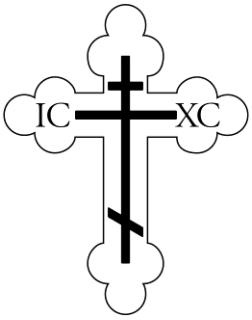
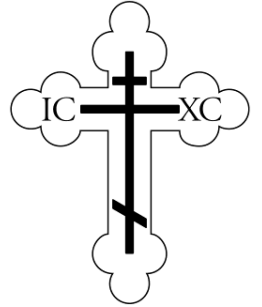


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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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.

August 27, 2023

Venerable Pimen the Great of the Egyptian Desert

Saint Pimen the Great was born about the year 340 in Egypt. He went to one of the Egyptian monasteries with his two brothers, Anoub and Paisius, and all three received monastic tonsure. The brothers were such strict ascetics that when their mother came to the monastery to see her children, they did not come out to her from their cells. The mother stood there for a long time and wept. Then Saint Pimen said to her through the closed door of the cell, "Do you wish to see us now, or in the future life?" Saint Pimen promised that if she would endure the sorrow of not seeing her children in this life, then surely she would see them in the next. The mother was humbled and returned home.

Fame of Saint Pimen's deeds and virtues spread throughout the land. Once, the governor of the district wanted to see him. Saint Pimen, shunning fame, thought to himself, "If dignitaries start coming to me and show me respect, then many other people will also start coming to me and disturb my quiet, and I shall be deprived of the grace of humility, which I have acquired only with the help of God." So, he refused to see the governor, asking him not to come.

For many of the monks, Saint Pimen was a spiritual guide and instructor. They wrote down his answers to serve for the edification of others besides themselves. A certain monk asked, "If I see my brother sinning, should I conceal his fault?" The Elder answered, "If we reproach the sins of brothers, then God will reproach our sins. If you see a brother sinning, do not believe your eyes. Know that your own sin is like a beam of wood, but the sin of your brother is like a splinter (Mt. 7:3-5), and then you will not enter into distress or temptation."

Another monk said to the saint, "I have sinned grievously and I want to spend three years at repentance. Is that enough time?" The Elder replied, "That is a long time." The monk continued to ask how long the saint wished him to repent. Perhaps only a year? Saint Pimen said, "That is a long time." The other brethren asked, "Should he repent for forty days?" The Elder answered, "I think that if a man repents from the depths of his heart and has a firm intention not to return to the sin, then God will accept three days of repentance."

When asked how to get rid of persistent evil thoughts, the saint replied, "This is like a man who has fire on his left side, and a vessel full of water on his right side. If he starts burning from the fire, he takes water from the vessel and extinguishes the fire. The fire represents the evil thoughts placed in the heart of man by the Enemy of our salvation, which can enkindle sinful desires within man like a spark in a hut. The water is the force of prayer which impels a man toward God."

Saint Pimen was strict in his fasting and sometimes would not partake of food for a week or more. He advised others to eat every day, but without eating their fill. Abba Pimen heard of a certain monk who went for a week without eating, but had lost his temper. The saint lamented that the monk was able to fast for an entire week, but was unable to abstain from anger for even a single day.

To the question of whether it is better to speak or be silent, the Elder said, “Whoever speaks on account of God, does well, and whoever is silent on account of God, that one also does well.”

He also said, “If man seems to be silent, but his heart condemns others, then he is always speaking. There may be a man who talks all day long, but he is actually silent, because he says nothing unprofitable.”

The saint said, “It is useful to observe three things: to fear God, to pray often, and to do good for one’s neighbor.”

“Wickedness never eradicates wickedness. If someone does evil to you, do good to them, and your goodness will conquer their wickedness.”

Once, after Saint Pimen and his disciples arrived at the monastery of Skete, he learned that the Elder living there was annoyed at his arrival and was also jealous of him, because monks were leaving the Elder to see Abba Pimen.

