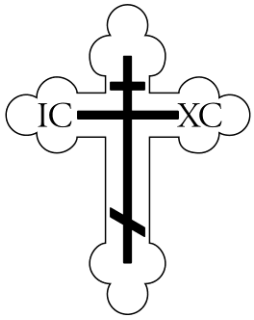


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN  
(219)947-4748  
[www.ptvm.com](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## June 15, 2025 Sunday of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano lived in the world but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of St Theophano in 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

### Tone 4 – Troparion of All Saints

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,

Your Church has been adorned with Your martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world.

She cries to You, O Christ God:

“Send down Your bounties on Your people,//

grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!”

### Tone 8 – Kontakion of All Saints

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs

as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.

By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace//

through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## **Tone 8 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

## **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for All Saints (Psalm 67)**

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

## **Epistle: Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2 (All Saints)**

Brethren: Through faith, the Saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not receiving deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, and by chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, because God had provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Gospel: Matthew 10.32-33, 37-38; 19.27-30 (All Saints)**

The Lord said to His disciples, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?”

So, Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

<b>N.Dep.</b> Stephen Mitrovich	Luba Hutka (1963)
Sharon Barcinski	Anna Nesterovich (1964)
Tyler Houser	Sukleta Nepsha (1971)
Labrine Lucas	Mary Turpa (1981)
<b>Ev. Mem.</b> Nicholas Huminsky ('58)	Tanasca Gulab (1997)

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Olga	Erin
Archpr. Peter	Janie	Aaron
Mat. Cynthia	Sharon	Marcietta
Hierom. John	Tanya	Charles
Archpr. Jonathan	Renee	Rosemary
Mat. Vera	Ashton	Nicholas
Mat. Anne	Michael	Natalie
Valer	Carol	Jovan
Nun Theodora	Snezana	Joseph
Rollie	Ryan	Thomas
Claudia	Nathan	Christine
Mary Ann	Kara	Meagan
Raymond	Moses	Minnie
Edward	Helena	Richard
Charlotte	James	Rosie
Klaudia	Elijah	Sarah
Maja	Lydia	Milton
Gerald	Nina	Andrew
Janet	Jamie	Carol
Gerald	Kyleigh	Lidia
Rebecca	Lauren	Julie
Christopher	Kyle	Dorothy
Brianna	Matthew	Ann
Logan	John	Michael

Betty	Ethan	Morgan
James	Rita	James
Jacob	Carrie	Michael
Robert	Cecilia	Mary
Courtney	Shaun	Kimberly
Sarah	Ryan	

*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.

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

Rejoice, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins!  
 No tongue, however sweet or fluent,  
 is eloquent enough to praise you worthily.  
 Every mind is overawed by your childbearing.  
 Therefore, with one voice, we glorify you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the Cross, we will serve the **13-year memorial for Jan Hughes** and **19-year memorial for Popadija Ivanka Tanaskoski**.  
 For **Bible Study tomorrow night**, read 1 Peter 1-3.

In anticipation of the **Glorification of Matushka Olga Michael**, which will take place in her hometown of Kwethluk, Alaska this Friday, we will serve the **last panikhida** for her on Thursday at 6:30pm, before Men’s Reading Group at 6:45pm. Then next Sunday, at the end of the Liturgy for All Saints of North America, we will serve an abbreviated Moleben to the newly glorified American Saint: Olga of Alaska!

Sodality will hold their **rummage sale this year on Saturday, June 21**. Please drop your gently used clothing and home goods in the Sunday School rooms.

Next Sunday during coffee hour, **Jerry Minetos of Ancient Faith Ministries will give us a presentation** about all the work they do.

Our parking lot is scheduled for repaving the week of July 14-18 (Monday through Friday). The **entire facility will be inaccessible** while the crew is working. It should not affect our regular weekend services.

**Mark your calendars:**

**June 16: Bible Study @ 7pm**

**June 17: Parish Council @ 7pm**

**June 19: Last Panikhida for Mat. Olga @ 6:30pm  
Men's Reading Group 6:45pm**

**June 21: Rummage Sale 9am-5pm  
Catechism: Church Architecture @ 4:30pm**

**June 24: Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of St John the Baptist at  
Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 10am**

**June 25: Vigil for the feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the Theotokos at  
Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 6pm**

**June 26: Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the  
Theotokos at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 9:30am**

**Last Week's Gifts to the Lord:   \$1,403**

# **Archpastoral Message on the Great Feast of Pentecost from His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel**

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics,  
and Beloved Faithful of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest

Dear Ones in Christ,

I greet you with joy and gladness as we gather throughout our Diocese to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the manifestation of the Holy Trinity, and the beginning of the Church's divine

mission. This Feast of Pentecost is also personal for each one of us as we remember that, just as the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples and apostles at the first Pentecost, we, too, have received the *Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit*.

This gift of the Holy Spirit is promised in the Holy Scriptures. In the Book of the Prophet Joel, we read the words *“I will pour out my Spirit upon all people”* (Joel 2:8). The Lord Jesus repeats that promise in the Gospel of John: *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you... However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you* (cf. John 16:7-14).

These promises were fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended with power upon the Apostles who then inaugurated the mission of the Church in the world. Jesus Himself had prepared the Eleven for this mission, appearing to them on many occasions after his Resurrection (Acts 1:3). Prior to His Ascension into Heaven, He ordered them *not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father* (Acts 1:4-5); that is, he asked them to *stay together* to prepare themselves to receive the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. And so they gathered in prayer with Mary in the Upper Room, awaiting the fulfillment of the promise (Acts 1:14). To stay together in prayerful unity was a condition laid down by Jesus for the disciples and apostles to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The basis of their unity was their persistent prayer. In this example of prayer we are offered a significant lesson for every Christian community, every family, every parish, and every monastery. The basis for our unity and oneness of mind is our common prayer. Our ability to walk in the Spirit, to live the Christian life, and to proclaim the Gospel is founded and built upon our life of prayer, both personal and communal.

However, sometimes we have the impression that our lives as Orthodox Christians and our effectiveness in preaching the Gospel depends primarily on careful programming and its subsequent intellectual and practical implementation. The Lord certainly asks for our collaboration in such initiatives; He asks us to use our planning abilities, our intellectual and real-world talents, in service to

the Gospel. But before any of our efforts, His initiative is necessary: the Holy Spirit—Who leads, guides, and inspires us—is the true protagonist of the Church, the One Who plays the chief role in leading and guiding us. Like the Apostles, we need to pray and wait for the Lord to guide and inspire us before we go into the world to preach the Saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Today we acknowledge that our human pride and arrogance always create divisions, build walls of indifference, hate, and violence. Following in the path of the divisions created by the building of the tower of Babel, humanity still lives fragmented. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, heals our hearts and makes us capable of understanding the languages and lives of all. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love, re-establishes the conduit of true communication, which is love itself. Recalling Babel and its disunity and the unity created by the Gift of the Holy Spirit, today we sing:

*When the Most High came down and confused the tongues,  
He divided the nations;*

*but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.*

*Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.*

We celebrate today because the promised Comforter, the Spirit of the Father, has been given to us, indeed, ***poured out*** upon us. The Spirit of Truth will enable us to understand that Christ's work is a work of love: love of the One Who gave Himself, love of the Father Who has given Him. This is the mystery of Pentecost: the Holy Spirit illuminates the human spirit and transforms it, calling us all to unity.

Today, the Church, gathered in prayer with Mary the Ever-Virgin Birthgiver of God, implores and entreats: *O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things; Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!*

With love in the All-Holy Spirit,  
+DANIEL

# Glory to God for all things!