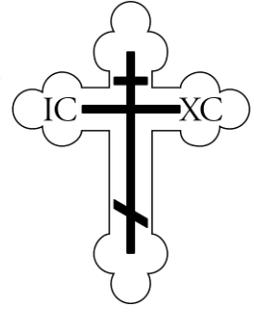
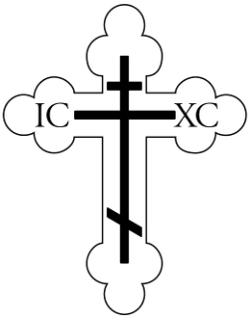


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America

8600 Grand Blvd.  
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.**

# January 22, 2023

## Holy New Martyrs of Russia

## Apostle and Hieromartyr Timothy

## Sanctity of Life Sunday

### 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 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:  
Enccompass 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 4 – Troparion of St Timothy**

Having learned goodness and maintaining continence in all things,  
you were arrayed with a good conscience as befits a priest.  
From the Chosen Vessel you drew ineffable mysteries;  
you kept the Faith, and finished a course equal to his.//  
Hieromartyr Timothy, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

#### **Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

The dominion of death  
can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

#### **Tone 3 – Kontakion for the New Martyrs**

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white robes before the  
Lamb of God,  
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:  
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor,  
and power, and strength be to our God//  
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

#### **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 7 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)**

The Lord shall give strength to His people.  
The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

## **Tone 7 – Prokeimenon of the Martyrs (Psalm 45)**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a help in afflictions that severely befall us!

### **Epistle: 1 Timothy 1.15-17 (Sunday)**

Brethren: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **Romans 8.28-39 (New Martyrs)**

Brethren: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are the called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, those whom He predestined He also called; those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel: Luke 18.35-43 (Sunday)**

At that time it happened, as Jesus was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So, they told him that Jesus of

Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

So, Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

### **Luke 18.35-43 (New Martyrs)**

Jesus said to His disciples: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore, do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places and famines and pestilences, and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

"Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls."

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**New.Dep.** Thomas Mosak  
Terry Tutterow  
Archpr. Theodore Panchak  
Tony Klassen

**Ev.Mem.** John Levich ('47)  
Peter Branoff ('53)  
Mary Hrinyo ('74)  
Rose Sprigel ('75)

**Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter  
Mat. Cynthia  
Archpr. John  
Mat. Anne  
Dn. Nicholas  
Kevin  
Jon  
Tanya  
Jovan  
Tom  
Jennifer  
Rollie  
Joseph  
Nadia  
Joseph  
Linda  
Claudia  
Carol  
Snezana  
Ryan  
Nathan  
Kara  
Djuro  
Dominic  
Declan  
Hudson  
Ayden  
Hyland  
Jason  
Ted  
James  
Pamela  
Alexander  
Ronald  
Ivanka  
Karen  
Sandra  
Linda

Jim  
John  
Martha  
Mark  
Michelle  
Irene  
Michelle  
Erika  
Luke  
Jo  
Stephanie  
Mary Ann  
Robb  
Desiree  
Jaroslava  
Andrew  
Andrew  
Vadim  
Hanna  
Alex  
Carl  
Laura  
Chrisan  
Gerald  
Olga  
Janie  
David  
Sharon  
Tanya  
Renee  
Carissa  
Ashton  
Doris  
Laura  
Duane  
Elizabeth  
Karen  
Alexa  
Miriana

Olga  
Richard  
Klaudia  
Nicodemus  
Nada  
Mark  
Catherine  
Aaron  
Dale  
Ebony  
Peggy  
Sue  
Victoria  
Janet  
Tom  
Wilma  
Jerry  
Penelope  
Cora  
Brandi  
Joyce  
Paul  
Galina  
Michael  
Helen  
Kathleen  
Rachel  
Martha  
N.III. Bradley  
Courtney  
Marley  
Caleb  
Miette  
Iris  
Charlotte  
Solomon  
Rafael  
Gabriel

\*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.

