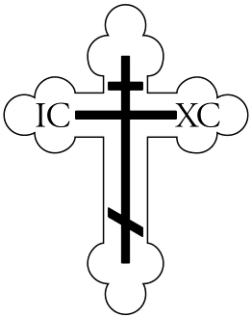
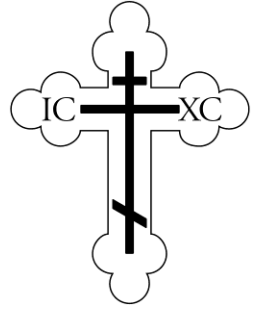


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.**

## May 21, 2023

### Sixth Sunday of Pascha:

# The Blind Man

## Sts Constantine and Helen

### 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 8 – Troparion for St Constantine**

Your servant, Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man,  
beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens.  
Like Paul, not having received his call from men,  
but as an apostle among rulers set by Your hand over the royal city,//  
he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

### **Tone 3 – Kontakion for Sts Constantine and Helen**

Today Constantine and his mother Helen reveal the precious Cross,  
the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies,//  
for it is manifest for us as a great and fearful sign in struggle.

### **Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Blind Man**

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,  
and call to You in repentance://  
“You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

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

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

### **Tone 8 – Prokeimenon for Sts Constantine and Helen (Psalm 18)**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the universe!

### **Epistle: Acts 16.16-34 (Sunday)**

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.”

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

### **Acts 26.1-5, 12-20 (Saints)**

In those days, Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself."

So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore, I beg you to hear me patiently.

"My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and

commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.

“And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

“So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’

“And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”

### **Gospel: John 9.1-38 (Sunday)**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore, the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am he.”

Therefore, they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they said to him, “Where is He?”

He said, "I do not know."

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore, some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight.

And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, they would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So they again called the man who was blind and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is

a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”

Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

**John 10.1-9 (Saints)**

Jesus said to the Jews who came to Him: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

|                                    |                |                                    |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>New. Dep.</b> Anthony Vuckovich |                | Anne Springman                     |
| Richard Cain                       |                | <b>Ev.Mem.</b> Freida Boblik ('82) |
| Joann Barsich                      |                |                                    |
| <b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>          | Mat. Anne      | Rollie                             |
| Archpr. Peter                      | Mat. Catherine | Nadia                              |
| Mat. Cynthia                       | Kevin          | Joseph                             |
| Archpr. John                       | Jon            | Linda                              |
| Pr. Gregory                        | Tanya          | Claudia                            |
| Pr. Patrick                        | Jovan          | Carol                              |

|             |           |             |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Snezana     | Andrew    | Diane       |
| Ryan        | Vadim     | Brandi      |
| Nathan      | Hanna     | Joyce       |
| Kara        | Viktor    | Galina      |
| Djuro       | Gerald    | Thomas      |
| Paula       | Christine | Diane       |
| Christopher | Olga      | Michael     |
| Karen       | Janie     | Linda       |
| Alexandra   | Sharon    | Stephanie   |
| Jonathan    | Tanya     | Nathan      |
| Christine   | Renee     | Cindy       |
| Zoey        | Michael   | Nathaniel   |
| Dominic     | Chris     | Tamara      |
| Declan      | Nina      | Dennis      |
| Hudson      | Carissa   | Maria       |
| Ronald      | Duane     | Elizabeth   |
| Mary Ann    | Elizabeth | Jonah       |
| Dara        | Olga      | Susan       |
| Jaroslava   | Klaudia   | Mark        |
| Andrew      | Tom       | Christopher |

\*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.

### Paschal Theotokion (*instead of It is Truly Meet...*)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:  
 “Rejoice, rejoice O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,  
 your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
 With Himself He has raised all the dead.”  
 Rejoice, rejoice O ye people!  
 Shine, shine, shine O new Jerusalem!  
 The glory of the Lord has shone on you.  
 Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion!  
 Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,  
 in the Resurrection, the resurrection of your Son!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study this week**, read Acts 7-10.

Next Sunday we will celebrate the **end of the Church School Year**.

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.

The Diocese of the Midwest has released its own communications app called **Our Diocese**. It is safe, free of ads or other outside influence, and available at no cost. Get it from your phone's app store or create an account at **our.domoca.org**. Then request to join our parish group: Protection of the Virgin Mary Church.

## Mark your calendars:

May 22: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

May 24: **Festal Vespers for Ascension @ 6pm**

May 25: **Divine Liturgy for Ascension @ 10am**  
**Women's Book Group @ 7pm**

May 26: **Blood Drive 12pm - 6pm**

May 29: **Memorial Day Grave Blessings** starting at St. Mary's Cemetery @ 9am

June 3: **PTVM Golf Outing**  
**General Panikhida for Memorial Saturday @ 5:30pm**

June 5: **Feast Day Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 9:30a**

June 10-11: **Women's Retreat at Holy Dormition Monastery**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,997**

# Glory to God for all things!