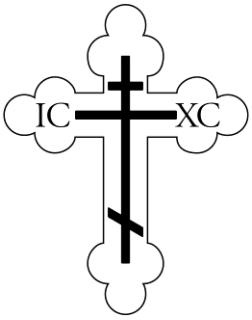
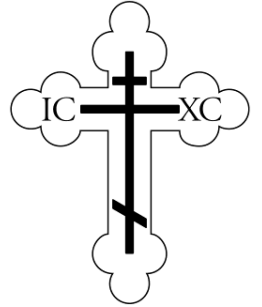


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.**

## April 23, 2023 Thomas Sunday Holy Greatmartyr George

### HYMNS OF THE DAY

#### Tone 7 – Troparion for Thomas Sunday

When we were buried with You in baptism, O Christ God,  
we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection.

Now we praise You and sing:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

#### Tone 4 – Troparion for St. George

You were bound for good deeds, O martyr of Christ George;  
by faith you conquered the torturer’s godlessness.

You were offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God,  
thus you received the crown of victory.//

Through your intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

#### **Tone 4 – Kontakion for St. George**

God raised you as His own gardener, O George,  
for you have gathered for yourself the sheaves of virtue.  
Having sown in tears, you now reap with joy;  
you shed your blood in combat and won Christ as your crown.//  
Through your intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

#### **Tone 8 – Kontakion for Thomas Sunday**

Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,  
when You came to Your Apostles through closed doors.//  
He cried out with all: “You are my Lord and my God!”

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Tone 3 – Prokeimenon for Thomas Sunday (Psalm 146)**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,  
His understanding is beyond measure!

#### **Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St. George (Psalm 63)**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him!

#### **Epistle: Acts 5.12-20 (Sunday)**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people through the hands of the apostles. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

#### **Acts 12.1-11 (St. George)**

Now about that time, Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also.

Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread, so when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so, he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So, he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

### **Gospel: John 20.19-31 (Sunday)**

On the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in

the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

### **John 15.17 – 16.2 (St. George)**

Jesus said to His disciples: “These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Ev.Mem.** Helen Spravtsov (’15)  
Jacob Kadish (’33)

Mat. Ann Rozdelsky (2002)  
Archbp. Paul Gassios (2022)

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Karen	Elizabeth
Archpr. Peter	Sandra	Karen
Mat. Cynthia	Linda	Alexa
Archpr. John	Jim	Olga
Pr. Patrick	John	Richard
Mat. Anne	Martha	Klaudia
Mat. Catherine	Mark	Nicodemus
Kevin	Michelle	Nada
Jon	Irene	Mark
Tanya	Michelle	Catherine
Jovan	Erika	Aaron
Tom	Luke	Dale
Jennifer	Jo	Ebony
Rollie	Stephanie	Peggy
Joseph	Mary Ann	Sue
Nadia	Dara	Victoria
Joseph	Jaroslava	Janet
Linda	Andrew	Tom
Claudia	Andrew	Diane
Carol	Vadim	Wilma
Snezana	Hanna	Jerry
Ryan	Viktor	Penelope
Nathan	Alex	Cora
Kara	Carl	Brandi
Djuro	Laura	Joyce
Paula	Chrisan	Paul
Christopher	Gerald	Galina
Karen	Olga	Helen
Dominic	Janie	Kathleen
Declan	Sharon	Rachel
Hudson	Tanya	Martha
Ayden	Renee	Stephanie
Hyland	Michael	Thomas
Jason	Chris	Diane
Ted	Nina	Michael
James	Carissa	Linda
Pamela	Ashton	Stephanie
Alexander	Doris	Nathan
Ronald	Laura	Cindy
Ivanka	Duane	Nathaniel

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

## **Special Petition at the Augmented Litany:**

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially 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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

After venerating the cross, we will serve the **1-year memorial for Archbishop Paul**, and the **21-year memorial for Mat. Ann Rozdelsky**.

