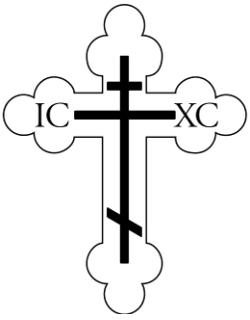


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## February 13, 2022

### The Publican and the Pharisee Sts. Martinian, Zoe, and Photina of Caesarea Palestine

St Martinian went to live in the wilderness at the age of eighteen, not far from the city of Caesarea in Palestine. For twenty-five years, he devoted himself to ascetic deeds and silence, and he was granted the gift of healing illnesses and casting out demons. However, the Enemy of the human race would not stop troubling the holy ascetic with various temptations. One day, a prostitute overheard some citizens of Caesarea speaking of St Martinian's virtuous life, so she asked them why they were amazed by it. She said that he went to live in the desert because he could not endure the temptations of the flesh in the city. Furthermore, she made a

wager with them that she could topple this pillar of virtue with her beauty and seduce him.

She came to him one night, dressed in shabby clothes, pretending that she had lost her way in the storm, and asking for shelter. Reluctantly, the saint allowed her to enter his cell, because he did not wish to be the cause of her death. He went into the inner room of his cell, telling her she would have to leave in the morning. After chanting Psalms according to his Rule, he went to sleep on the floor, but he was disturbed by carnal thoughts. Meanwhile, the wicked guest opened the bag she had been carrying and changed into her beautiful clothes and adorned herself with jewels. When morning came, St Martinian came out to send the woman away. Though he was tempted by the woman's beauty, he was determined not to fall into sin. Lighting a fire, he stepped into it, saying, "You want me to burn with temptation, but I will not give in to it. Instead, I choose to burn in this fire in order to preserve my purity and to escape the unquenchable fires of Hell."

After his burns healed, St Martinian went to an uninhabited rocky island, and lived on it under the open sky for several years, nourished by the provisions brought by a certain sailor from time to time. In return the monk wove baskets for him.

One day, a ship was wrecked by a powerful storm, and a woman named Photina floated to the island on pieces of the wreckage St Martinian helped her to survive on the island. "Remain here," he told her, "for I am leaving you bread and water, and in two months a boat will come and return you to the mainland." St Martinian refused to stay on the island with the woman, believing that it would be better to drown than to burn with lust. He jumped into the sea and swam away, and a pair of dolphins carried him to dry land. Thereafter, St Martinian led the life of a wanderer. Later, he came to Athens and fell ill. Sensing the approach of death, he went into a church and lay upon the floor. God revealed to the Bishop of Athens who St Martinian was, and the hierarch buried his body with honor.

As for St Photina, she did not board the ship when it came to the island, electing to stay there by herself. She asked the captain of the ship to have his wife bring her men's clothing and some wool, promising to make clothes for his family. She also asked the woman to bring her bread and water in addition to the other supplies. St Photina lived on the island for six years, and then she went to the Lord. Two months after her repose, the captain and his wife found her incorrupt relics and brought them to Caesarea in Palestine.

# HYMNS OF THE DAY

## **Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!”

## **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:

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 8 – Troparion for St. Martinian**

You quenched the flames of passion, blessed Martinian, with  
abundant tears.

You calmed the waves of the sea and checked the assaults of wild  
beasts, saying:

“Almighty God, You are most glorious, for You have saved me from  
the fire and storm!”

## **Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

When Gabriel announced to you, O Virgin, “Rejoice!”

with that word the Master of all was incarnate in you, O holy Ark.

As the righteous David said,

your womb became more spacious than the heavens, bearing your  
Creator.

Glory to Him Who took abode in you!

Glory to Him Who came ^from you!

Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of you!

## **Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Publican and Pharisee**

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!

Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!

Let us cry to our Savior:

“Have mercy on us,//

O only merciful One!”

## **Tone 1 – Kontakion for the Meeting of the Lord**

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb  
and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.  
Now You have come and saved us through love.  
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,//  
O only Lover of Man!

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Tone 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us  
as we have set our hope on You!