Again, we pray that You will grant to the people of this nation the will to do good, to flee from evil, and to practice all righteousness, making us respectful of life and sharers of Your blessings, caring for one another in mercy and truth.

Again, we pray that You will banish all evil from our hearts and wickedness from our laws, enabling us to be servants of Your holy will and performers of Your Love.

Again, we pray that You will kindle in our hearts the will to care for the needy, to show kindness to the poor, to aid the homeless and help the helpless.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There is **no Bible Study tomorrow night**. It returns Jan 30.

Every year, **Orthodox Christian homes are blessed with the new holy water of Theophany**. Make an appointment with Fr Jacob to have your home blessed. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

A **Choir master class** will be held today from 2-5pm, with dinner after in the parish hall. All current and aspiring choir members are encouraged to attend.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Jan 26: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

**Women's Book Group @ 6pm**

Jan 27: **Blood Drive 12 – 6pm**

Jan 29: **Festal Vespers for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs @ 1pm**

Jan 30: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs @ 10am**

Feb 1: **Festal Vespers for the Meeting of the Lord @ 6pm**

Feb 2: **Divine Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord @ 10am**

Feb 8: **Guys' Night Out @ 6pm** (location TBD)

Feb 12: **Annual Parish Meeting & potluck lunch** after Divine Liturgy

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,754**

# **Message on the Sanctity of Life**

## **from His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon**

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

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

From the earliest times, Christians have been at variance with the world because of their reverence toward sexuality, marriage, and human life at all its stages. In the post-apostolic Epistle to Diognetus, very possibly from the pen of St. Polycarp, the disciple of St. John the Theologian, we read that Christians 'marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh' (ch. 5).

Rather than viewing pleasure and fleeting happiness as the supreme good, Christians know that virtue, a rightly-ordered relationship with God and the world which he created, is what leads up toward true goodness, which is God himself. Another word for this right relationship with the Creator is life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and incarnate Word came to tear down the dividing wall of hostility between God and man and restore us to our friendship with the Divinity, which friendship had eroded because of sin (Eph. 2:14). Thus, he is revealed to be the Life and Light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 11:25, 14:6), the one in whom and through whom we enter into a rightly-ordered relationship with existence and the Source of existence, and who shows us what that relationship—virtue—is, and where it leads—eternal life, eternal relationship with the Lord and his saints.

Life, for Christians, means far more than biological life. And yet this deeper and broader conception of life should only increase our reverence for biological life. For, in Christ, we understand that every human being is created in the image of God, and that every human life is a free gift of the Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift (Gen. 1:27, Jam. 1:17).

Thus, we understand that there is no opposition between reverence for life and true human flourishing. Or, to cast the matter more bluntly, we can never accept abortion and infanticide as a solution for other human ills. Rather, we must see the sins of abortion and infanticide as manifestations of the same evils that underlie other social injustices.

This year, Sanctity of Life Sunday has taken on a new meaning. The Supreme Court has undone, as far as lies in its power, the injustice wrought by its decision in the case of *Roe v. Wade*. But this means that our work in defense and promotion of life is only just beginning.

We know that, as soon as Christians gained a voice in the Roman Empire, that used that voice to speak against the enormities that the Empire committed against human dignity: slavery, gladiator and beast fights, and, yes, abortion and infanticide. As long as we Orthodox Christians have some voice in this pluralistic, democratic society, it is right that we use this voice to defend the weakest among us, including especially the unborn children who still lie under threat of legalized abortion in many jurisdictions.

But we must never, ever allow ourselves to become focused solely on political, and much less partisan and ideological, pursuits. Instead, the defense and promotion of life must start and end with our personal commitment: in our hearts, in our families, in our parishes, in our communities, with alms of time and treasure and talent and effort. With whatever resources God may give us, we must promote true human flourishing, starting with the right to life for all people, at all stages of life. And we must do what we can to orient our life toward God through virtuous living, encouraging the same in our brethren and neighbors wherever and however it is possible. In so doing, we might hope to attain to the everlasting life and bountifulness of the heavenly kingdom, where Christ the Lord reigns with his Father and his All-holy and life-giving Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

# Glory to God for all things!