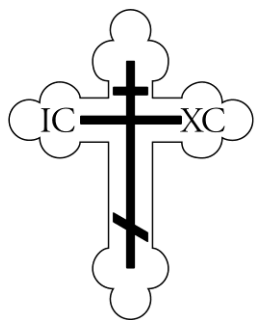


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
www.ptvm.com

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.**

# September 10, 2023

## Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross

## Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

### Holy Virgin Martyrs

### Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora

### 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 – Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

Your nativity, O Virgin,  
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!  
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,  
has shone from you, O Theotokos.  
By annulling the curse,  
He bestowed a blessing.//  
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

#### **Tone 1 – Troparion for the Holy Martyrs**

Let all who rejoice at their triumph honor those three virgin martyrs,  
who are united to God as <sup>^</sup> sisters  
and who pour forth fair streams of grace:  
Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora,  
who were in all things <sup>^</sup> courageous;//  
they ever pray to the Trinity for us.

#### **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 4 –Kontakion for the Holy Martyrs**

Invincible in your struggles for the Holy Trinity,  
and through your love for each other as sisters,  
you defeated the foe of the spiritual life,  
and with the five virgins, entered victoriously into the heavenly  
mansions//  
where you ever rejoice with the angels in the presence of the King of all!

#### **Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Nativity of the Theotokos**

By your nativity, O most pure Virgin,  
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,  
Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death.  
And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing  
to you://  
“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of  
our Life.”

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Cross (Psalm 27)**

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

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

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

## **Epistle: Galatians 6.11-18 (Sunday before Exaltation)**

Brethren: See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

## **2 Corinthians 1.21 – 2.4 (Sunday)**

Brethren: He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover, I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

## **Gospel: John 3.13-17 (Sunday before Exaltation)**

Jesus said to the Jews who came to Him: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of

Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

### **Matthew 22.1-14 (Sunday)**

Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’”

“But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’

“So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

“Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**N.Dep.** Kimberly Gorseski  
Rachel Boose  
Lydia Parkevich  
Joseph Spargo  
Benjamin Gorseski  
Randall Cox

**Ev.Mem.** Daria Chayevich ('13)  
Mary Konjak ('78)  
Ann Kren (2010)  
James Vahary (2015)  
Olive Leskow (2018)

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Paula	Renee	Maria
Archpr. Peter	Christopher	Ashton	Elizabeth
Mat. Cynthia	Karen	Michael	Jonah
Hierom. John	Alexandra	Chris	Jamie
Pr. Gregory	Jonathan	Nina	Kyleigh
Mat. Beverly	Christine	Carissa	Lauren
Pr. Patrick	Zoey	Duane	Kyle
Mat. Anne	Dominic	Elizabeth	Susan
Mat. Catherine	Declan	Olga	Mark
Kevin	Hudson	Klaudia	Christopher
Jon	Ronald	Tom	Betty
Tanya	Mary Ann	Diane	William
Jovan	Dara	Brandi	Jack
Rollie	Jaroslava	Joyce	Grace
Nadia	Andrew	Galina	Janet
Joseph	Andrew	Thomas	Sarah
Linda	Vadim	Diane	Angela
Claudia	Hanna	Michael	Lauren
Paul	Viktor	Linda	Jack
Carol	Gerald	Stephanie	N.Ill. Delilah
Snezana	Christine	Nathan	Courtney
Ryan	Olga	Cindy	Sarah
Nathan	Janie	Nathaniel	Riste
Kara	Sharon	Tamara	
Djuro	Tanya	Dennis	

\*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Ladies' Sodality** will meet today during coffee hour.

For **Bible Study tomorrow**, read Esther 9-10 and Jeremiah 1-2.

September is **Support Our Seminarians Month in the Diocese of the Midwest**. Special petitions have been added to the Augmented Litany. A special collection will also be taken on Sunday, September 24 for the families of our eleven seminarians.

Fr Jacob will be out of town next weekend. Therefore, there will be **no Great Vespers this Saturday** (the 16<sup>th</sup>). Fr Danial Doss will celebrate the Divine Liturgy Sunday morning as usual.

Janet Andrus is selling tickets to **Feeding the Flock's annual Fundraiser Fashion Luncheon** at Avalon Manor 11am on Saturday, September 23. Tickets are \$40/plate.

