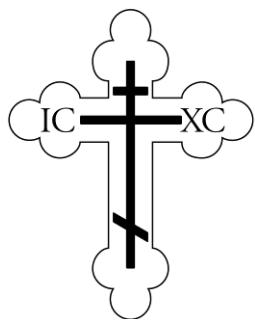
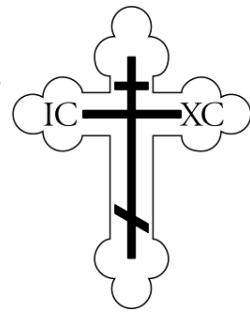


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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 • [frjacovansickle@gmail.com](mailto:frjacovansickle@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 27, 2022

## Sunday of the Last Judgment

### St. Raphael of Brooklyn

#### HYMNS OF THE DAY

##### Tone 3 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to 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:  
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 1 – Troparion for St. Raphael

Your proclamation has gone out through North America,  
calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church.

Hearing your voice, they respond to your teaching,  
and through your writings you instructed them in piety.

Now guided by your example, O Father Raphael,  
we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God:

“Glory to Him Who gave you strength!

Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!//

Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all!”

## Tone 8 – Kontakion of St. Raphael

You were a guardian and a defender of the Church’s teaching,  
you protected your flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in  
the true faith!

O holy Father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America,//  
always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

## Tone 1 – Kontakion for the Last Judgment

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,  
all things shall tremble,

and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;  
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;  
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//

and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

## 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 3 – Prokeimenon of the Last Judgment (Psalm 146)**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,  
His understanding is beyond measure!

## **Tone 1 – Prokeimenon for St. Raphael (Psalm 48)**

My mouth shall speak wisdom;  
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding!

## **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8.8 – 9.2 (Sunday)**

Brethren: Food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord. If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

## **Hebrews 13.17-21 (St. Raphael)**

Brethren: Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **Gospel: Matthew 25.31-46 (Sunday)**

The Lord said to His disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the

throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

### John 10.9-16 (St. Raphael)

The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him: “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**New Dep.** William Koveck

Helen Homyk

Milica Djankovich

Joseph Exl

Barbara Krieg

Julia Rubel

**Ev.Mem.** Stefan Makarevich ('78)

Felix Wakulczik ('62)

Alexander Petruchik ('40)

Theodore Saliwonchik ('13)

**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	William	Rebecca
Debbie	Jamie	Robert
Jacqueline	Karen	April
Cindy	Dale	Margaret
Daniel	Jack	Kiersten
Laura	Joyce	Michelle
Dorothy	Anna	Erika
Vasiliy	Sandra	Luke
William	Linda	Jo
Wanda	Stephen	Stephanie
Cindy	Megan	Mary Ann
Mary	Jim	Robb
Linda	Camille	Desiree
Ivanka	John	Hanna
Susan	Martha	Jaroslava
Denise	Mark	Andrew
Valerie	Michelle	Andrew
Jeffrey	Irene	Vadim
Aaron	Robert	Hanna

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

## Petitions at the Augmented Litany:

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Your peace and Your mercy in the midst of the great suffering of Your people. Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of the Church, so that by Your goodness, peace may return to all peoples; O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

We also pray You, O Lord our God, to remember and have mercy on our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Russia and Ukraine, who are involved in violent conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is **Meatfare Sunday**, the last day for eating meat before Great Lent. Tomorrow begins **Cheesefare week**, and then the **strict fast begins on Monday, March 7**.

The Church School has organized an outing to Stardust Bowl in Merrillville this afternoon at 3pm. All are welcome to come along. Kids will bowl free.

There is no Bible Study this week.

For coffee hour on Sunday March 13, the Church School teachers and families are spearheading a **Lenten potluck and recipe swap**. There will be several different Lenten dishes to sample, with copies of the recipe available to take home if you find something you like! Any are welcome to contribute a Lenten dish and bring their recipe to share. Copies can be made in the Church office.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Mar 5: **Feed the Flock** at First Presbyterian in Merrillville @ 11am

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

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

Mar 7-10: **The Great Canon of St Andrew** in four parts, 6p nightly

Mar 9: **Presanctified Divine Liturgy** @ 10am

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,875**

## **Statements on War in Ukraine from His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, our Archbishop Paul**

Dearly beloved children in the Lord,

In light of the distressing developments in Ukraine affecting millions of innocent people in the region, I wholeheartedly urge you to pray for peace and the well-being of our brothers and sisters who are enduring this tragic moment.

I ask that the hostilities be ceased immediately and that President Putin put an end to the military operations. As Orthodox Christians, we condemn violence and aggression.

I offer my support and prayers to my brother and concelebrant, His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy, who has the most difficult task of leading his beloved flock in this time of pain and anxiety. I also assure my prayers to the other religious leaders serving in Ukraine

who have the delicate task of leading their communities in these difficult times.

To our beloved Ukrainian brothers and sisters, as well to all of you who are certainly troubled and concerned about these recent developments, I offer the words that the Lord Himself offers to us through His Psalmist: “The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace (Ps 29:11).”

May we fervently offer our petition to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to have mercy on us “for the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all.”

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With great sorrow in my heart, I write to you regarding the tragic sufferings of the people of Ukraine. Many innocent people are being placed in harm’s way and have great fear for the safety of themselves and their loved ones.

I offer my brotherly support and prayers to His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy and echo his call to “intensified penitential prayer for Ukraine, for our army, and our people, and I entreat you to lay aside mutual strife and misunderstandings and unite in love for God and our motherland.”

I call on the clergy and the faithful of this diocese to increase their prayer and repentance, especially in the light of Great Lent, and to remember all those affected by this tragic conflict.

May God’s mercy, peace, and love rule us all.

+Paul  
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

**Glory to God for all things!**