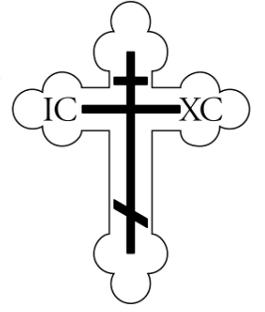
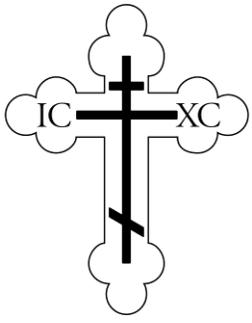


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.

March 5, 2023

1st Sunday of Great Lent:

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

*On Sundays in Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of
St. Basil the Great.*

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 2 – Troparion of Orthodoxy Sunday

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You:
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//
by coming to save the world.”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of Orthodoxy Sunday

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to
be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to
divine beauty.//
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for Orthodoxy Sunday (Daniel 3)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 11.24-26, 32 – 12.2

Brethren: By faith Moses, when he came of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting release, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mocking and scourging, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted,

tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, since God had provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus—the author and finisher of our faith—who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: John 1.43-51

At that time, Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found the One Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote about – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New. Dep. David May

Ratka Traycoff

Ev.Mem. Julia Matsueff ('31)

Stephan Saganovich ('24)

Gregory Luzik ('54)

Catherine Janowski ('55)

Archpr. Spiro Tanaskoski ('95)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Cynthia
Archpr. John
Pr. Patrick
Mat. Anne
Dn. Nicholas
Kevin
Jon
Tanya
Jovan
Tom
Jennifer
Rollie
Joseph
Nadia
Joseph
Linda
Claudia
Carol
Snezana
Ryan
Nathan
Kara
Djuro
Paula
Christopher
Karen
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
Dara
Jaroslava
Andrew
Andrew
Vadim
Hanna
Alex
Carl
Laura
Chrisan
Gerald
Olga
Janie
Sharon
Tanya
Renee
Michael
Chris
Nina
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
Helen
Kathleen
Rachel
Martha
Stephanie
Thomas
Diane
Michael
Linda
Stephanie
Rdr. Paul

*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.

*At the end of Divine Liturgy, we hold the **Triumph of Orthodoxy procession** with the children in the nave.*

Tone 2 – Troparion of Orthodoxy Sunday

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: "You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,// by coming to save the world."

Priest: The Church of God has established that on this day we give yearly thanksgiving to God and reaffirm the dogmas of piety. Therefore, following the sayings of the prophets, honoring the exhortations of the apostles, and being instructed by the histories of the Gospels, we celebrate this day of consecration. For Isaiah says: "Be consecrated to God, you islands," by which he means the churches of the many nations, which are not the structures and embellishments of the temples, but rather the gathering of the faithful who serve God with hymns and praise. The Apostle also exhorts us "to walk in newness of life" and that the "new creation in Christ" be renewed. For He has delivered us who are unworthy from adversity, redeeming us from those who afflicted us. And He has established the free proclamation of piety, the veneration of icons, and this Festival which brings all of us salvation. For in the icons we see what our Master bore for us: the Cross, the grave, hell slain and pillaged; we see the trials of His witnesses and their crowns of

salvation, which our First Prize-giver and Contest-master and Crown-bearer wrought in the midst of the earth. Today we celebrate this festival; we rejoice together with prayers and processions, and we cry out with psalms and hymns:

**Choir: Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God, who alone does wonders!**

Priest: For You overthrew those who slighted Your glory and showed them to be cowards and fugitives who were disrespectful and impudent against the icons. Therefore, as the prophets have seen, as the apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the teachers have set forth in dogmas, as has been made known to the whole world, as Grace has shone forth, as the truth was demonstrated, as falsehood has been banished, as wisdom emboldened, as Christ has awarded: thus we believe, thus we speak, thus we preach Christ our true God and His saints, honoring them in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in temples, and in icons, worshipping and respecting Christ as God and Master and honoring the Saints with relative adoration, because of our common Master, for they are His genuine servants.

