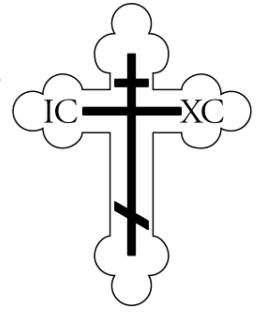
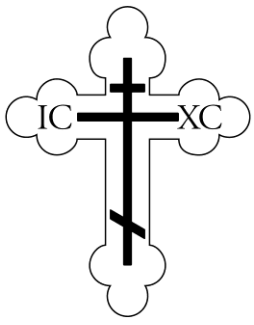


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America

8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
www.ptvm.com

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.

March 3, 2024

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before

His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell,
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

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 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion

When Christ God the Giver of Life,

raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 3 – Kontakion for the Prodigal Son

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;

and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.

And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:

“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;

receive me as a penitent, //

and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

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 6 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6.12-20

Brethren: All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Gospel: Luke 15.11-32

Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

“But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed

swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’”

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in.

“Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Paul Pangrace

Alexei Navalny

Roger Davidson

Ev.Mem. Michael Lyamtsev ('19)

Helen Milevsky ('22)

Nadeshda Bobruk ('38)

Sophie Korzow (2002)

George Radivan (2007)

Health & Salv.	Andrew	Lauren
Archpr. Peter	Vadim	Kyle
Mat. Cynthia	Hanna	Mark
Hierom. John	Viktor	Christopher
Pr. Gregory	Gerald	Betty
Mat. Beverly	Christine	William
Pr. Patrick	Olga	Grace
Mat. Anne	Janie	Janet
Mat. Catherine	Sharon	Sarah
Kevin	Tanya	Angela
Jon	Renee	Lauren
Tanya	Ashton	Jack
Jovan	Michael	Melissa
Rollie	Chris	Carolynn
Claudia	Nina	Nicholas
Paul	Carissa	Natalie
Carol	Duane	Lissa
Snezana	Elizabeth	Elizabeth
Ryan	Olga	William
Nathan	Klaudia	Linda
Kara	Tom	Margaret
Djuro	Diane	Linda
Paula	Brandi	Jennifer
Christopher	Joyce	Diane
Karen	Galina	Chris
Alexandra	Thomas	Erin
Jonathan	Diane	Jude
Christine	Stephanie	Miriam
Zoey	Cindy	Ephraim
Dominic	Nathaniel	Irina
Declan	Tamara	Cyan
Hudson	Dennis	Alla
Ronald	Maria	Gregory
Mary Ann	Elizabeth	Joseph
Dara	Jonah	N.Ill. Anna
Jaroslava	Jamie	Ronald
Andrew	Kyleigh	

To add a name to our parish prayer list, please give it 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, Israel, and Palestine. 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

Thank you to the volunteers and parents who helped with **family movie night** on Friday!

Our **Ladies Sodality is selling soup** again during coffee hour. To-Go quarts of soup may be purchased for \$7 for vegetarian soups and \$8 for meat soups, or 3 quarts for \$20. Cash or Check will be accepted. Lots of great choices will be available and the proceeds will help sodality to fund specific needs within the parish as they arise. Thank you in advance for your support!

Once again this Lent, PTVM will deliver **72 Easter ham dinner baskets to the Ross Township food pantry** for local families in need. **There is a posterboard in the narthex with more details**, where you can sign up to bring the various shelf-stable foods that are needed. The hams have already been paid for by generous donations!

For **Bible Study tomorrow**, read **Romans 5-7**.

The **Men's Reading Group** will meet Thursday at 6:30pm to discuss the *First Epistle of St. Clement* from the *Apostolic Fathers*.

A new class for catechumens will start Saturday, March 16. Class will be held once a month before Great Vespers, beginning at 4:30pm. Catechumens should make every effort to attend. However, the class is open to anyone interested in the basics of Orthodox Christianity. The next class will be on April 20.

Every year, Orthodox Christian **homes are blessed with the new holy water of Theophany**. Make an appointment with Fr Jacob to have your home blessed. The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. The home blessing at Theophany represents a renewal of our lives in Christ.

Here is how to prepare for your house blessing: All who reside in the household should make every effort to be present for the blessing. We gather in the dining room or home altar. On your dining room table or family icon corner, set 1) A lit candle, 2) An icon of Christ, and 3) A small bowl. You may also prepare a list of the names of family members living and departed you wish to pray for. Also please remember to turn off any televisions or other noisy electronics. When the priest arrives everyone in the house should gather around the table/family altar and join in prayer and singing. If there are children, they usually carry the icon and a candle to lead the priest from room to room. If not, any member of the household will lead the priest. After the blessing, we gather back around the icon to commemorate family names and for the dismissal.

Mark your calendars:

Mar 4: Bible Study @ 7pm

Mar 5: Mens' Breakfast at Bob Evans in Valpo @ 7:15a

Mar 7: Men's Reading Group @ 6:30pm

Mar 9: Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy at Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church in Merrillville @ 10am

Mar 16: Catechism class before Vespers @ 4:30pm

Mar 17: Forgiveness Vespers @ 1pm after coffee hour

Mar 18: Clean Monday (start of Great Lent)

Mar 18 – 21: Great Canon of St Andrew in four parts, 6pm nightly

Mar 20: Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am; Lenten potluck







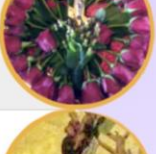





Mar 22: Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am; Lenten potluck

Mar 24: Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers @ 5pm, dinner after

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,191

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Glory to God for all things!