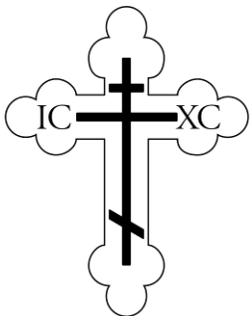
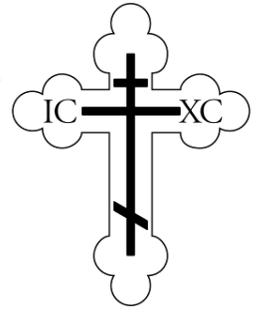


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## 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](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.**

## March 27, 2022

### 3rd Sunday of Great Lent:

# Veneration of the Lifegiving Cross

*On Sundays in Great Lent we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, on pg. 101 of the black Divine Liturgy Book*

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be

filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

This feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

# 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 of the Cross**

O Lord, save Your people,

and bless Your inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Your Cross,//

preserve Your habitation!

## **Tone 7 – Kontakion of the Cross**

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;

it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.

The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;

for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell://

“Enter again into Paradise!”

## **Instead of the Trisagion:**

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify! (*3x with prostrations*)

Glory... Now and ever... And Your holy Resurrection we glorify!

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify! (*prostration*)

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Cross (Psalm 27)**

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

## **Epistle: Hebrews 4.14 – 5.6**

Brethren: Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot

sympathize with our weaknesses; He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also, Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You."

As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

### **Gospel: Mark 8.34 – 9.1**

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**New Dep.** Jove Avramoski  
William Koveck  
Helen Homyk  
Milica Djankovich

**Ev.Mem.** Evtin Ilkov ('38)  
Fred Cook ('79)  
Delos Swallow (2000)  
Nicholas Vasil (2001)

**Health & Salv.**  
Archpr. Peter  
Mat. Anne  
Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer  
Andrew  
Gideon  
Kevin

Jon  
Tanya  
Jovan  
Tom

Jennifer	Ted	Michelle
Larry	James	Erika
Rollie	Pamela	Luke
Joseph	Alexander	Jo
Nadia	Ronald	Stephanie
Mark	Ken	Mary Ann
Jerry	William	Robb
Joseph	Wanda	Desiree
Linda	Ivanka	Hanna
Claudia	Aaron	Jaroslava
Ryan	Karen	Andrew
Nathan	Sandra	Andrew
Kara	Linda	Vadim
Dominic	Jim	Hanna
Declan	John	Helen Maria
Hudson	Martha	Alex
Ayden	Mark	Carl
Hyland	Michelle	Laura
Jason	Irene	Chrisan

\* If a name was removed from the prayer list prematurely, or you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

### **Special 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.

### **Communion Hymn for the Cross (Psalm 4)**

The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Eminence **Archbishop Paul** was diagnosed with **Multiforme Glioblastoma**, an aggressive, incurable brain cancer. The clergy and faithful of the diocese are asked to increase their prayers for His Eminence during this trying time.

**Deanery Lenten Vespers** this evening is at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine, IL at 6pm. **Our parish will host the deanery for Vespers on Sunday, April 3** and serve a dinner following. Please have a look at the sign-up sheet in the Narthex with needed supplies, and see if you can help that evening.

Thanks to the generosity of many of you, **all of the items have now been donated for the Easter Dinner baskets**, which the Church School will assemble and deliver to Merrillville Food Panty in time for Western Easter. Thank you!

The movie **Man of God**, based on the life of **St. Nectarios of Aegina**, is showing tomorrow evening, March 28 at Cinemark in Valparaiso.

Order forms for the **Pascha Bake Sale** are available in the Narthex. Orders are due Tuesday, April 5. Pick up will be Sunday, April 10.

On Monday, April 11 we will hold another **prospora baking tutorial** for anyone interested in learning how to make the communion bread. Baking starts at 10am, followed by lunch for all present. Please let Fr Jacob know if you plan to be there, so we can make sure to have enough supplies. Everything will be provided.

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians **make more time for prayer, deny themselves rich and satisfying foods** (meat, dairy, fish), and find opportunities to **help those in need** (almsgiving). They also examine their consciences and repent of their sins before the Lord in the **Sacrament of Confession**. Confession is always available before or after evening services. You can also make an appointment with Fr Jacob, including before Sunday Liturgy, if necessary.

## Mark your calendars:

Mar 27: **Deanery Lenten Vespers** at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine, IL @ 6pm (meal to follow)

Mar 29: **Moleben for Peace** in Ukraine @ 10am

Mar 30: **Presanctified Divine Liturgy** @ 6pm (Lenten potluck after)

Mar 31: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Apr 1: **Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am** (Lenten potluck after)

Apr 2: **Memorial Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's cemetery @ 10am**

Apr 3: We host **Deanery Lenten Vespers @ 6pm** (meal to follow)

Apr 7: **Great Canon and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt @ 10am**

Apr 9: **Annual Church Spring Cleaning @ 9a** (lunch provided)

Apr 11: **Prosphora Baking Class @ 10am**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,227**

# **Archpastoral Message on the Great Feast of Annunciation**

**from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon**

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

I greet you on this Feast of the Annunciation!

Today we celebrate “the revelation of the eternal mystery” as “the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin” (Festal Troparion). With deep thankfulness, we look to God for our salvation, which begins this day. We also give thanks to the Mother of God, because if she had not accepted the Archangel Gabriel’s message, she could not have played her critical part in Christ’s redemption of mankind from the tyranny of sin and death.

Today, then, is a feast of the victory of the cooperation between the human will and the will of God Himself. The Most Holy Theotokos achieved this victory not through the exercise of power or by clinging to worldly desires. Rather, the Lord’s victory came through her pious consent to the providential will of God and His loving care for all of humanity. In her humility, she chose to lay down all her own desires, her own plans, and her own will. She consistently “has chosen the good portion” (Lk 10:42) and found freedom in relinquishing her own autonomy to the limitless love of God. And so, through her, we now see revealed “the mystery hidden from all eternity” (cf. Col 1:26).

She gives us all hope that we too can make the choice to follow our Lord even into difficult, uncomfortable places. She is our inspiration to do the will of God in all circumstances: by turning the other cheek to an angry coworker, caring for a family member with a disability, or living faithfully in the countless other situations we find ourselves in every day.

Sometimes Christ asks us to do hard, even terrifying, things, like facing the reality of an addiction or refusing an abortion in the face of an unplanned pregnancy. Yet, even then, we can take comfort in abandoning our own will to the incomparable depths of the will of God, trusting ourselves to His compassionate mercy.

The Theotokos emptied herself and became overflowing with the Holy Spirit—all because of her words, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). May she inspire us all to greater depths of love and faith in God, as we sing on this day, “Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!”



I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

The Orthodox Church in America has always believed, upheld, preached, and defended the sanctity of human life from the time of conception in the womb.

# Glory to God for all things!