**Archbishop Daniel is joining us October 7 & 8 for our 112<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.** Vespers will be early at 4pm on Saturday, followed by a reception with bonfire (weather permitting). The anniversary dinner will be after Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

**Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church is holding its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary the weekend of Sept 23/24. The Anniversary Dinner is after Divine Liturgy on September 24.** The cost is \$25/adult, \$15/child over 6, with children under 6 free. Nick Rozdelsky is organizing tables from our parish.

### **Mark your calendars:**

**Sept 11: Bible Study @ 7pm**

**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 22: Women's Group: Boat ride, cocktails, and apps @ 5:30pm**

**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!**

### **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: \$2,603**

# **Archpastoral Message for the Annual Seminarian Appeal 2023**

**from His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel**

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. (John 10:11)*

Beloved Sons and Daughters in Christ,

In the well-known Gospel verse cited above, the Lord Jesus likens His relationship to His people to that of a shepherd to his sheep. He reveals himself as the Good and True Shepherd sent from God to care for the Flock, to protect and guide us in such a way that

we are confident in His care. Because the Lord is our Shepherd, we have nothing to fear: as the anaphora of Saint John Chrysostom reminds us, this Shepherd was not “given up ... [but] rather, *gave Himself up for the life of the world.*” He is the Good Shepherd who knows His own sheep and lays His life down for them (*cf.* John 10:14-15).

Christ has continued His work as the Shepherd of our souls from one generation to the next. He guides us with His voice as He speaks to us in the Holy Gospels. As our Good Shepherd, He gathers us so that we can be nourished with the sacred nourishment of His most Pure Body and Precious Blood. He protects us as we turn to Him in our time of need. He leads us and calls us to follow Him into the Kingdom He has prepared for us. Yet to guide, gather, nourish, and protect us, the Lord calls others to continue His work of caring for and pasturing His Flock. These faithful shepherds, called to minister in the Name of Christ, are recognizable on the local level in the bishop with his priests and deacons.

The Diocese of the Midwest has a long and blessed history of episcopal and priestly service. Throughout the past century and more, the Lord has provided faithful clergy to shepherd the faithful flock of God in our Diocese and across the vast expanse of the American Midwest. Some of these servant-shepherds are now listed among the saints: Saint Tikhon of Moscow, Saint John of Chicago, Saint Alexis of Minneapolis, Saint Raphael of Brooklyn, Saint Madarije of Libertyville, Saint Varnava the New Confessor, and Saint Nikolai of Žiča. In addition to these saints, we can add a long list of other holy bishops, priests, and deacons who have served the Lord and His Church faithfully, sacrificially, and with honor and dignity. Their efforts have borne fruit: they shepherded the flock to Christ the Door, through Whom the sheep have found salvation and green pastures (*cf.* John 10:9).

As we reflect upon the past service of clergy in our Diocese, we should also acknowledge the present. In our own day, the Lord continues to care for His flock in the faithful clergy who are now serving in our parishes and mission communities. And He also continues to provide for the future by calling individuals from our parishes to prepare themselves for ordained ministry. I am grateful to God for the eleven men who are now enrolled in the seminaries of the Orthodox Church in America: Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary and Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary. These seminarians are men from our own parish

communities. They have heard the voice of the Shepherd to follow Him and to prepare themselves, through prayer, study, and service, to take their place as servant-shepherds caring for the flock of Christ.

These men, and others who will follow them, are to be educated in Orthodox Theology and formed in the image of the Good Shepherd so that, God willing, they will one day take their place in the history of the ordained ministry in the Diocese of the Midwest. They sacrifice and make special efforts to that end: most of them are married family men, and their wives and children sacrifice along with them. Just as each one of us needs the support of the clergy now serving in our parishes, so too we need to support our seminarians, so that they may one day stand at the Holy Altar, preach the Gospel, and offer pastoral care to us, our families, and our parishes. They need our fervent prayers, certainly, but they and their families also need our equally sacrificial financial support.

To that end, each September, our Diocese of the Midwest promotes a project known simply as “Support our Seminarians.” During this month, I ask of all our clergy to increase our common liturgical prayers asking the Good Shepherd to send raise among us more servant-shepherds to participate in His work of caring for the flock. I also invite each community and every individual not only to join in these prayers to Christ, the Door of the Sheep (*cf.* John 10:7), but to give generously to our Seminarians’ Fund, as we seek to show our appreciation and support for our diocesan seminarians—present and future.

Invoking the Lord’s blessing upon you, your families, and loved ones, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

**Glory to God for all things!**