### **Epistle: 2 Timothy 3.10-15**

My Son: You have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### **Gospel: Luke 18.10-14**

Jesus said this parable to His disciples: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

“And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

# WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**New Dep.** Milica Djankovich

Joseph Exl

Barbara Krieg

Julia Rubel

**Ev.Mem.** Sergei Bupnacho ('30)

Peter Shumilo ('42)

Mary Kofmechak ('61)

Anna Elich ('72)

Tatiana Anderson ('82)

Mary Marcotte ('89)

**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  
William  
Jamie  
Karen  
Dale  
Jack  
Joyce  
Anna  
Sandra  
Linda  
Stephen

Megan  
William  
Jim  
Camille  
John  
Martha  
Mark  
Michelle  
Irene  
Robert  
Rebecca

Robert  
April  
Margaret  
Kiersten  
Michelle  
Erika  
Luke  
Jo  
Stephanie  
Mary Ann

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our **Annual Meeting** will take place immediately after lunch in the hall. All are invited to observe, but only stewards who have made a confession and received communion at least once in the last year are eligible to vote.

For **Bible Study** this week, read **1 Maccabees 4-6**.

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 15: **Parish Council** meeting @ 7pm

Feb 16: **Bible Study** @ 7pm

Feb 24: **Iconography Lecture** (organized by Dn. Nicholas) @ 7pm

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: \$1,785**

## **Excerpt on the Publican and Pharisee by St. Cyril of Alexandria**

Our virtue must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless, and free from all that can bring reproach. For what profit is there in fasting twice a week, if doing so serves only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and makes you supercilious and haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions, and boast about it: but in another way you provoke God's anger: by condemning others for not doing the same as yourself. You are puffed up, not waiting on the crown of righteousness which comes by divine decree, but rather you heap praises upon yourself. "For I am not," he says, "as the rest of mankind." Moderate yourself, O Pharisee! "Put a door to your tongue, and a lock." You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. No wrestler ever crowns himself, but awaits the decision of the referee. Lower your pride: for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although you fast, because of your puffed-up mind it will not avail you.

Your labor will go unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with perfume. Even according to the Law of Moses, a blemished sacrifice could not be offered to God, for it was said, "Of sheep and ox offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish." Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God say,

"This is not the fast that I have chosen." You offer tithes: but you wrong in another way Him Whom you would honor, in that you condemn other men. This is an act foreign to the mind that fears God: for Christ even said, "Judge not, and you shall not be judged: condemn not, and you shall not be condemned." And one also of His disciples said, "There is one Lawgiver, and Judge: why then do you judge your neighbor?" No man because he is in health ridicules one who is sick for being laid up and bedridden: rather he is afraid, lest he become himself the victim of similar ailment. Nor does any man in battle, because another has fallen, praise himself for having escaped from misfortune. For the infirmity of others is not a fit subject for praise for those who are in health. Such then was the state of the self-loving Pharisee.

But what of the publican? He stood, it says, "afar off," not even venturing, so to speak, to raise up his eyes on high. You see him abstaining from all boldness of speech, as having no right, and smitten by the reproaches of conscience: for he was afraid of being even seen by God, as one who had been careless of His laws, and had led an unchaste and dissolute life. You see also that by his external manner, he accuses his own depravity. For the foolish Pharisee stood there bold and broad, lifting up his eyes without scruple, bearing witness of himself and boastful. But the other feels shame at his conduct: he is afraid of his Judge, he smites upon his breast, he confesses his offences, he shows his malady to the Physician, he prays that he may have mercy. And what is the result? Let us hear what the Judge says, "This man, He says, went down to his house justified rather than the other."

Restrain not yourself then from saying, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." Remember Him Who says by the voice of Isaiah, "Declare your sins first, that you may be justified." Remember, too, that He rebukes those who will not do so, and says, "Behold, I have a judgment against you, because you say 'I have not sinned.'" Examine the words of the saints. For one says, "The righteous is the accuser of himself in the beginning of his words." And another again, "I said, I will confess against myself my transgression to the Lord: and you forgave the iniquity of my heart."

# Glory to God for all things!