – Kontakion for the New Martyrs of Russia

Today the new martys of Rus' stand in white robes before the
Lamb of God,
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor,
and power, and strength be to our God//
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

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 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon of the Martyrs (Psalm 45)

God is our refuge and strength, /
a help in afflictions that severely befall us!

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1.15-17 (Sunday)

My Son: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 8.28-39 (New Martyrs)

Brethren: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are the called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, those whom He predestined He also called; those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Luke 18.35-43 (Sunday)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So, they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

So, Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Luke 21.8-19 (New Martyrs)

Jesus said to His disciples: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore, do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places and famines and pestilences, and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

"Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Thomas Reibly

Presv. Tulla Poteres

Michael Heady

Ev.Mem. Mary Sarko ('82)

Ernest Catchur ('86)

John Saliwonczyk ('92)

Michael Lalaeff (2011)

Eugenia Kiriluk (2018)

Frank Abila (2001)

Vlade Ilich (2008)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. Theodore

Mat. Margaret

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Tom

Tina

Jennifer

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

Carol

Snezana

Ryan

Nathan

Kara

Christine

Jon

Zoey

Dominic

Declan

Hudson

Ayden

Hyland

Jason

Ted

James

Pamela

Alexander

Ronald

Theodore

Robert

Craig

Chuck

Scott

Mark

Christine

Dale

Pauline

Mary

Janice

Ken

Debbie

Jacqueline

Cindy

Daniel

Laura

Dorothy

Vasiliy

William

Wanda

Cindy

Mary

Linda

Ivanka

Susan

Denise

Valerie

Jeffrey

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| Aaron | Stephen | Robert |
| William | Megan | Rebecca |
| Jamie | William | Robert |
| Karen | Jim | April |
| Dale | Camille | Margaret |
| Jack | John | Kiersten |
| Joyce | Martha | Michelle |
| Anna | Mark | Joseph |
| Sandra | Michelle | |
| Linda | Irene | |

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read **Jonah 1-4**.

Our **iconographer** John Jurewicz is back at work. Right now, he is working on the icon of **Thomas Sunday** on our East wall. He will also complete an icon of the **Holy Family** on the West wall over the cry room window and another of the **Raising of Lazarus** on the East end of the North wall, behind the choir.

Every year at this time, **Orthodox Christian homes are blessed with the new holy water of Theophany**. Make an appointment with Fr Jacob to have your home blessed. The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. The home blessing at Theophany represents a renewal of our lives in Christ. Washed in the baptismal waters, our homes become temples of the Holy Spirit for the fulfillment of the will of our Heavenly Father. This is why the Church blesses everything found in a Christian home; if something is not worthy of being blessed, then it should not be in the home of a Christian.

Here is how to prepare for your house blessing: All who reside in the household should make every effort to be present for the Blessing. We gather in the dining room. On your dining room table or family icon corner, set 1) A lit candle, 2) An icon of Christ, and 3) A list of the names of family members living and departed you wish to pray for. Also please remember to turn off any televisions or other noisy electronics. When the priest arrives everyone in the house should gather around the table/family altar and join in prayer and singing. If there are children, they usually carry the icon and a

candle to lead the priest from room to room. If not, the head of the household will lead the priest. After the blessing, we all gather back around the icon for the concluding prayers.

Mark your calendars:

**Jan 26: Funeral for Julia Rubel @ 11am
Bible Study @ 7pm**

Jan 27: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

Feb 1: Great Vespers for the Meeting of the Lord @ 6pm

Feb 2: Divine Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord @ 10am

Feb 13: Annual Parish Meeting & Lunch after Divine Liturgy

Feb 18: O-Club Trivia Night, beginning @ 6pm

Feb 26: Saturday of Souls Memorial Divine Liturgy @ 10am

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$13,187

**Glory to God for
all things!**