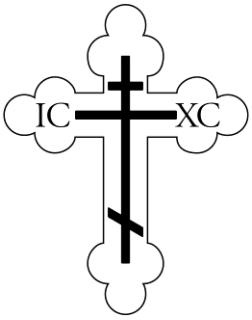


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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
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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 4, 2025 Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

Today the Church honors the Myrrh-bearing women, those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Those whose names we know are: Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Joanna, Salome (mother of the sons of Zebedee), Martha and Mary (sisters of Lazarus) and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James and Joses. With them we also remember St Joseph of Arimathea and St Nicodemus, who asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then laid it in a tomb.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 2 – Troparion to St. Joseph

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 2 – Troparion to the Myrrhbearing Women

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: ‘The Lord is risen,//
granting the world great mercy.’”

Tone 2 – Kontakion to the Myrrhbearing Women

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the
first mother.
You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles://
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

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 6 – Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

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

Epistle: Acts 6.1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then he bought fine linen, took Jesus down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw

a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

So, they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Larry Tinch	Ev.Mem. Peter Brilla (1940)
James Hammang	Peter Milushoff (1949)
John Hiatt	Theodosy Lugovsky (1951)

Health & Salv.	Janet	James
Archpr. Peter	Gerald	Elijah
Mat. Cynthia	Rebecca	Lydia
Hierom. John	Christopher	Nina
Archpr. Jonathan	Brianna	George
Mat. Vera	Logan	Linda
Pr. Patrick	Olga	Kimberly
Pr. Gregory	Janie	Steven
Mat. Beverly	Sharon	Jamie
Mat. Anne	Tanya	Kyleigh
Valer	Renee	Lauren
Nun Theodora	Ashton	Kyle
Brendan	Michael	Linda
Rollie	Chris	Denise
Claudia	Nina	John
Mary Ann	Carissa	Cindy
Raymond	Carol	Ron
Edward	Snezana	Matthew
Charlotte	Ryan	John
Joseph	Nathan	Erin
Janice	Kara	Aaron
Klaudia	Karen	Marcietta
Maja	Alisa	Maria
Raymond	Michael	Alla
Anne	Moses	Elizabeth
Gerald	Helena	Samuel

Joseph	Brenda	Sarah
Dwight	Lisa	Milton
Renee	Mazzy	Andrew
Dominik	Terry	Carol
Monica	Angie	Lidia
Charles	Irina	Daisy
Kimberly	Elizabeth	Julie
Abigail	Vitaliy	Dorothy
Charles	Maria	Ann
Rosemary	Viktoria	Michael
Nicholas	Rebecca	Betty
Natalie	Pauline	James
Jovan	Meagan	Jacob
Michael	Minnie	Robert
Abram	Richard	Courtney
Zoë	Rosie	Sarah

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!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be **no Bible Study** the next two weeks.

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.

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!

Mark your calendars:

May 6: **Patronal Hierarchical Liturgy & Banquet at St George Cathedral, Chicago @ 9:30am**

Guys' Night Out at Maxim's in Merrillville @ 6pm

May 7: **Divine Liturgy for the feast of St Alexis of Minneapolis** at St Elizabeth's in Chesterton @ 9am

May 8: **Women's Book Club @ 6pm**

May 17: **Spring Outdoor Clean-up @ 9am**
Catechism @ 4:30pm

May 18: **Last Day of Church School**

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: \$3,714.26

Paschal Message 2025

Of His Eminence, our Metropolitan Tikhon

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved children in the Lord,

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

“This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore.”

So we sang at Matins, at the eighth ode of the Paschal canon. St. John of Damascus, the author of that canon, calls today “the feast of feasts,” and as we celebrate this feast of feasts, this first and greatest of feasts, we might ask a seemingly simple question: what are feasts, and why do we celebrate them? This question seems particularly appropriate as the world around us grows ever more chaotic and complex. In the midst of all the change and busy-ness, how can we spare the time just to celebrate and do nothing of use?

Many of us are familiar with the Russian festal greeting, *s prazdnikom*. The key word here is *prazdnik*, the Russian word for feast or holiday, which derives in turn from the adjective *prazdny*, meaning “empty,” and hence “idle.” But this emptiness, or idleness, is not merely an expression of absence. The feast has positive content, but this content is not man-made: it is something made by God, something that our inaction allows us encounter and appreciate. Feasts are days on which we remain idle so that God can act; they are days that we empty of our own works so that we can fill them with the remembrance of the things of God: his deeds, his presence, his glory.

After all, as the Lord says, the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath (Mk. 2:27). We abused our freewill, sinned, and lost the continual enjoyment of God, instead being cursed to eat by the sweat of our brow (Gen. 3:19). But God, in his mercy, has given us the feast day, a day on which we are able to return to our Edenic state. We set aside the labor that is the result of our sin and, for a day at least, devote ourselves to true rest, to the one thing needful: worship in spirit and truth, whose hour is coming and now is (Lk. 10:42, Jn. 4:23). As we sang at the canon, the feast is the day on which we bless Christ forevermore.

The feast day, in this way, becomes an icon of the deified person, filled with the divine energies—God’s activity, rather than his own. The saints empty their hearts, their lives, their being, of everything worldly and passionate so that God can dwell there as his holy temple. The feast is also thus an icon of the life to come, in which the elect will no longer know toil or care, but only the never-ending banquet of the kingdom, the ceaseless heavenly worship of the one God in Trinity.

Thus, on this first of sabbaths, I pray that we might all set aside our Lenten labors and rejoice in the day which the Lord has made, Bright Sunday, his great and holy Pascha (Ps. 117:24). Following in the footsteps of our self-emptying Master, we worked for six weeks to cleanse our hearts and lives of everything unbefitting, not so that we could be empty, but so we could be filled, according to own measure and capacity, with the grace that Christ brings into the world through his life-creating Resurrection. Christ rested after his six days of labor, and now after our six weeks of Lenten work, he calls us to enter into his rest, to find our peace in him and the great salvation that he has wrought for us upon the Wood.

Christ is risen, the Peace of God, the divine Peace himself, and so, in the midst of a busy and whirling world, we find everlasting peace on his feast of feasts. May the grace, peace, and joy of his Resurrection abide with all of you, always, now and throughout the ages to come.

Greeting you with festal cheer and Paschal rejoicing, and assuring you of my primatial prayers and blessing, I remain,
Yours in Christ,

+ TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for
all things!