In order to console the hermit, the saint went to him with his brethren, taking food with them as a present. The Elder refused to receive them, however. Then Saint Pimen said, “We shall not depart from here until we are permitted to see the holy Elder.” He remained standing at the door of the cell in the heat. Seeing Saint Pimen’s humility and patience, the Elder received him graciously and said, “Not only is what I have heard about you true, but I see that your works are a hundred times greater.”

He possessed such great humility that he often sighed and said, “I shall be cast down to that place where Satan was cast down!”

Once, a monk from another country came to the saint to receive his guidance. He began to speak about sublime matters difficult to grasp. The saint turned away from him and was silent. They explained to the bewildered monk that the saint did not like to speak of lofty matters. Then the monk began to ask him about the struggle with passions of soul. The saint turned to him with a joyful face, “Now you have spoken well, and I will answer.” For a long while he provided instruction on how one ought to struggle with the passions and conquer them.

Saint Pimen died at age 110, about the year 450. Soon after his death, he was acknowledged as a saint pleasing to God. He was called “the Great” as a sign of his great humility, uprightness, ascetic struggles, and self-denying service to God.

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 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illumined 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 for St Pimen

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,

and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.

By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe//

Our holy Father Pimen, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

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 4 –Kontakion for St Pimen

The remembrance of your illustrious struggles

delights the souls of the devout today,//

O Pimen, our venerable father, wise in God.

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!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19.16-26

At that time, a certain man came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

So, He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and

come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Benjamin Gorseski	Ev.Mem. Anastasia Kadashov (’16)
Randall Cox	Alexander Branko (’20)
Mat. Delores Donlick	Wassill Saganovich (’93)
William Harbison Jr.	Vernon Parks (’99)

Health & Salv.	Djuro	Sharon
Archpr. Peter	Paula	Tanya
Mat. Cynthia	Christopher	Renee
Hierom. John	Karen	Ashton
Pr. Gregory	Alexandra	Michael
Mat. Beverly	Jonathan	Chris
Pr. Patrick	Christine	Nina
Mat. Anne	Zoey	Carissa
Mat. Catherine	Dominic	Duane
Kevin	Declan	Elizabeth
Jon	Hudson	Olga
Tanya	Ronald	Klaudia
Jovan	Mary Ann	Tom
Rollie	Dara	Diane
Nadia	Jaroslava	Brandi
Joseph	Andrew	Joyce
Linda	Andrew	Galina
Claudia	Vadim	Thomas
Paul	Hanna	Diane
Carol	Viktor	Michael
Snezana	Gerald	Linda
Ryan	Christine	Stephanie
Nathan	Olga	Nathan
Kara	Janie	Cindy

Nathaniel	Kyle	Sarah
Tamara	Susan	Angela
Dennis	Mark	Lauren
Maria	Christopher	Jack
Elizabeth	Betty	N.Ill. Delilah
Jonah	William	Courtney
Jamie	Jack	Sarah
Kyleigh	Grace	Riste
Lauren	Janet	Kimberly

*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

For **Bible Study tomorrow**, read Esther 5-8.

Thank you to the Sodality and all others who helped with and donated to our **Rummage Sale**. As usual, there are many leftovers. Unfortunately, this year we could not find a charity that will pick them up. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if as many as possible could take a box or two to any local donation center.

The **Church School year begins September 10**. Please register your **children** at 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 112th 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 115th anniversary the weekend of Sept 23/24. Their Archbishop Nathaniel will preside at 6pm Vespers followed by a reception. The Anniversary Dinner is after Divine Liturgy on September 24. Fr Jacob and some of our parishioners are planning to attend the dinner. The cost is \$25/adult, \$15/child over 6, with children under 6 free. The number to reserve tickets is 219-292-8477.

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:

Aug 28: Bible Study @ 7pm

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 Valparaiso @ 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 115th Anniversary

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

Archbishop Daniel's Visit

Oct 7: Great Vespers @ 4pm followed by evening reception

Oct 8: PTVM Anniversary Dinner after Divine Liturgy

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,298

Glory to God for all things!