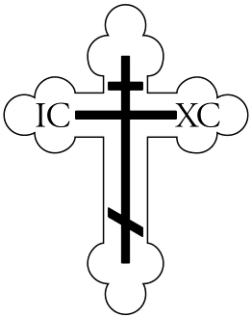


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.**

## August 20, 2023 Afterfeast of Dormition Holy Prophet Samuel

The Prophet Samuel was the fifteenth and last of the Judges of Israel, living more than 1146 years before the Birth of Christ. He was descended from the Tribe of Levi, and was the son of Elkanah from Ramathaim-Zophim of Mount Ephraim. He was born, having been besought from the Lord through the prayers of his mother Hannah (therefore he received the name Samuel, which means "besought from God"). Even before birth, he was dedicated to God. Her song, "My heart exults in the Lord," is the third Old Testament ode of the Canon (1 Sam/1 Kings 2:1-10).

When the boy reached the age of three, his mother went with him to Shiloh and in accord with her vow dedicated him to the worship of God. She gave him into the care of the High Priest Eli, who at this time was a judge over Israel. The prophet grew in the fear of God, and at twelve years of age he had a revelation that God would punish the house of the High Priest Eli, because he did not restrain the impiety of his sons. Eli's whole family was wiped out in a single day.

The prophecy was fulfilled when the Philistines, having slain in battle 30,000 Israelites (among them Hophni and Phinees, the sons of Eli the High Priest), gained victory and captured the Ark of the Covenant. Hearing this, the High Priest Eli fell backwards from his seat at the gate, and breaking his back, he died. The wife of Phinees, upon hearing what had happened in this very hour, gave birth to a son (Ichabod) and died with the words: "The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken away" (1 Sam/1 Kgs 4: 22).

Upon the death of Eli, Samuel became the judge of the nation of Israel. The Ark of God was returned by the Philistines on their own initiative. After returning to God, the Israelites returned to all the cities that the Philistines had taken. In his old age, the Prophet Samuel made his sons Joel and Abiah judges over Israel, but they did not follow the integrity and righteous judgment of their father, since they were motivated by greed.

Then the elders of Israel, wanting the nation of God to be "like other nations" (1 Sam/1 Kgs 8: 20), demanded of the Prophet Samuel that they have a king. The Prophet Samuel anointed Saul as king, but saw in this a downfall of the people, whom God Himself had governed until this time, announcing His will through "judges," His chosen saints. Resigning the position of judge, the Prophet Samuel asked the people if they consented to his continued governance, but no one stepped forward for him.

After denouncing the first king, Saul, for his disobedience to God, the Prophet Samuel anointed David as king. He had offered David asylum, saving him from the pursuit of King Saul. The Prophet Samuel died in extreme old age. His life is recorded in the Bible (1 Sam/1 Kgs; Sirach 46:13-20).

In the year 406 A.D. the relics of the Prophet Samuel were transferred from Judea to Constantinople.

# 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 1 – Troparion of Dormition

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.  
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.  
You were translated to life O Mother of Life,//  
and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

## Tone 2 – Troparion for the Prophet Samuel

We celebrate the memory  
of Your prophet Samuel, O Lord;  
through him we beseech You://  
“Save our souls!”

## Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Hell became afraid, almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with You,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

## Tone 8 –Kontakion for the Prophet Samuel

You were a precious gift given to God before your conception.  
You served Him like an angel from your infancy, O blessed one.  
You were granted the charism to announce beforehand future things.//  
Therefore, we cry to you: “Rejoice, Samuel, Prophet of God and great  
high priest.”

## Tone 2 – Kontakion of Dormition

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,  
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.  
For being the Mother of Life,//  
she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Tone 2 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)**

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation!

## **Tone 3 – Prokeimenon of the Theotokos (Luke 1)**

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

## **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9.2-12**

Brethren: If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

## **Gospel: Matthew 18.23-35**

Jesus spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

“The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

“So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

“So, when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

<b>N.Dep.</b> Randall Cox	Alexander Yankovich ('73)
Mat. Delores Donlick	Andrew Svihra ('73)
William Harbison Jr.	Mary Lopeko ('74)
Jeanne Denesuk	Mary Novak ('77)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Theodore Klimchuk ('16)	Helena Gruszyk ('99)
John Rodionov ('26)	Gary Martin (2006)
Daniel Humenik ('58)	Nettie Krochta (2007)
Michael Ozrenich ('60)	Mat. Tresja Denysenko (2021)
Lawrence Sereda ('68)	

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Jovan	Djuro
Archpr. Peter	Rollie	Paula
Mat. Cynthia	Nadia	Christopher
Hierom. John	Joseph	Karen
Pr. Gregory	Linda	Alexandra
Mat. Beverly	Claudia	Jonathan
Pr. Patrick	Paul	Christine
Mat. Anne	Carol	Zoey
Mat. Catherine	Snezana	Dominic
Kevin	Ryan	Declan
Jon	Nathan	Hudson
Tanya	Kara	Ronald

Mary Ann	Elizabeth	Jamie
Dara	Olga	Kyleigh
Jaroslava	Klaudia	Lauren
Andrew	Tom	Kyle
Andrew	Diane	Susan
Vadim	Brandi	Mark
Hanna	Joyce	Christopher
Viktor	Galina	Betty
Gerald	Thomas	William
Christine	Diane	Jack
Olga	Michael	Grace
Janie	Linda	Janet
Sharon	Stephanie	Sarah
Tanya	Nathan	Angela
Renee	Cindy	Lauren
Ashton	Nathaniel	Jack
Michael	Tamara	N.Ill. Delilah
Chris	Dennis	Courtney
Nina	Maria	Sarah
Carissa	Elizabeth	
Duane	Jonah	

\*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.

### Theotokion for Dormition (instead of *It is Truly Meet*)

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve a **Memorial for Andrew Svihra** (50 years) and **Helena Gruszyk** (24 years).

The **O-club** will hold its monthly **meeting** during coffee hour today.

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read Esther 1-4.

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>. Set-up will be Thursday at 9am. Helpers are welcome!

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.

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 Nick Rozdelsky.

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 21: Bible Study @ 7pm**

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

**Aug 24: Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

**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 7: Festal Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos @ 6pm**

**Sept 8: Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos @ 10am**

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

**Sept 12: Women's Book Club @ 6pm**

**Sept 13: Festal Vespers for the Exaltation of the Cross @ 6pm**

**Sept 14: Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross @ 10am**

**Sept 23: Fall Clean-Up @ 9am**

**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 7: Archbishop Daniel's visit: Great Vespers @ 4pm followed by evening reception**

**Oct 8: Archbishop Daniel's visit: PTVM Anniversary Dinner after Divine Liturgy**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$5,262**

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