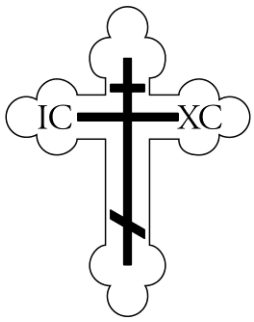
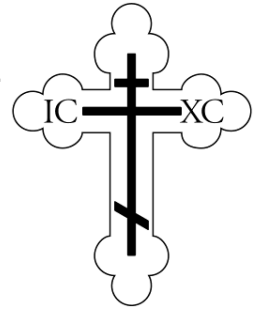


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



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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.**

## August 13, 2023

### St Tikhon of Zadonsk

# Leavetaking of Transfiguration

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, Bishop of Voronezh (in the world Timothy), was born in 1724 in the village of Korotsk in the Novgorod diocese. His father died when Timothy was a young child, leaving the family in such poverty that his mother was barely able to make ends meet. She wanted to give him to be raised by a neighbor, a coachman, since there was no other way to feed the family, but his brother Peter would not permit this. Timothy often worked a whole day with the peasants for a single piece of black bread.

As a thirteen-year-old boy, he was sent to a clergy school near the Archbishop of Novgorod's residence, and earned his keep by working with the vegetable gardeners. In 1740, he was accepted under a state grant set up for the Novgorod Seminary. The youth

excelled at his studies. Upon finishing seminary in 1754, he became a teacher there, first in Greek, and later in Rhetoric and Philosophy. In the year 1758, he was tonsured with the name Tikhon. That same year he was appointed as prefect of the Seminary.

In 1759, he was transferred to Tver, and was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite of Zheltikov Monastery. Later, he was appointed Rector of the Tver Seminary and, at the same time, Superior of Otroch Monastery.

His election as bishop was providential. Metropolitan Demetrios, the presiding member of the Holy Synod, had intended to transfer the young Archimandrite to the Trinity-Sergiev Lavra. On the day of Pascha, at Peterburg, Archimandrite Tikhon was one of eight candidates being considered for selection as vicar bishop for Novgorod. Metropolitan Demetrios thought he was too young for that position, but agreed to submit his name. The lot fell on Archimandrite Tikhon three times. On May 13, 1761 he was consecrated as Bishop of Keksgolma and Ladoga (i.e., vicar bishop of the Novgorod diocese).

In 1763, Saint Tikhon was transferred to the See of Voronezh. For the four and a half years that he administered the diocese of Voronezh, Vladyka provided constant edification, both by his life and by his numerous pastoral counsels and soul-profitng books. He also wrote a whole series of works for pastors.

The Saint was unflagging in his efforts to administer his vast diocese, and he often spent nights without sleep. In 1767, poor health compelled him to give up running the diocese and withdraw for rest to the Tolshev Monastery, a distance 40 versts from Voronezh.

In 1769, Bishop Tikhon was transferred to the Monastery of the Theotokos in the city of Zadonsk. After settling into this Monastery, he became a great teacher of the Christian life. With profound wisdom he set forth the ideal of true monasticism in his books *Rule of Monastic Living* and *Guidance to Turn from the Vanity of the World*, and he fulfilled this ideal in his own life. He kept strictly to the Church's precepts. He visited the church almost every day, and he often sang and read in the choir. In time, out of humility, he altogether ceased participating and serving, but merely stood in the altar, reverently making the Sign of the Cross upon himself. He loved to read the Lives of the Saints and the works of the Holy Fathers. He knew the Psalter by heart, and he usually read or sang the Psalms on his journeys.

Bishop Tikhon lived in very simple circumstances: he slept on straw, covered by a sheepskin coat. His humility was so great that he paid no attention to the workers who laughed at him as he walked about the Monastery, pretending that he did not hear them. He used to say, “It is pleasing to God that even the Monastery workers mock me, and I deserve it because of my sins.” He often said, “Forgiveness is better than revenge.”

Once, a Holy Fool named Kamenev struck the Hierarch on the cheek saying, “Don’t be so haughty.” He accepted this with gratitude, and gave the Fool three kopeks every day for the rest of his life.

Shortly before his repose, Saint Tikhon saw a high and twisting ladder in a dream, and he was ordered to climb it. “At first, I was afraid because of my weakness,” he told his friend Cosmas. “But when I started to go climb, the people standing around the ladder lifted me higher and higher, up to the very clouds.”

