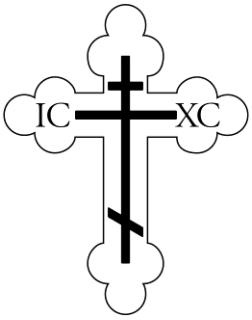


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
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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 2, 2023 St John of San Francisco

Born in the Ukraine in 1896, St. John first attended a military academy, but when his family fled to Yugoslavia at the time of the Russian Revolution, he switched to study theology, was tonsured a monk, and later ordained a priest. Because of his asceticism and great zeal, he was revered by many as a truly angelic man, an icon of a true monk. Consecrated a bishop in 1934, he was sent to Shanghai where he built churches, an orphanage, and a hospital. When the Communist Party came to power there, he fled with most of the Russian emigres first to the Philippines, then to Paris and Brussels.

In 1962, St. John was appointed Archbishop of Western America and San Francisco. He celebrated Divine Liturgy daily, prayed all night and visited the sick. He comforted and healed many people, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. This great wonder-worker died in 1966. His incorrupt relics were uncovered at his Cathedral 26 years later, and in 1994 he was glorified as a universal saint.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Tone 6 – Troparion for St John

Glorious apostle to an age of coldness and unbelief,

invested with the grace-filled power of the saints of old;

divinely-illuminated seer of heavenly mysteries,

feeder of orphans, hope of the hopeless:

you enkindled on earth the fire of love for Christ

upon the dark eve of the day of judgment.

Pray now that this sacred flame//

may also rise from our hearts!

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Kontakion

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 8 – Kontakion for St John

Chosen wonderworker and superb servant of Christ,

you pour out in the latter times

inexhaustible streams of inspiration and multitudes of miracles.

We praise you with love and call out to you, //

Rejoice, O holy hierarch John, Wonderworker of the latter times.

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 3 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Tone 1 – Prokeimenon for St John (Psalm 48)

My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding!

Epistle: Romans 6.18-23 (Sunday)

Brethren: Having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now, having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end—everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 7.26 – 8.2 (St. John)

Brethren: Such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Gospel: Matthew 8.5-13 (Sunday)

At that time, when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

John 10.9-16 (St. John)

Jesus said to His disciples: “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ev.Mem. Simeon Daviduk ('30)	Anne Pete ('77)
Simeon Bobka ('53)	Sam Katsampolis (2011)
Mary Mudrich ('68)	

Health & Salv.	Pr. Patrick	Jovan
Archpr. Peter	Mat. Anne	Rollie
Mat. Cynthia	Mat. Catherine	Nadia
Archpr. John	Kevin	Joseph
Pr. Gregory	Jon	Linda
Mat. Beverly	Tanya	Claudia

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

Fr Jacob will be on vacation with his family **July 3-12**. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr Anthony Saunders (219-221-5695). There will be no Great Vespers on Saturday, July 8. Fr Daniel Doss will serve the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 9.

On Saturday, July 15, we will hold our **2nd Annual Choir Retreat** from 3pm until Vespers at 6pm, with dinner provided after Vespers. This is a great opportunity for new members to join. The choir will work on vocal technique and learn new music for our regular rotation.

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

Mark your calendars:

July 8: **No Great Vespers**

July 15: **Choir Retreat @ 3pm; dinner after Vespers**

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

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

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

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,457

ARCHPASTORAL CATECHESIS ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD *OF TIKHVIN* From His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

Beloved in the Lord,

On June 26, the Church commemorates the finding of the Icon of the Mother of God *of Tikhvin*. For the clergy and faithful of the God-protected Diocese of the Midwest, this is a particularly significant commemoration. As most are aware, the Tikhvin Icon sojourned within this Diocese for almost fifty years, finding its temporary home in Chicago before being returned to the Holy Dormition Monastery in Tikhvin in 2004.

