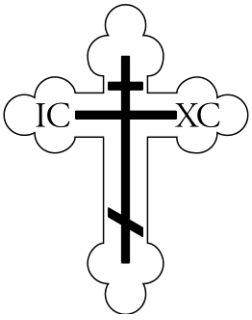


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

January 30, 2022

Three Holy Hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom

During the reign of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus (1081-1118), a controversy arose in Constantinople among men learned in Faith and zealous for virtue about the three holy Hierarchs and Fathers of the Church Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. Some argued for St Basil above the other two because he was able, as none other, to explain the mysteries of the Faith, and rose to angelic rank by his virtues. Organizer of monastic life, leader of the entire Church in the struggle with heresy, austere and demanding shepherd as to Christian morals, in him there was nothing base or of the earth. Hence, said they, he was superior to St Chrysostom, who was by nature more easily inclined to absolve sinners.

The partisans of St Chrysostom retorted that the illustrious Archbishop of Constantinople had been no less zealous than St Basil in combating vices, in bringing sinners to repentance and in raising up the whole people to the perfection of the Gospel. The golden-mouthed shepherd of matchless eloquence has watered the Church with a stream of homilies in which he interprets the divine Word and shows its application in daily life with more accomplished mastery than the two other holy teachers.

According to a third group, St Gregory the Theologian was to be preferred to the others by reason of the majesty, purity and profundity of his language. Possessing a sovereign mastery of all the wisdom and eloquence of ancient Greece, he had attained, they said to such a pitch in the contemplation of God that no one had been able to express the dogma of the Holy Trinity as perfectly as he.

With each faction setting up one of the Fathers against the other two in this way, the whole Christian people were soon caught up in the dispute, which far from promoting devotion to the Saints in the City, resulted in nothing but ill-feeling and endless argument. Then one night, the three holy Hierarchs appeared in a dream to Saint John Mauropus, the Metropolitan of Euchaïta, separately at first, then together and, speaking with a single voice, they said: "As you see, the three of us are with God and no discord or rivalry divides us. Each of us, according to the circumstances and according to the inspiration that he received from the Holy Spirit, wrote and taught what befits the salvation of mankind. There is not among us a first, a second, or a third, and if you invoke one of us the other two are immediately present with him. Therefore, tell those who are quarrelling not to create divisions in the Church because of us, for when we were on earth, we spared no effort to re-establish unity and concord in the world. You can join our three commemorations in one feast and compose a service for it, inserting the hymns dedicated to each of us according to the skill and knowledge that God has given you." At these words, the Saints were taken up into heaven in a boundless light while conversing with one another by name.

St John immediately assembled the people and informed them of this revelation. As he was respected by all for his virtue and admired for his powerful eloquence, the three parties made peace and every one urged him to lose no time in composing the service of the joint feast. He selected 30 January as appropriate to the celebration, for it would set the seal to the month in which each of

the three Hierarchs already had a separate commemoration (St Basil – Jan 1; St Gregory – Jan 25; St John – Jan 27).

The three Hierarchs have taught us in their writings and equally by their lives, to worship and to glorify the Holy Trinity, the One God in three Persons. These three luminaries of the Church have shed the light of the true Faith all over the world, scorning dangers and persecutions, and they have left us, their descendants, this sacred inheritance by which we too can attain to utmost blessedness and everlasting life in the presence of God and of all the Saints.

With the feast of the three Hierarchs at the end of January, the Church recapitulates the memory of all the Saints who have witnessed to the Orthodox faith by their writings and by their lives. In this feast we honor the whole ministry of teaching of the holy Church, namely, the illumination of the hearts and minds of the faithful through the commemoration of all the Fathers of the Church, those models of evangelic perfection which the Holy Spirit has raised up from age to age and from place to place to be new Prophets and new Apostles, guides of souls heavenward, comforters of the people and fiery pillars of prayer, supporting the Church and confirming her in the truth.

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 1 – Troparion for the Three Holy Hierarchs

Let us who love their words come together with hymns,
and honor the three great torch-bearers of the ^triune Godhead:
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom!
These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their
divine doctrines.
They are sweetly flowing rivers ^of wisdom,
and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.
They ceaselessly intercede for us//
before the Holy Trinity.

Tone 4 – Troparion for the Three Holy Hierarchs

As sharers of the Apostles' life and character
and teachers of the universe,
intercede with the Master of all
to grant peace to the world, //
and great mercy to 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 2 – Kontakion for the Three Holy Hierarchs

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest
and to the enjoyment of Your blessings
the divinely-inspired heralds, the greatest of Your teachers,
for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling
sacrifice, //
for You alone are glorified in Your saints.

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 8 – Prokeimenon for the Three Hierarchs (Psalm 18)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the universe!

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.

Hebrews 13.7-16 (Three Hierarchs)

Brethren: Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome 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 have been occupied with 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 continuing 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: Matthew 15.21-28 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Matthew 5.14-19 (Three Hierarchs)

Jesus said to His disciples, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Barbara Krieg			Michael Heady		
Julia Rubel			Ev.Mem. Mary Bartosh ('86)		
Thomas Reibly			John Komanecki ('74)		
Presv. Tulla Poteres			John Gorbacheff ('47)		
Health & Salv.		Stacy			Olga
Archpr. Peter		Jeramie			Janie
Archpr. Theodore		Olivia			Michael
Mat. Margaret		Parker			David
Mat. Anne		Christine			Sharon
Pr. Christopher		Larry			Mark
Mat. Jennifer		Rollie			Jerry
Andrew		Joseph			Michael
Gideon		Nadia			Anthony
Kevin		Brendan			Daryl
Jon		Tanya			Diane
Tanya		Christopher			Carla
Jovan		Nina			Susan
Julia		Renee			Timothy
Tom		Carissa			William
Tina		Cynthia			Paul
Jennifer		John			Joseph

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read **1 Maccabees 1-3**.

Our **iconographer** John Jurewicz is back at work. He has almost completed an icon of **Thomas Sunday** on our East wall, and he has begun an icon of the **Holy Family** on the West wall over the cry room window. After these, he will add 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:

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

Feb 2: Divine Liturgy for the **Meeting of the Lord** @ 10am
Bible Study @ 7pm

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

Mar 6: **Forgiveness Vespers** following coffee hour

Mar 7: **Clean Monday** (beginning of Great Lent)

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$6,462

Glory to God for all things!