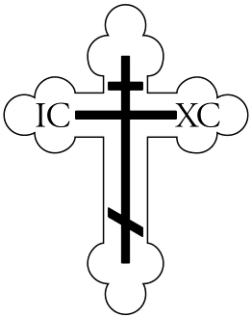
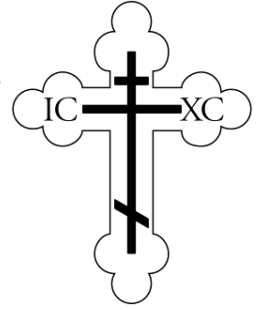


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN
(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
hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

May 11, 2025

Sunday of the Paralytic

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants. Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19).

In chapter 14 of Exodus, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. When they were safely across, the waters came together, and their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

On their forty-year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink. The people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6).

In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water.

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to St John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Like some Old Testament miracles, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Sheep Pool, once a year, only one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine Baptism. Sometimes, as in the case of St Vladimir, Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities.

As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts".

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 3 – Kontakion for the Paralytic

By Your divine intercession, O Lord,
as You raised up the Paralytic of old,
so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts;
so that being saved I may sing to You://
“Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of Pascha

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on
the fallen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!

Epistle: Acts 9.32-42

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And

she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Gospel: John 5.1-15

At that time, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.” He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”

Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Larry Tincher	Nevrus Hastan ('64)
James Hammang	Evdokia Nepsha ('70)
Ev.Mem. Efrosenia Denisuk ('26)	Paul Rast ('84)
Nicholas Radivan (1957)	Michael Pachapa (2019)

Health & Salv.	Nina	Monica
Archpr. Peter	Carissa	Charles
Mat. Cynthia	Carol	Kimberly
Hierom. John	Snezana	Abigail
Archpr. Jonathan	Ryan	Charles
Mat. Vera	Nathan	Rosemary
Pr. Patrick	Kara	Nicholas
Pr. Gregory	Karen	Natalie
Mat. Beverly	Alisa	Jovan
Mat. Anne	Michael	Michael
Valer	Moses	Abram
Nun Theodora	Helena	Zoë
Brendan	James	Brenda
Rollie	Elijah	Lisa
Claudia	Lydia	Mazzy
Mary Ann	Nina	Terry
Raymond	George	Angie
Edward	Linda	Irina
Charlotte	Kimberly	Elizabeth
Joseph	Steven	Vitaliy
Janice	Jamie	Maria
Klaudia	Kyleigh	Viktoria
Maja	Lauren	Rebecca
Raymond	Kyle	Pauline
Anne	Linda	Meagan
Gerald	Denise	Minnie
Janet	John	Richard
Gerald	Cindy	Rosie
Rebecca	Ron	Sarah
Christopher	Matthew	Milton
Brianna	John	Andrew
Logan	Erin	Carol
Olga	Aaron	Lidia
Janie	Marcietta	Daisy
Sharon	Maria	Julie
Tanya	Alla	Dorothy
Renee	Elizabeth	Ann
Ashton	Dwight	Michael
Michael	Renee	Betty
Chris	Dominik	James

Jacob
Robert
Courtney

Sarah
Ethan
Rita

Carrie

To add the name of a loved one recently departed or on the anniversary of their repose, or someone living and in particular need of prayer, please speak 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, Russia, 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, hearken and have mercy.

Paschal Theotokion (*Instead of “It is Truly Meet...”*)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
“Rejoice, rejoice O pure Virgin!
Again, I say: Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.”
Rejoice, rejoice O you people!
Shine, shine, shine O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion!
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be **no Bible Study** this week.

Next **Saturday** is our annual **Outdoor Spring Clean-up**. Please come and lend a hand from 9am until lunch, which will be provided.

It is time once again to **reset our parish prayer list**. Please email Fr Jacob with the names of those living who should remain on the list for ongoing needs. Thank you!

Memorial Day grave blessings will happen as usual at our parish cemetery beginning at 9am. However, to have your graves blessed at other cemeteries, please make an appointment with Fr Jacob for another day.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 31** at Indian Ridge Country Club in Hobart. This is a major fundraiser for us. The proceeds will be used for the continuation, support, and development of various Church projects, which reach out to the community. 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 banquet tickets (\$20 each), please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

Mark your calendars:

May 13: Sodality Meeting & Lunch @ 10am

May 14: Hierarchical Liturgy for Mid-Pentecost @ Sts Peter & Paul, Burr Ridge

May 15: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

May 17: Spring Outdoor Clean-up @ 9am

Catechism: Church History @ 4:30pm

May 18: Last Day of Church School

May 20: Men's Breakfast - Bob Evans in Valpo @7:15 am

May 23: Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6pm

May 26: Memorial Day Blessings at St Mary's Cemetery @ 9am

May 29: Divine Liturgy for the Ascension of our Lord @ 10am

May 31: Golf Outing: Golf at Indian Ridge @ 8am, Banquet at parish Hall @ 12pm

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$8,353

Paschal Oration

of St Gregory the Theologian

Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I am made alive with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I am raised up with Him.

Let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us... ourselves—the possession most precious to God and most proper. Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become Divine for His sake, since for us He became Man.

He assumed the worse that He might give us the better. He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich. He accepted the form of a servant that we might win back our freedom.

He came down that we might be lifted up. He was tempted that through Him we might conquer. He was dishonored that He might glorify us. He died that He might save us. He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were thrown down through the fall of sin.

Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself a Ransom and Reconciliation for us.

We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed. We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him. We were glorified with Him because we rose again with Him.

A few drops of blood recreate the whole of creation!

Christ is risen!

Indeed He is risen!