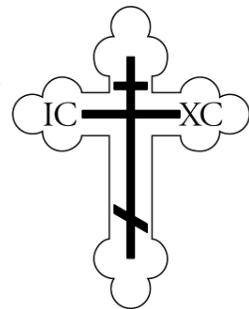
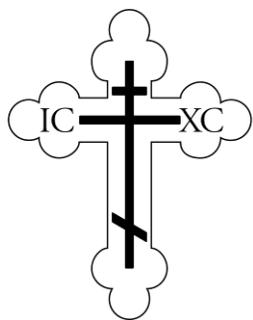


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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.

July 17, 2022

Synaxis of the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils

As the Church progressed through history, it was faced with many difficult decisions. The Church always settled difficulties and made decisions by reaching a consensus of opinion among all the believers inspired by God who were led by their appointed leaders, first the apostles and then the bishops.

The first church council in history was held in the apostolic church to decide the conditions under which the gentiles, that is, the non-Jews, could enter the Christian Church (see Acts 15). From that time on, all through history councils were held on every level of church life to make important decisions. Bishops met regularly with their priests, also called presbyters or elders, and people. It became the practice very early in church history that bishops in given regions should meet in councils held on a regular basis.

At times in church history, councils of all of the bishops in the church were called. All the bishops were not able to attend these councils, of course, and not all such councils were automatically approved and accepted by the Church in its Holy Tradition. In the Orthodox Church only seven such councils, some of which were actually quite small in terms of the number of bishops attending, have received the universal approval of the entire Church in all times and places. These councils have been termed the Seven Ecumenical Councils.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,//

granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated 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 the Holy Fathers

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!

You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion

My Savior and Redeemer, as God,

rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.

He has shattered the gates of hell,

and as Master,//

He has risen on the third day!

Tone 8 – Kontakion for the Holy Fathers

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

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 4 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom have You made them all!

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Epistle: Romans 10.1-10 (Sunday)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Hebrews 13.7-16 (Holy Fathers)

Brethren, remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you. Follow their faith, 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 lasting 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 8.28 – 9.1 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, where He met two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."

And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

John 17.1-13 (Holy Fathers)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this

is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New Dep. Helen Wein

Maria Helen

Walter McLean

Ev.Mem. Paul Svihra ('42)

Akulina Solovey ('74)

Fred Nepsha ('76)

Katherine Romansky (2010)

Maria Cowsert (2017)

Michael Marchuk (2019)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Tom

Jennifer

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Mark

Jerry

Joseph

Linda

Claudia

Carol

Snezana

Ryan

Nathan

Kara

Djuro

Dominic

Declan

Hudson	Irene	Olga
Ayden	Michelle	Janie
Hyland	Erika	David
Jason	Luke	Sharon
Ted	Jo	Tanya
James	Stephanie	Renee
Pamela	Mary Ann	Carissa
Alexander	Robb	Ashton
Ronald	Desiree	Doris
William	Hanna	Laura
Wanda	Jaroslava	Duane
Ivanka	Andrew	Elizabeth
Aaron	Andrew	Karen
Karen	Vadim	Alexa
Sandra	Hanna	Miriana
Linda	Alex	Olga
Jim	Carl	Richard
John	Laura	Klaudia
Martha	Chrisan	Nicodemus
Mark	Janice	Nada
Michelle	Gerald	

*If 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following veneration of the cross, please **go to your cars and open a door to prepare for the blessing**, which will take place immediately.

The **O-Club** will hold its monthly meeting during coffee hour today.

There is **no Bible Study this week**. Fr Jacob will be at the All-American Council on Baltimore.

Our first **Women's Book Club** meeting will be on Thursday, August 4th at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. We will meet every other Thursday evening. We are reading *Bringing Jesus to the Desert*. For anyone that is still interested in signing up, please see Matushka Jenna or Tiffany O'Day.

The Ladies' Sodality will hold their annual **Rummage Sale** this year for the first time since the pandemic! Sale days are Thursday and Friday, **August 11 and 12**. Parishioners are asked to donate their gently used items for sale. Items may be dropped off in the parish Library starting Sunday, July 31. Questions can be directed to Sodality president Mary Ann Bertram.

Mark your calendars:

July 24: **Church Picnic** in honor of St. Clement after Divine Liturgy

July 27: **Divine Liturgy @ St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church** in Summit, IL for their parish feast day @ 10am

Aug 1: Beginning of the **Dormition Fast** (Aug 1-14)

Aug 5: **Festal Vespers for the Feast of Transfiguration @ 6pm**

Aug 6: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Transfiguration @ 10am**

Aug 14: **Lamentations for the Theotokos** after coffee hour ~ 1pm

Aug 15: **Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 10am**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,764

Message at the beginning of the 20th All-American Council of the OCA From His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

Dear beloved children in the Lord,

I greet you all as we gather in Baltimore this July 18-22, 2022 for the 20th All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. This Council is an expression of the ongoing life of Christ's Church on the

North American continent and so we prayerfully entrust this gathering to the Holy Spirit, confident that He will guide our common work.

This Council takes as its theme “Becoming Vessels of Grace.” We know from the Apostle Paul that God, the great fashioner of all things, has fashioned us for His glory to become “vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom he has called” (Rom. 9:23). It is the calling of all Orthodox Christians to bear the mercy and grace of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ in the vessels of our hearts. Furthermore, it is our sacred privilege to bring this grace with us into a dark and suffering world.

I ask that we all keep this perspective in mind as we do the important work of this Council for the continuous edification of the Church and the further proclamation of the gospel of Christ. This work will take many forms, notably our Plenary Sessions. However, the critical work of this Council does not stop with the meetings and resolutions. Most of all we look forward to our worship and times of prayer. We also ask God’s blessing upon all the presentations, the youth program, and our fellowship together and pray for the Holy Spirit to be ever present with us in our gatherings.

As we begin the work of the 20th All-American Council, I remind you of our Lord’s words: “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:19). May this Council be a time of up-building, refreshment, and “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3) so that we might be stronger vessels of grace, useful for the Lord’s service.

Assuring you all of my archpastoral prayers, I remain sincerely yours in the love of Christ,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for all things!