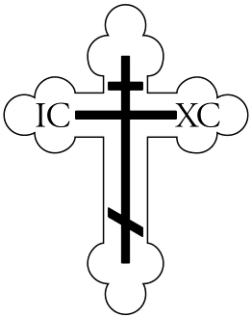


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN
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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.

June 1, 2025 Afterfeast of Ascension Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova, who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicaea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos, and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," (sometimes translated as "of one essence") which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicæan Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox.

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 –Troparion of Ascension

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that You are the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 – Troparion of the Holy Fathers

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them You have guided us to the true Faith. //
O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Holy Fathers

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established
one Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, //
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 6 – Kontakion of Ascension

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,
and united earth to heaven:
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love You,
but remaining with them and crying: //
“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Epistle: Acts 20.16-18, 28-36 (Sunday)

At that time, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you. Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore, watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel: John 17.1-13 (Sunday)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Stephen Mitrovich	Nicholas Pika (1942)
Sharon Barcinski	Katherine Yatsuk (1929)
Tyler Houser	Peter Leshuk (1976)
Labrine Lucas	Vladimir Pivlov (1987)
Larry Tincher	Luba Christoff (1995)
Ev. Mem. Anastasia Taleff (1923)	Anastasia Koveck (2015)
Onufrey Kuzemchak (1927)	

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

Andrew	James	Cecilia
Carol	Jacob	Shaun
Lidia	Robert	Ryan
Julie	Courtney	Morgan
Dorothy	Sarah	James
Ann	Ethan	Michael
Michael	Rita	Mary
Betty	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.

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

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We the faithful, with one accord, magnify you, the Mother of God, who, beyond reason and understanding, ineffably gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to the many volunteers who put on our annual Golf Outing yesterday! It was an excellent time and a good showing for the parish to our friends in the community.

Congratulations to Alex and Karen Sell who were married yesterday morning!

Fr Jacob will be on vacation this week from Monday until Friday. Fr Nicholas will also be out of town for a work conference. For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr Daniel Radu of Descent of the Holy Ghost Orthodox Church at 248-747-1335.

Funeral arrangements for Sharon Barcinski are as follows:

Visitation Tuesday at Geisen’s (formerly Pruzin’s) on Broadway in Merrillville from 3pm until 7pm. Funeral Mass Wednesday at

Nativity of Our Savior Catholic Church in Portage at 11am with visitation from 10am.

The **funeral of Stephen Mitrovich**, brother of Victoria Mitrovich, will be at our church this Tuesday. Visitation begins at 9am with the funeral service at 11am, followed by interment at PTVM Cemetery. Fr Daniel Radu will preside.

Next Sunday is Pentecost, which is the **parish feast of Descent of the Holy Ghost Orthodox Church** in Merrillville. We will join them for Vespers and a festal reception this Saturday evening, so there will be **no Vespers at PTVM this week**.

Next Monday (the day after Pentecost) **Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago celebrates its parish feast**. Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Daniel is at 9:30am, followed by a meal.

St Iakovos Greek Orthodox Church in Valparaiso will open its new Temple the weekend of June 14-15. Archbishop Elpidophoros will preside. Vespers at 4pm. Orthros and Divine Liturgy at 8:30am.

Sodality will hold their **rummage sale this year on Saturday, June 21**. Please bring gently used clothing and home goods to the church beginning next Sunday. Drop them off in the Sunday School rooms.

The Synod of Bishops has appointed a **new Chancellor of the OCA, Fr Alessandro Margheritino**. The former chancellor, Fr Alexander Rentel, stepped down at the end of 2024 to become rector of St Vladimir's Seminary chapel.

Mark your calendars:

June 3: **Men's Breakfast** at Bob Evans, Valpo @ 7:15am

June 7: **Great Vespers at Descent of the Holy Ghost for their Parish Feast @ 6pm**

June 9: **Hierarchical Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 9:30am**
Bible Study @ 7pm

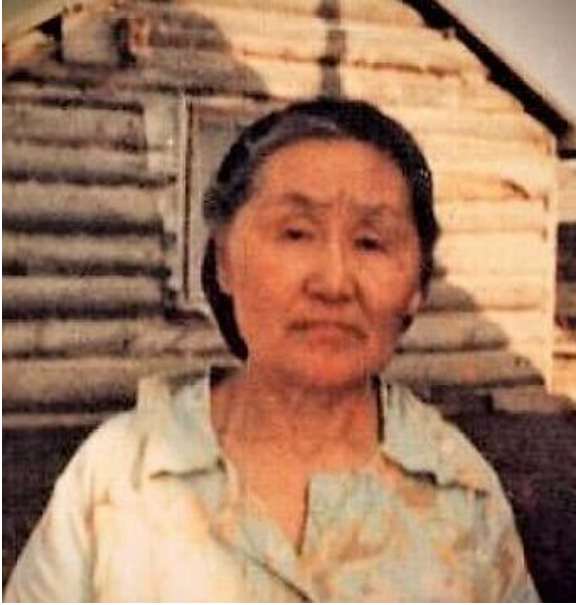
June 21: **Rummage Sale 9am-5pm**

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

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$1,951

Update on the Canonization of Righteous Olga of Kwethluk

The services celebrating the canonization of Matushka Olga Michael of Kwethluk, AK, will take place June 19-22, 2025, in Kwethluk and



Anchorage, AK. In November 2023, Matushka Olga was numbered among the saints by act of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, making her the first North American woman and the first Yup'ik person to be glorified as a saint in the Orthodox Church. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon will preside over the canonization services, concelebrating

with other hierarchs and clergy of the Orthodox Church in America as well as delegations from other jurisdictions.

The canonization proper will take place in Matushka Olga's home village of Kwethluk, AK June 19-20 with a Primatial All-Night Vigil with the Rite of Glorification and Primatial Divine Liturgy followed a Grand Banquet

The celebration of St. Olga's canonization will continue that weekend in Anchorage, Alaska June 21-22 with the Primatial All-Night Vigil in Honor of Righteous Olga and the Primatial Divine Liturgy followed by a Grand Banquet

Finally, as a capstone to the canonization celebration, at the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ, there will be an All-Night Vigil and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy July 16-17, at which St. Olga's hymns will once again be sung.

The Holy Synod has clarified and confirmed that Matushka Olga's feast day will henceforth be celebrated annually on October 27 with the first celebration taking place in temples of the Orthodox Church in America on October 26-27, 2025.

Glory to God for all things!