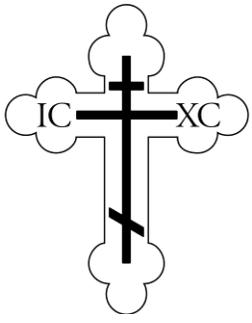


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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



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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
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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.

May 29, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Pascha:

The Blind Man

The Holy Martyrs of Atchara (Georgia)

Having attained victory in the Ottoman-Persian War, the Turks gained a large part of southern and western Georgia: Samtskhe, Atchara, and Chaneti were declared Turkish provinces. The invaders knew well that, in order to completely conquer the Georgian people, it was necessary to uproot Christianity. Thus, they instituted a systematic campaign of forced conversion to Islam. In Atchara the implanting of Islam faced a powerful opposition. Many of the elderly men and the majority of women stood firmly by the Christian Faith, and even challenged and debated the Turkish mullahs. In the end an order was issued: to arrest all dissidents, forcibly convert them to Islam, and execute those who resisted.

Before long all the elderly Christians of Atchara were arrested and cast in prison. Then they were led to the River Atcharistsqali, to a 12th-century bridge known as the 'Bridge of Queen Tamar.' On that bridge the Ottomans erected a guillotine. They chopped off the heads of the elderly people, sent the ends of their tongues to the pasha, and threw their bodies into the river. This happened in the year 1790.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Blind Man

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
and call to You in repentance://
“You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of Pascha

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women//
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the
fallen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Epistle: Acts 16.16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Gospel: John 9.1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore, the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

Therefore, they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

Then they said to him, "Where is He?"

He said, "I do not know."

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore, some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight.

And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was

Christ, they would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So they again called the man who was blind and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Metr. Hilarion

Archbishop Paul

Ronald Birch

Ev.Mem. Luka Frentzko ('36)

Sophie Smolinski ('78)

Steve Cidylo ('89)

Nicholas Krochta ('90)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Tom

Jennifer	Ronald	Andrew
Larry	Ken	Vadim
Rollie	William	Hanna
Joseph	Wanda	Helen Maria
Nadia	Ivanka	Alex
Mark	Aaron	Carl
Jerry	Karen	Laura
Joseph	Sandra	Chrisan
Linda	Linda	Janice
Claudia	Jim	Gerald
Carol	John	Olga
Snezana	Martha	Janie
Ryan	Mark	David
Nathan	Michelle	Sharon
Kara	Irene	Tanya
Djuro	Michelle	Renee
Dominic	Erika	Carissa
Declan	Luke	Ashton
Hudson	Jo	Doris
Ayden	Stephanie	Laura
Hyland	Mary Ann	Duane
Jason	Robb	Elizabeth
Ted	Desiree	Karen
James	Hanna	Alexa
Pamela	Jaroslava	Miriana
Alexander	Andrew	Olga

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

Special Petitions for Ukraine 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.

Paschal Theotokion (*Instead of "It is Truly Meet..."*)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.”

Rejoice, O you people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of your Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, read **Tobit 8-11**.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **this Saturday, June 4**, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Hobart. This is a major fundraiser for us. The proceeds will be used for the continuation, support, and development of various Church projects, which reach out to the community. Hole sponsors (\$125) or other monetary or prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to help in any way (including making desserts or appetizers), or to purchase banquet tickets (\$20 each), please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

On Sunday afternoon, June 26, from 1-5pm we will hold our **First Annual Choir Retreat** for new and returning choir members to learn new music and vocal technique. Dinner will be provided for all participants (and their families, if present) at the conclusion.

Mark your calendars:

May 30: **Memorial Day Grave Blessings** starting at St. Mary's Cemetery @ 9am

June 1: **Great Vespers for the Feast of Ascension @ 6pm**
Bible Study @ 7pm

June 2: **40-Day Panikhida for Archbishop Paul @ 9:30am**
Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Ascension @ 10am

June 4: **Annual Golf Outing**

June 11: Soul Saturday **Memorial Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary's Cemetery Chapel @ 10am

June 26: **Choir Retreat**, 1-5pm with dinner after

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,935

Statement on the Tragic School Shooting in Texas

by His Eminence, our Metropolitan Tikhon

Yesterday, we witnessed, once again, another instance of terrible and absurd evil perpetrated against the most vulnerable of God's beloved people: our children. We are filled with sadness and grief at the death of the many children, teachers, as well as those wounded in this tragic shooting at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

I exhort all the monastics, clergy, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to keep all those affected by this horrible event in their fervent prayers invoking our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ to grant comfort and peace to the afflicted families. It is in these especially tragic moments that we see more clearly why our Savior comes to us as the suffering servant, "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). Our Lord suffers with us so that He can also give us comfort and hope.

Although the young man who committed this atrocious act seems to have acted alone, we must acknowledge that any manifestation of violence is also a product of a world which all too often cherishes violence in its many forms. As Christians, we must always oppose any and all forms of violence giving instead that example that our Lord Himself gives us; one of meekness, gentleness, self-sacrifice, love, and patience.

There is no more heart-wrenching occasion than for a parent to lose one's child. I pray that our merciful Lord gives strength and hope to those parents who are now facing their darkest hour. May all who are grieving look towards the great day of the Lord when Christ will "wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away" (Rev 21:4).