**Thank you** to all the members of the O-Club for putting on an excellent **Trivia Night on Friday**. We had a record attendance and raised over **\$1,500 for Mommy's Haven** maternity home.

**Bible Study returns tomorrow** at 7pm starting anew with the Acts of the Apostles. Read **Acts 1-4** to prepare.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 3**, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Hobart. This is a major fundraiser for us. 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 tickets, please see Rich Svihra, Nick Rozdelsky, or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

It is time once again to **reset our parish prayer list**. Please email Fr Jacob with the names of those who still need our ongoing prayer. Thank you!

### **Mark your calendars:**

Apr 24: **Memorial Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral** for the 1-year anniversary of the falling asleep of Archbishop Paul @ 9:30  
**Bible Study @ 7pm**

Apr 25: **Radonitsa (Day of Rejoicing)** service and grave blessings at St. Mary's cemetery @ 10am, followed by BYO picnic

Apr 27: **Women's Book Group @ 6pm**

Apr 29: **Feed the Flock** at First Presbyterian in Merrillville @ 11am

May 6: **Spring Outdoor Cleanup @ 9am**; lunch provided

**Last two week's gifts to the Lord: \$8,059 & \$5,764**

# Paschal Message

## of His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Venerable  
Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the God-protected  
Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest,

*The Angel proclaimed Thee, the crucified and buried Master. He told  
the women: "Come, see the place where He lay! He is risen as He  
said, for He is almighty." We worship Thee, O only immortal One.  
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!*

Dearly Beloved in Christ: Christ is risen!

The Gospel of Saint Matthew tells us that the good news of Christ's Resurrection was first heard and then first proclaimed by the Holy Myrrhbearing Women. These faithful disciples, on their early morning mission to anoint the Lord's body, encountered an angel sitting on the stone that had miraculously been rolled away from the Lord's tomb. The angel greeted them with the words, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.' So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to bring His disciples word" (Matthew 28: 5-8).

This Gospel passage describes how the frightened women quickly left Jesus' tomb. Jesus Himself then appears to them, saying: "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me" (v. 10). With these words, the Risen One entrusts the women with the mandate to evangelize: "Go. Tell." Indeed, these holy and faithful disciples of the Lord had offered an admirable example of faithfulness, of dedication, and of love for Christ throughout the time of His public ministry. This was followed by their fidelity during the dark days of His passion. Now they are rewarded by Him with the distinction of being the first to proclaim His victory over sin and death.

First the women, then the disciples, and Peter in particular, were granted to bear witness to the reality of the resurrection. Fifty days later, on the great day of Pentecost, Peter declared with faith,



courage, and conviction: “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:32). From that moment on, the proclamation of the Resurrection of Christ has “gone out into all the universe” and has reached the four corners of the earth. This good news has become the message of hope for all peoples of all times and places. Jesus’ Resurrection tells us that death does not have the last word, life does. As Saint John Chrysostom reminds us in his Paschal Homily: “O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave! For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.” This is, indeed, our hope. This is the good news of the Gospel.

Christ is risen! Because of this, it is possible to look with hope at every moment of our lives, even the most difficult ones. This is the message of hope that we are called to proclaim with words, and above all through the witness of life. May this news resound in our homes and in our hearts: “Christ is risen!” May this certainty strengthen the faith of every baptized person, and above all, encourage all those around us and throughout the world who are facing greater suffering and difficulty.

As we gather in our churches to celebrate the Feast of Feasts, with the Holy Women we once again hear the Angel proclaim that Christ is risen! This joyous proclamation has resounded throughout the centuries and has taken root in the hearts of millions of Christians. In our own day, it has become our own message of hope, a message we are called to share with the world around us.

I invite you to join me in prayer, asking the Risen Lord to grant His peace to our troubled world and His light to all whose lives are darkened by hopelessness and despair. I also extend my blessing to you, to your families, and to all your friends and loved ones, as well as my heartfelt best wishes for a bright and blessed celebration of Holy Pascha.

With love in the Risen Lord,

+ DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

# Glory to God for all things!