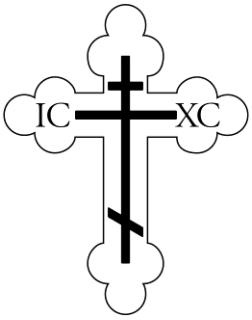
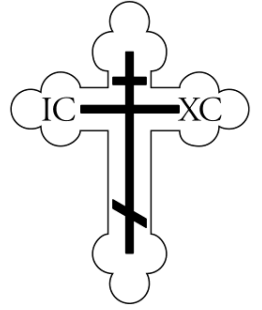


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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 30, 2023

Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

Holy Apostle James

Today the Church honors the Myrrh-bearing women, those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Those whose names we know are: Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Joanna, Salome (mother of the sons of Zebedee), Martha and Mary (sisters of Lazarus) and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James and Joses. With them we also remember St Joseph of Arimathea and St Nicodemus, who asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then laid it in a tomb.

The Holy Apostle James, the son of Zebedee, was the brother of St John the Theologian, and one of the Twelve Apostles. He and his brother, St John, were called to be Apostles by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who called them the “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17). It was this James, with John and Peter, who witnessed the Raising of the Daughter of Jairus, the Lord’s Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, and His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

St James, after the Descent of the Holy Spirit, preached in Spain and in other lands, and then he returned to Jerusalem. He openly and boldly preached Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and he denounced the Pharisees and the Scribes with the words of Holy Scripture, reproaching them for their malice of heart and unbelief.

The Jews persuaded Herod Agrippa to arrest the Apostle James and sentence him to death (Acts 12:1-2). Eusebius provides some of the details of the saint’s execution (CHURCH HISTORY II, 9). St James calmly heard the death sentence and continued to bear witness to Christ. One of the false witnesses, whose name was Josiah, was struck by the courage of St James. He came to believe in Jesus Christ as the Messiah. When they led the apostle forth to execution, Josiah fell at his feet, repenting of his sin and asking forgiveness. The apostle embraced him, gave him a kiss and said, “Peace and forgiveness to you.” Then Josiah confessed his faith in Christ before everyone, and he was beheaded with St James in the year 44 at Jerusalem. St James was the first of the Apostles to die as a martyr.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 2 – Troparion for Sts Joseph and Nicodemus

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 8 – Troparion for St. James

You were called to be a disciple and warrior of Christ, one of the exalted choir of Apostles.
With your brother John, you abandoned all to follow the Master, O James;
you were filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed Him to all.
You bowed your head to the sword, the first of the twelve to shed your blood!//
We celebrate your memory, O blessed one!

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. James

O James, when you heard the voice of the Word calling you,
you abandoned your father's love and ran to Christ, together with your brother John.
With him you were accounted worthy//
to behold the divine Transfiguration of Christ.

Tone 8 – Kontakion for the Myrrhbearers

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.
You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles//
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

Tone 8 – Prokeimenon for St. James (Psalm 18)

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

Epistle: Acts 6.1-7 (Sunday)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom

we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 12.1-11 (St. James)

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: Mark 15.43 – 16.8 (Sunday)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled

that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then he bought fine linen, took Jesus down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

So, they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Luke 5.1-11 (St. James)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.”

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

New. Dep. Anne SpringmanJames Spasoff (‘85)
Ev.Mem. Desanka Nastich (’16)Eli Orlich (2003)
Dacha Blizhakoff (’57)

Health & Salv.	Karen	Luke
Archpr. Peter	Jonathan	Jo
Mat. Cynthia	Christine	Stephanie
Archpr. John	Zoey	Mary Ann
Pr. Patrick	Dominic	Dara
Mat. Anne	Declan	Jaroslava
Mat. Catherine	Hudson	Andrew
Kevin	Ayden	Andrew
Jon	Hyland	Vadim
Tanya	Jason	Hanna
Jovan	Ted	Viktor
Tom	James	Alex
Jennifer	Pamela	Carl
Rollie	Alexander	Laura
Joseph	Ronald	Chrisan
Nadia	Ivanka	Gerald
Joseph	Karen	Olga
Linda	Sandra	Janie
Claudia	Linda	Sharon
Carol	Jim	Tanya
Snezana	John	Renee
Ryan	Martha	Michael
Nathan	Mark	Chris
Kara	Michelle	Nina
Djuro	Irene	Carissa
Paula	Michelle	Ashton
Christopher	Erika	Doris

Laura	Sue	Martha
Duane	Victoria	Stephanie
Elizabeth	Janet	Thomas
Karen	Tom	Diane
Alexa	Diane	Michael
Olga	Wilma	Linda
Richard	Jerry	Stephanie
Klaudia	Penelope	Nathan
Nicodemus	Cora	Cindy
Nada	Brandi	Nathaniel
Mark	Joyce	Tiffany
Catherine	Paul	Joanne
Aaron	Galina	Tamara
Dale	Helen	Dennis
Ebony	Kathleen	Elizabeth
Peggy	Rachel	

*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

Thank you to Elizabeth Pedersen and her crew for serving the meal at **Feed the Flock** yesterday on behalf of our parish.

There is **no Bible Study** for the next two weeks.

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:

May 4: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

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

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

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

June 3: **PTVM Golf Outing**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,861

Glory to God for all things!