“The ladder,” said Cosmas, “is the way to the Heavenly Kingdom. Those who helped were those whom you have helped by your advice, and so they remember you.” The Saint said with tears, “I thought so, too. I feel that my end is near.” He partook of the Holy Mysteries frequently during his final illness. Vladyka reposed, as was revealed to him, on Sunday August 13, 1783, at the age of fifty-nine.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!”

### **Tone 7 –Troparion of Transfiguration**

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,  
revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.  
Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,  
through the prayers of the Theotokos!//  
O Giver of Light, glory to You!

### **Tone 8 –Troparion for St Tikhon**

From your youth you loved Christ, O blessed one.

You have been an example for all by word, life, love, faith, purity, and humility.

Therefore, you now abide in the heavenly mansions, where you stand before the throne of the All-holy Trinity.//  
Holy Hierarch Tikhon, pray for the salvation of our souls!

### **Tone 8 –Kontakion for St Tikhon**

Successor to the Apostles, adornment of hierarchs, teacher of the Orthodox Faith, //

beseech the Master of all to grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy.

### **Tone 7 – Kontakion of Transfiguration**

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God, and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold You crucified, they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world//  
that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of Transfiguration (Psalm 103)**

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;  
in wisdom have You made them all!

### **Tone 1 – Prokeimenon for St Tikhon (Psalm 48)**

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

### **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4.9-16 (Sunday)**

Brethren: I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you: imitate me.

### **Hebrews 7.26 – 8.2 (St Tikhon)**

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 17.14-23 (Sunday)**

At that time, when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

**Matthew 5.14-19 (St Tikhon)**

Jesus said to His disciples, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

<b>N.Dep.</b> Randall Cox	Andrew Gristsuk ('49)
Mat. Delores Donlick	Alexander Zeruchka ('56)
William Harbison Jr.	Mary Ogaracak ('57)
Jeanne Denesuk	Stephania Demedyuk ('73)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Elia Christoff ('13)	Maria Yeager (2008)
Damian Gietko ('15)	

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

Elizabeth	Cindy	Betty
Olga	Nathaniel	William
Klaudia	Tamara	Jack
Tom	Dennis	Grace
Diane	Maria	Janet
Brandi	Elizabeth	Sarah
Joyce	Jonah	Angela
Galina	Jamie	Lauren
Thomas	Kyleigh	Jack
Diane	Lauren	N.Ill. Delilah
Michael	Kyle	Courtney
Linda	Susan	Sarah
Stephanie	Mark	
Nathan	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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is **no Bible Study tomorrow**. It will return next week.

The Sodality **Rummage Sale** will be August 25 & 26. Items for sale may be donated to the church by dropping them in the Church school rooms from now until Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please tell your friends!

The **Church School year begins September 10**. Please register your **children** at [www.ptvm.com/church\\_school](http://www.ptvm.com/church_school) so that our teachers can arrange classrooms and ensure that we have enough supplies.

Due to a scheduling error at the chancery, **Archbishop Daniel’s visit with us has been postponed one week to October 7 & 8**. For this reason, we will hold our 112<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on that weekend, rather than on the feast of Protection as planned. More details about the celebration are forthcoming.



In the narthex, we have a **new literature rack** from Ancient Faith Publishing. The **booklets and pamphlets** are designed to introduce newcomers to various aspects of our Orthodox faith. We are making them available for free, especially to guests and enquirers. Members may consider dropping a dollar in the bookstore box to help cover the cost of this new form of outreach. Thank you!

**Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church is holding its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on September 24** after Divine Liturgy. Fr Jacob and some of our parishioners are planning to attend. The cost is \$25/adult, \$15/child over 6, with children under 6 free. To order tickets, email [dohgorthodox@gmail.com](mailto:dohgorthodox@gmail.com) or speak with Fr Jacob.

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:**

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

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

**Aug 16: Feast Day Divine Liturgy** at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Chicago @ 9:30am

**Aug 22: Guys' Night Out** at Maxim's @ 6pm

**Aug 25-26: Sodality Rummage Sale: 9am-1pm both days**

**Aug 29: Divine Liturgy for the Beheading of John the Baptist** at St. Elizabeth's in Chesterton @ 9:30am

**Sept 5: Men's Breakfast** at Bob Evans in Merrillville @ 7:15am

**Sept 10: Beginning of the Church School Year**

**Sept 24: Descent of the Holy Ghost 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Oct 1: The Protection of the Virgin Mary** – our parish feast day!

**Oct 8: PTVM Anniversary Dinner** after Divine Liturgy

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,304**

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