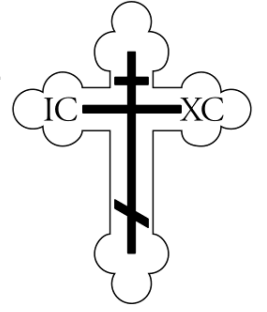
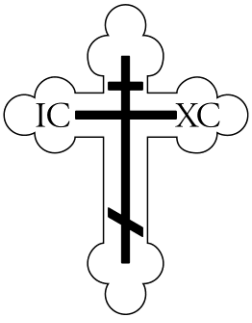


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## 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.**

# April 28, 2024

## The Feast of Palms

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a

fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus, the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them and raise them up to greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: “Do you accept Christ?” We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: “I accept Him as King and God!”

Thus, on the eve of Christ’s Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### First Antiphon

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Because He inclined His ear to me; therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me.

I suffered distress and anguish, so I called on the Name of the Lord.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## Second Antiphon

I kept my faith, even when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted.”

*Refrain:* O Son of God, seated the colt of an ass,  
save us who sing to You: “Alleluia!”

What shall I render to the Lord  
for all the things He has given me?

I will receive the cup of salvation  
and call on the Name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all His people.

*And we continue with “Only-Begotten Son” as usual.*

## Third Antiphon

**Cantor:** O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy  
endures forever! Let the house of Israel say that He is good,  
for His mercy endures forever!

**Choir:** **Tone 1 – Troparion of the Feast**  
By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion,  
You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God.  
Like the children with the palms of victory,  
we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death:  
“Hosanna in the highest!//  
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

**Cantor:** Let the house of Aaron say that He is good, for His mercy  
endures forever! Let those who fear the Lord say that He is  
good, for His mercy endures forever!

*The clergy exit the altar and join those already lined up for the  
Procession of Palms. The choir and people follow, repeating the  
Troparion of the Feast as we process around the Church building. As  
we return into the temple, the clergy make the Entrance:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Let us stand upright! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has revealed Himself to us!

*We sing the Troparion of the Feast again, then:*

**Tone 4 – Another Troparion for the Feast**

When we were buried with You in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection.

Now we praise You and sing:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

**Tone 6 – Kontakion of the Feast**

Sitting on Your throne in Heaven,

carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God,

accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing://

“Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!”

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Tone 4 – Festal Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)**

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

**Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9**

Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Gospel: John 12.1-18**

Six days before the Pascha, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but

Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

Therefore, the people who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**N.Dep.** Darwin Stenberg  
Edward Nawojski  
Emma Faye Bible  
Sequoyah Bible

**Ev.Mem.** Paul Shevchik ('17)  
Lenka Glegorovich ('80)  
Anne Kostelnik (2000)

**Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter  
Mat. Cynthia  
Hierom. John  
Pr. Gregory  
Mat. Beverly  
Pr. Patrick  
Mat. Anne  
Mat. Catherine  
Kevin  
Jon  
Tanya  
Jovan  
Rollie  
Claudia  
Paul  
Carol  
Snezana  
Ryan  
Nathan  
Kara  
Djuro  
Paula  
Christopher  
Karen  
Alexandra  
Jonathan  
Christine  
Zoey  
Dominic  
Declan  
Hudson  
Ronald  
Mary Ann  
Dara  
Jaroslava  
Andrew  
Andrew  
Vadim  
Hanna

Viktor  
Gerald  
Christine  
Olga  
Janie  
Sharon  
Tanya  
Renee  
Ashton  
Michael  
Chris  
Nina  
Carissa  
Duane  
Elizabeth  
Olga  
Klaudia  
Tom  
Diane  
Brandi  
Joyce  
Galina  
Thomas  
Diane  
Stephanie  
Cindy  
Nathaniel  
Tamara  
Dennis  
Maria  
Elizabeth  
Jonah  
Jamie  
Kyleigh  
Lauren  
Kyle  
Mark  
Christopher  
Betty  
William

Grace  
Janet  
Sarah  
Angela  
Lauren  
Jack  
Melissa  
Carolynn  
Nicholas  
Natalie  
Elizabeth  
William  
Linda  
Margaret  
Linda  
Jennifer  
Diane  
Chris  
Erin  
Jude  
Miriam  
Ephraim  
Irina  
Cyan  
Alla  
Gregory  
Joseph  
Michael  
George  
Ivanka  
Simeon  
Lupka  
Vangel  
Jovan  
Cveta  
Terry  
Elijah  
Erin  
John

*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.

## **Festal Theotokion (*Instead of "It is Truly Meet..."*)**

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!  
Celebrate the feast and come with gladness!  
Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches,  
singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!"

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congratulations to the **newly-Chrismated Moira Lindner!**

Please review the **Holy Week sign-up board** in the Narthex and **sign up to participate in the services**. There are opportunities to hold vigil candles during the Passion Gospels, help lead the various processions, and keep vigil by Christ's tomb Friday night.

Next Sunday, after the Agape Vespers, we will have our usual **Egg Hunt** for the children. Then, everyone is invited to **our first Paschal Potluck Cookout**, from noon to 6pm. Bring something to share. A grill will be available.

We need **more coffee hour volunteers** to spread the load of providing the snacks and coffee we all enjoy each week. If you can help, please speak to Juli Lear or Fr Jacob for more information.

The annual **Ladies' Sodality Bright Week Luncheon** will be at Outback Steakhouse on Tuesday, May 7 after Divine Liturgy. Interested new members are encouraged to join them for lunch. Please indicate if you are planning to come on the sign-up sheet in the narthex, so we can make the reservation.

On Friday, May 10, the O-Club will host a **Trivia Night Fundraiser for Mommy's Haven Maternity Home**. Tickets are \$25/person at the door or a table of eight for \$180. Pizza, chips, beer, and wine are included. BYO food and drink is also allowed. Cash prize for the winning table. Doors open at 6pm. Trivia starts at 6:30pm.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 1**, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Hobart. This is a major fundraiser for us. Hole sponsors (\$125) or other monetary or prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to help in any way (including making desserts or appetizers), or to purchase tickets, please see Rich Svihra, Nick Rozdelsky, or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

**Mark your calendars:**

**Apr 27: Bridegroom Matins at Holy Trinity in Chicago @ 6pm**

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Mon: Presanctified Liturgy @ 2pm**

**Bridegroom Matins @ 6pm**

**Tues: Presanctified Liturgy @ 2pm**

**Bridegroom Matins @ 6pm**

**Wed: Bridegroom Matins @ 2pm**

**Holy Unction at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 7pm**

**Thur: Liturgy of the Holy Supper @ 10am**

**Matins of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels) @ 6pm**

**Fri: Royal Hours @ 9am**

**Vespers of Entombment @ 2pm**

**Matins of Lamentation @ 6pm, followed by the all-night**

**Tomb Vigil**

**Sat: Vespereal Liturgy of Pascha @ 10am**

**Paschal Vigil (Resurrection) @ 11pm**

**Sun: Agape Vespers @ 11am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt**

**May 7: Bright Tuesday Liturgy @ 10am**

**May 10: O-Club Trivia Night for Women's Shelter @ 6pm**

**June 1: Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,005**

**Glory to God for all things!**