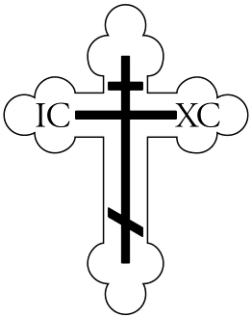
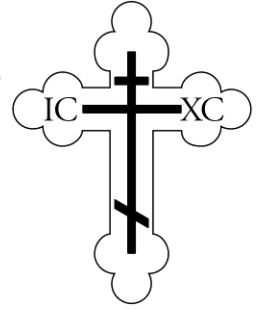


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
[www.ptvm.com](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## July 16, 2023

# Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils

In the Ninth Article of the Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in “One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church’s supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the “oikumene” (i.e. from the whole inhabited world).

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as “lights upon the earth,” guiding us to the true Faith. “Clad in the garment of truth,” the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Orthodox Church’s conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15:28).

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church’s teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, “not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something” (Saint Gregory the Theologian).

In addition to their dogmatic definitions, the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils exerted great efforts towards the strengthening of church discipline. Local Councils promulgated their disciplinary canons according to the circumstances of the time and place, frequently differing among themselves in various particulars. The universal unity of the Orthodox Church required unity also in canonical practice, i.e. a conciliar deliberation and affirmation of the most important canonical norms by the Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils.

Church canons, sanctified by the authority of the Ecumenical Councils (and the Constantinople Councils of 861 and 879, which were added later under the holy Patriarch Photius), form the basis of *The Rudder*, the universally recognized collection of Canons in the Eastern Orthodox Church. In its repository of grace is expressed a canonical norm, a connection to every era, and a guide for all the local Orthodox Churches in churchly practice.

New historical conditions can lead to the change of some particular external aspect of the life of the Church. This makes creative canonical activity necessary in the conciliar reasoning of the Church, in order to reconcile the external norms of churchly life with historical circumstances. The details of canonical regulation

are not fully developed for the various eras of churchly organization all at once. With every push to either forsake the literal meaning of a canon, or to fulfill and develop it, the Church again and again turns for reasoning and guidance to the eternal legacy of the Holy Ecumenical Councils.

## 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 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:  
Encompass 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 8 – Troparion of the Holy Fathers

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!  
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.  
Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//  
O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

### Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

You descended into hell, O my Savior,  
shattering its gates as Almighty,  
resurrecting the dead as Creator,  
and destroying the sting of death.  
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//  
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

## **Tone 8 – Kontakion of the Holy Fathers**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//  
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

## **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 5 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)**

You, O Lord, shall protect us  
and preserve us from this generation forever.

## **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)**

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

## **Epistle: Romans 12.6-14**

Brethren: Having gifts which differ according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

## **Hebrews 13.7-16 (Holy Fathers)**

Brethren, remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you. Follow their faith, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.

For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore, let us go forth to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

### **Gospel: Matthew 9.1-8**

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” And he arose and departed to his house.

Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

### **John 17.1-13 (Holy Fathers)**

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all

things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

<b>N.Dep.</b> William Harbison Jr.	Helen Dimitroff ('75)
Jeanne Denesuk	Joseph Centanni ('91)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Julia Kotakes ('53)	Maria Cowsert (2017)
Alexander Towinsky ('73)	

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Snezana	Andrew
Archpr. Peter	Ryan	Andrew
Mat. Cynthia	Nathan	Vadim
Archpr. John	Kara	Hanna
Pr. Gregory	Djuro	Viktor
Mat. Beverly	Paula	Gerald
Pr. Patrick	Christopher	Christine
Mat. Anne	Karen	Olga
Mat. Catherine	Alexandra	Janie
Kevin	Jonathan	Sharon
Jon	Christine	Tanya
Tanya	Zoey	Renee
Jovan	Dominic	Michael
Rollie	Declan	Chris
Nadia	Hudson	Nina
Joseph	Ronald	Carissa
Linda	Mary Ann	Duane
Claudia	Dara	Elizabeth
Carol	Jaroslava	Olga

Klaudia	Stephanie	Kyleigh
Tom	Nathan	Lauren
Diane	Cindy	Kyle
Brandi	Nathaniel	Susan
Joyce	Tamara	Mark
Galina	Dennis	Christopher
Thomas	Maria	Betty
Diane	Elizabeth	William
Michael	Jonah	Jack
Linda	Jamie	Grace

\*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

Thank you to our director, Rdr. Matthew, and all who participated in the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Choir Retreat** yesterday.

The **O-Club meeting** is today during coffee hour.

For **Bible Study** Monday, read Acts 18-21.

**Next Sunday during coffee hour**, the **Ladies’ Sodality** will hold its regular meeting.

**More iconography** is coming soon to our temple. In about one month, John will return to paint the icon **The Root of Jesse** on the north wall of the nave, below and up either side of the stained glass. Next he will add **Christ the True Vine** on the same place of the south wall. Afterward, he will return to paint the icons of **Transfiguration** and **Theophany** on the east end of the south wall, where the cross and framed icon of St John the Baptist now reside. Anyone interested in sponsoring further iconography should speak with Fr Jacob about what might be possible.

The **Bookstore** now has vehicle icons, keychains, and visor clips for anyone who wants them for the Blessing of Vehicles on July 23rd.

Also a small assortment of incense, burners (including smokeless), charcoal and other home incense items. Thanks to all of you who support the bookstore, we have recently purchased 6 Festal Icons for the parish from bookstore proceeds. These include: Thomas Sunday, the Holy Myrrhbearers, the Last Judgement, Christ the Bridegroom, the Raising of Lazarus, and the Mystical Supper. Thank you again to everyone who supports this wonderful ministry!

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. If you are interested in joining, ask Fr Jacob to send you an invite. More info at [our.domoca.org](http://our.domoca.org)

### **Mark your calendars:**

**July 17: Bible Study @ 7pm**

**July 18: Feast Day Divine Liturgy at St. Elizabeth's in Chesterton @ 9am  
Parish Council @ 7pm**

**July 23: Annual Blessing of Vehicles** after Divine Liturgy

**July 27: Feast Day Divine Liturgy @ St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church** in Summit, IL @ 10am

**July 30: St. Clement Summer Picnic** after Divine Liturgy

**Aug 1: Beginning of the Dormition Fast** (Aug 1-14)

**Aug 2: Canon of Supplication to the Virgin Mary @ 6pm**

**Aug 5: Festal Vespers for the Feast of Transfiguration @ 6pm**

**Aug 6: Transfiguration of our Lord (Sunday Liturgy)**

**Aug 9: Canon of Supplication to the Virgin Mary @ 6pm**

**Aug 14: Vespers with Lamentations for the Theotokos @ 6pm**

**Aug 15: Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 10am**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$6,090**

# **Glory to God for all things!**