People: This is the Faith of the apostles! This is the Faith of the fathers! This is the Faith of the Orthodox! This is the Faith that has established the world!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This evening at 6:30pm, the Chicagoland **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** service will be held at Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, IL. Our Archbishop Daniel will give the homily.

The **Chicago Deanery Lenten Vespers** return at 6pm on Sundays:

Next Sunday, March 12, at St. Nicholas Church in Kenosha, WI

March 19 at St. Nicholas Church in Joliet, IL

March 26 at St. George Cathedral in Chicago, IL

April 2 at St. Elizabeth's Church in Chesterton, IN

April 9 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago, IL

Mark your calendars:

**Mar 24: Annunciation Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts @ 10am
Blood Drive 12pm-5pm**

Mar 25: Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Annunciation @ 10am

Mar 30: Canon of St. Andrew & Life of St. Mary of Egypt @ 10am

Apr 1: Church Spring Cleaning @ 9am

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,188

Message for the Start of Great Lent

from His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

Open to me the doors of repentance O Giver of Life; for my spirit rises early to pray towards Thy Holy Temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled. But in Thy Compassion purify me by the loving kindness of Thy Mercy.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The “Doors of Repentance” have been opened for us, and we have entered into the special season of grace, the 40-day period of the Church’s year, which is known as **Great Lent** or the **Great Fast**. Indeed, it is repentance, and fasting and abstinence which are the chief hallmarks of our observance of this grace-filled season. While we dedicate more time to prayer and study of the Holy Scriptures, participate more fully in the Church’s services, and reach out in charity to those in need, it is fasting of which we are most conscious in our day-to-day of life. But fasting from the foods (i.e. limiting the amount we eat and drink) and abstinence from many types of food (i.e. not consuming any animal products and foregoing alcoholic beverages) is not an exercise we perform for its own sake. Rather, the fasting discipline to which the Church calls us is intended not only as a form of penance and self-denial, but to help us focus on our spiritual lives so that we might grow in holiness as we prepare to renew within ourselves the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saint John Chrysostom speaks about the importance fasting in one of his most memorable sermons. He emphasizes that fasting is not just about eating and drinking less or abstaining from certain foods. He states, “I have said these things, not that we may disparage fasting, but that we may honor fasting; for the honor of fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices; since he who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from meats is one who especially disparages it. Do you fast? Give me

proof of it by your works! Is it said by what kind of works? If you see a poor man, take pity on him! If you see an enemy, be reconciled to him! If you see a friend gaining honor, envy him not! If you see a handsome woman, pass her by! For let not the mouth alone fast, but also the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and the hands, and all the members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being pure from loose living and avarice. Let the feet fast, by ceasing from running to the unlawful spectacles. Let the eyes fast, being taught never to fix themselves rudely upon handsome countenances, or to busy themselves with strange beauties.” Saint John Chrysostom, the preacher with the “golden mouth,” counsels us not only to embrace fasting, but, as we embrace it, to look beyond the spiritual practice of fasting and realize that, if our fasting is to have any merit, if it is to make any difference in our lives, it must have an impact in all the areas of our life.

We are only at the beginning of the Fast, and the weeks ahead can become more challenging and more tedious with each passing day—but, despite frustration or even boredom with the fast, we strive to remain faithful to it nonetheless. So, as we strive to be faithful to the Church’s fasting discipline, let’s also reflect upon the impact that our fasting has in our daily lives. As a result of our fasting, are we more loving? Are we more caring for those around us, and reaching out to those in need? Are we curbing our tongues? Are we less tempted by the world and its enticements? If we can answer “yes” to these questions, then we see that the fast is at work within us and is bearing its own fruit.

The Lenten journey we are about to begin can be difficult. But we do not begin this journey alone. Indeed, we are surrounded by our fellow-strugglers, our brothers and sisters in Christ who are walking the same Lenten path we are walking. May our mutual support and our prayers for one another encourage and strengthen us all so that, together, we may arrive at the bright and joyous day of Pascha. As we begin our Lenten journey to Pascha, be assured of my blessing and of my prayers for you, your families and friends, and for all our brothers and sisters within this God-protected Diocese.

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Glory to God for all things!