The origins of the icon are not recorded in history, although it is traditionally ascribed to the hand of Saint Luke the Apostle and Evangelist, like several other ancient icons of the *Hodigitria* type. It is believed that the icon was brought from Jerusalem to

Constantinople in the fifth century. During the period of the iconoclastic controversy, it was taken to the Monastery of the Pantocrator for safekeeping, and afterwards it became one of the most widely venerated icons in the Imperial City. Eventually it disappeared from the church where it had been kept, reappearing over the lands of Rus' in 1383. Fishermen at work near Lake Ladoga saw how the icon appeared to traverse the skies; it was seen in over seven different locations in all until it finally settled by the banks of the Tikhvinka river, near the small village of Tikhvin in the region of Great Novgorod. Soon a wooden church dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God was built in that place. In just over a century, this church burned to the ground three separate times, with the icon surviving unharmed each time. A stone church was finally built in 1507, around which grew the monastery and city walls that stand to this day. The holy and wonderworking Icon of the Mother of God *of Tikhvin* was placed on the right pillar of the beautiful and impressive church, where it remained for over four hundred years, becoming as widely venerated in the lands of Rus' as it had once been in the great City of Constantine.

Though the monastery was occasionally occupied by foreign powers over the centuries and was ultimately closed by the Soviets in the mid 1920s, the icon itself was not disturbed, and its presence remained a source of consolation for the Christian faithful in times of need and distress. During the Second World War, however, the city of Tikhvin was briefly seized by the Nazis, and with their departure the miraculous icon seemingly went lost. Some say the icon was then seen in 1944 in one of the antiques shops occupied by the Germans in Riga, Latvia. The icon eventually came into the possession of Bishop John (Garklavs) of Riga. Forced to leave Latvia that same year by way of the former Czechoslovakia and West Germany, Bishop John frequently brought the holy icon to displaced persons camps as a blessing and sign of hope for those whose lives had been upended by the war. When Bishop John made his way to the United States in 1949, he again brought the icon with him, ultimately making the Chicagoland its home in the New World. For over half a century thereafter, the icon traveled throughout the Midwest and elsewhere in the United States.

By God's will, with the restoration of Church life in the former Soviet Union, the original wonderworking icon was returned to its historic place in Tikhvin's newly reopened Holy Dormition Monastery in July 2004. Archbishop Paul, of blessed memory, went on pilgrimage to Tikhvin in 2016. Later, during a return visit to

Chicago from Bishop Mstislav of Tikhvin, our Diocese was presented with an exact replica of the original icon. The replica, including its masterfully crafted metal cover, had been touched to and blessed upon the original icon before it was brought to Chicago, where it is enshrined at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Mother Church of our Diocese.

As we reflect upon the amazing history of the icon and of its miraculous preservation throughout the centuries, we cannot help but acknowledge that, even from the time of its origins, the Tikhvin Icon has been on pilgrimage, traveling to where the intercession and prayers and comfort of the Holy Theotokos were most needed. Latvia, Central and Western Europe, North America: all of these are now included among the traditional places visited by this highly revered image of the Mother of God.

The traveling nature of the icon should be of no surprise to us. Indeed, the Most Holy Theotokos is revealed as a traveler and sojourner, even in the Gospels. We recall Saint Luke's account of the Annunciation. As soon as the angel brought the glad tidings that she was chosen to be the mother of the Son of God and that her kinswoman Elizabeth was expecting a child in her old age, "... Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth" (St Luke 1:39-40). She went where she was needed.

Jerusalem, Constantinople, Tikhvin, Riga, New York, Chicago, Summit Argo, and many other places known and unknown are included among the many locations graced by the visitation of this wonderworking icon of the Mother of God. It has resided in monasteries, churches, and family homes. It has called upon displaced persons in deportation camps, youth gatherings, and church gatherings of all types. In this we see the Mother of God traveling to places where her presence and intercession is most needed, just as she did when she visited her cousin Elizabeth.

As we commemorate the appearance of this wonderworking icon, let us, each and all, invite Mary of Nazareth, our Sovereign Lady who is also our Mother, into our homes and families, into our parish communities, and into our hearts. It is my prayer that the Most Pure Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, venerated in all her holy icons and invoked in all her titles, will bless and protect our Diocese, its clergy and faithful, and all your families and loved ones.

Invoking God's blessing on you all, I remain Your Servant in Christ,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest