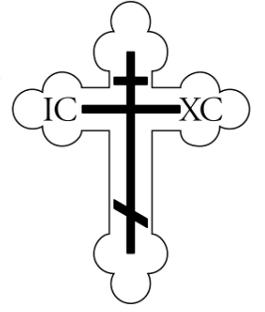
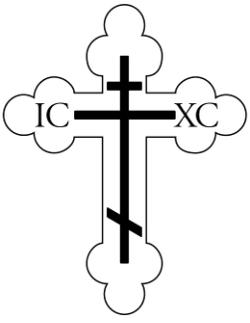


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America

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Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
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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.**

## December 4, 2022

## Holy Greatmartyr Barbara

## St. John of Damascus

## Hieromartyr Alexander Hotovitzky

## who labored in America

The New Martyr of Russia Alexander Hotovitzky was born on February 11, 1872 in the city of Kremenetz, into the pious family of Archpriest Alexander, who was Rector of the Volhynia Theological Seminary. After attending the seminary, Alexander graduated from Saint Petersburg Theological Academy with a Master's degree in 1895. He was then sent for missionary service to the Diocese of the Aleutians and North America, where he was assigned to the position

of reader at the newly-established St Nicholas Orthodox Church in New York City. Following his marriage to Maria Scherbuhina, St Alexander was ordained to the diaconate, and soon after, on February 25, 1896, to the priesthood. A week after his ordination, he assumed the pastorate of St Nicholas.

From 1898 to 1907, St Alexander served under the omophorion of Bishop Tikhon. St Tikhon, who in 1917 became Patriarch of Moscow, valued highly Father Alexander's sincere piety, his gift of pastoral love, and his multifaceted theological erudition. The spectrum of his activity in the United States was broad and fruitful. He was successful in missionary service, primarily among Uniates newly-emigrated from Galicia and Carpathian Rus. He was also one of the closest collaborators of the Orthodox bishops in America and represented the Orthodox Church before American religious institutions and meetings. Through Father Alexander's efforts, Orthodox parishes were established in Philadelphia, Yonkers, and Passaic as well as other towns throughout North America.

Fr Alexander also took upon himself the burden of constructing St Nicholas Cathedral in New York to replace the small parish church. The cathedral was to become an adornment of the city. He visited Orthodox communities throughout America soliciting funds for the construction of the Cathedral. In 1901, he also traveled to his homeland, Russia, for this purpose.

The pastoral service of St Alexander in America was concluded on February 26, 1914, exactly eighteen years after his ordination to the priesthood. In his farewell address, Father Alexander said, "Farewell, American Orthodox Rus—my dear Mother, the Holy American Church. I, your ever-grateful son, bow fully to the ground before you. You gave birth to me spiritually, you nurtured me, from your depths you inspired me by your strength. Through the shining witness of your founders, through the enlightened apostolic teachings of your preachers, through the fervor of your faithful flock, you have given me the greatest possible joy—to be your son."

From 1914 to 1917, Fr Alexander served as a priest in Helsinki, Finland. In August 1917, the newly-enthroned Patriarch Tikhon brought St Alexander to Moscow and assigned him to serve by his side at Christ the Savior Cathedral. During the difficult years of the Civil War, St Alexander collaborated closely with St Tikhon in the administration of the Moscow diocese.

Pastoral service at that time was accompanied by much grief and danger. In May 1920 and November 1921, Fr Alexander was

arrested for brief periods. He was accused of violating the decrees concerning the separation of the Church from the state, and the school from the Church, by holding church school for the children.

In 1922, the Church was subjected to harsh tribulations when, under the pretext of helping the starving, ecclesiastical treasures including sacred vessels, icons, and other holy things were violently confiscated by the state. Heeding the appeal of Her holy primate, the Orthodox Church made generous donations to assist the starving. However, when St Tikhon issued a statement to his flock throughout Russia forbidding the cooperation of the clergy in surrendering sacred vessels for non-ecclesiastical use based on canon law, a slanderous campaign against the Church was begun in the press, St Tikhon was arrested, and a wave of court cases took place throughout Russia, in which servants of the Lord's altar were accused of counter-revolutionary activity. During these trials many faithful servants of the Church of Christ were sentenced to death and shed their blood as hieromartyrs and martyrs.

During this difficult time, Father Alexander was unwaveringly guided by the statements of the Holy Patriarch to his flock and also followed his directives. Funds to assist the starving were collected at Christ the Savior Cathedral. At the same time, measures were undertaken to protect the sacred objects of this church. After two court cases against the Church, in Petrograd and Moscow, which resulted in the executions of hieromartyrs and martyrs, a new highly visible trial of clergy and laity, including St Alexander, began in Moscow on November 27, 1922, during which they were accused of supposedly "attempting to retain in their hands possession of church valuables and, through the resulting starvation, to topple the Soviet regime." On December 13, St Alexander was sentenced to ten years in prison, the confiscation of his personal property and the deprivation of his civil rights for five years.

After the holy Patriarch Tikhon resumed his administration of the Church and made several statements regarding loyalty to the governmental authorities, many hierarchs, clergy, church leaders and laity, who had previously received sentences from the judiciary in conjunction with the confiscation of church valuables, were granted amnesty. Father Alexander was among those freed in October 1923. He remained free for only a short time.

On September 9, 1924, by a decision of a special meeting of the administration of the Department of State Political Management, St Alexander was exiled to the Turuhan region for a period of three

years. His already failing health was further weakened by this sojourn in the far north.

Following his return from exile, Fr Alexander was raised to the rank of protopresbyter and became one of the closest assistants of Metropolitan (later Patriarch) Sergius, who knew him well since the time of his service in Finland.

In the 1930s, Protopresbyter Alexander served as rector of the Church of the Deposition of the Robe on Donskoy Street. One of the parishioners of this church recalls, "In 1936, Father Alexander did not preach, as he was apparently forbidden to do so. In 1936-7, I was present many times when Father Alexander served. He was a tall, gray-haired priest with gentle facial features, who looked extremely intelligent. Gray, trimmed hair, a small beard, very kind gray eyes, a high-pitched, loud tenor...pronounced exclamations distinctly and with inspiration...His appearance reminded me of many priests who were exiles from the western regions...Father Alexander had many parishioners who greatly revered him...Even today, I remember Father Alexander's eyes. It seemed as if his glance penetrated your heart and embraced it with affection. I had the same feeling when I saw the holy Patriarch Tikhon...The same light also shining in Father Alexander's eyes was testimony of his sanctity."

In the fall of 1937, the New Martyr Alexander was arrested again. The documentary evidence about him at our disposal ends here; however, many oral reports testify to his death as a martyr. The Orthodox Church in America, on whose territory St Alexander served as a priest until 1914, venerates him as a passion-bearer, whose life as a confessor ended with sufferings for Christ. The place of his burial is unknown.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion**

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

### **Tone 8 – Troparion to St Barbara**

Let us honor the holy Martyr Barbara,

for, as a bird, she escaped the snares of the Enemy,//

and destroyed them through the help and defense of the Cross!

### **Tone 8 – Troparion to St John**

O Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship,  
the enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs;  
all wise Father John, your teachings have gleamed with light upon  
all things.//

Intercede before Christ God to save our souls!

### **Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

By rising from the tomb You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.  
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//  
and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly  
Merciful One!

### **Tone 2 – Kontakion to St Alexander**

Hieromartyr Alexander,  
you bore labors and illness upon your shoulders,  
and joyfully took the narrow path of suffering for Christ,  
through which you attained the heavenly Kingdom.//  
Entreat God the Savior to grant us mercy on the Day of Judgment!

### **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 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)**

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

### **Epistle: Ephesians 5.1-6**

Brethren: I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk  
worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness  
and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,  
endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope  
of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father  
of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

## **Gospel: Luke 17.12-19**

At that time, As Jesus entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

So, when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So, Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**New. Dep.** Thomas Martin  
Donna Chabre

Jimmy Grosdanis  
Hanna Kostyuk

**Ev.Mem.** Eli Ivanyo ('13)  
Maria Dancheff ('15)  
Ignati Levchuk ('16)  
Sophie Holland ('43)  
Tekla Gabla ('45)

Paraskeve Grigorjew ('74)  
Agnes Panchak ('91)  
Lillian Green (2005)  
Anna Pronze (2016)

### **Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter  
Mat. Cynthia  
Archpr. John  
Mat. Anne  
Dn. Nicholas  
Kevin  
Jon  
Tanya  
Jovan  
Tom  
Jennifer  
Larry  
Rollie  
Joseph  
Nadia

Mark  
Jerry  
Joseph  
Linda  
Claudia  
Carol  
Snezana  
Ryan  
Nathan  
Kara  
Djuro  
Dominic  
Declan  
Hudson  
Ayden  
Hyland

Jason  
Ted  
James  
Pamela  
Alexander  
Ronald  
William  
Wanda  
Ivanka  
Aaron  
Karen  
Sandra  
Linda  
Jim  
John  
Martha

Mark	Chrisan	Richard
Michelle	Janice	Klaudia
Irene	Gerald	Nicodemus
Michelle	Olga	Nada
Erika	Janie	Mark
Luke	David	Catherine
Jo	Sharon	Aaron
Stephanie	Tanya	Ebony
Mary Ann	Renee	Peggy
Robb	Carissa	Sue
Desiree	Ashton	Victoria
Jaroslava	Doris	Janet
Andrew	Laura	Tom
Andrew	Duane	Wilma
Vadim	Elizabeth	Jerry
Hanna	Karen	Penelope
Alex	Alexa	Cora
Carl	Miriana	Brandi
Laura	Olga	Joyce

\*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**

There will be no **Bible Study** tomorrow night.

The **Advent** season of preparation for our Lord's birth began on **Tuesday November 15**. During this time, we rededicate ourselves to

**prayer**, especially by making a **confession**, we keep the **fast**, and we find opportunities to **give to those in need**. This Sunday we will take another special collection to purchase Christmas presents for two local families in need, which the parish children will buy and wrap as part of our **St. Nicholas celebration** on December 10.

The **St. Nicholas celebration is still scheduled for this Saturday** at 9am. We will begin with a brief Akathist Hymn to St. Nicholas. Afterwards, the children will have their activities, while everyone else will take part in **decorating the Church and Hall for Nativity**. Lunch will be provided.

**Thank you** to everyone who took an angel from our angel tree this year. The gifts will be delivered to the Salvation Army tomorrow. Questions can be directed to Nada Bucek.

The **group trip to see Fr Peter and Cynthia** which was to happen this week, **has been postponed** until after the holidays due to illness.

For holiday shopping, you can help support our parish by **ordering gift cards** through the **Scrip** program (find Lara Richards' table during coffee hour). And if you do any shopping through Amazon, if you begin at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select "Protection of the Virgin Mary Church" as your charity of choice, a small percentage of every purchase also comes back to PTVM.

### **Mark your calendars:**

**Dec 10: Church School St. Nicholas Celebration and Church Decorating @ 9am**

**Dec 13: Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Herman of Alaska** at St. Elizabeth's in Chesterton (time TBD)

**Dec 23: Royal Hours of Nativity @ 10am**

**Dec 24: Great Vespers for the Nativity of our Lord @1pm**  
**Vigil for the Nativity of our Lord @ 6pm**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,858**

# **Glory to God for all things!**