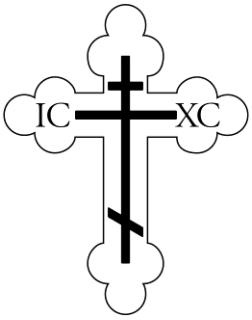
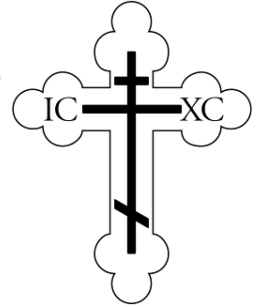


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

August 10, 2025

Afterfeast of Transfiguration

Holy Martyr Lawrence of Rome

During the reign of the Emperor Valerian, the Bishop of Rome, St Sixtus, was imprisoned. When the Archdeacon Laurence visited him in prison, he cried out with tears, "Where are you going, Father, without your son? Where do you hasten without your Archdeacon? Never have you offered the Bloodless Sacrifice without me. Take me with you, so that I may join you in shedding our blood for Christ!"

St Sixtus replied, "I am not forsaking you, my son. I am old and I accept the lesser battle, but greater suffering awaits you. You must achieve a greater victory and triumph over your tormentors. Three days after my death, you shall follow me." Then he entrusted Laurence with the Church's treasures and sacred vessels, telling him to

distribute these to the poor. He gathered them up and went around the city on foot, to the clergy and impoverished Christians who were in hiding, helping them according to their needs.

Valerian ordered St Sixtus to be taken to the temple of Mars outside the city walls and put to death if he did not offer incense. When he saw the pagan temple, St Sixtus prayed for it to be destroyed. There was an earthquake which caused part of the temple to collapse, and the statue of Mars was shattered to pieces. St Laurence then cried out, "Father, I have fulfilled your command and have distributed the treasures of the Church which you entrusted to me."

After hearing about treasure, the soldiers placed him under guard. St Sixtus was beheaded in front of the temple on August 6. The soldiers brought St Laurence to the Emperor, informing that they had heard him mention something about the Church's hidden treasures. The Emperor ordered him to reveal where the treasures were, and the Archdeacon asked for three days to collect them. Then St Laurence gathered all the poor and the needy, and brought them to the Prefect, saying, "Behold the treasures of the Church."

The ruler became very angry and ordered a soldier Hippolytos to throw the Archdeacon into the dungeon with other prisoners. There the Saint restored the sight of a man named Lucillus. Hippolytos was amazed at this and asked to see the Church's treasures. St Laurence told him that if he believed in Christ and was baptized, he would find true wealth and everlasting life. So, Hippolytos secretly took St Laurence to his home, where he instructed and baptized the jailer and all his household.

Again, he was brought out for torture, and another soldier, Romanus said to him, "Laurence, I see a radiant youth standing by you and wiping your wounds. Entreat Christ, who has sent His Angel to you, not to abandon me." When Laurence was returned to his cell, Romanus brought a pitcher of water and asked to be baptized. Immediately, he was seized and taken to the Emperor. Before anyone could question him, Romanus shouted, "I am a Christian." He was taken outside the city and beheaded on August 9.

The next day, St Laurence was placed on a rack, scourged with whips, and then was stretched out naked on a red-hot iron gridiron. The Holy Martyr glanced at the ruler and said, "You have already roasted one side of my body, now turn me over to the other side so you may taste what you have roasted." Then he glorified God, saying, "I thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have found me worthy to enter Your gates." St Laurence received the unfading crown of martyrdom on August 10, 258.

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 7 – Troparion of Transfiguration

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,

revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.

Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,

through the prayers of the Theotokos!//

O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illumined by your coming, O Mother of God.

Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:

Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.

Deliver us from every form of evil

by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//

that He may save our souls.

Tone 4 – Troparion to St Lawrence

Victorious martyr of Christ our God,

by the sign of the Cross you gave sight to the blind;

you distributed the riches of the Church to the poor;

you were tried by fire, and no evil was found in you.

As you endured burning,

may your prayers extinguish the flames of our many sins,//

blessed Archdeacon Lawrence!

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly

Merciful One!

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St Lawrence

Your heart burned with divine fire,

as the flames of the passions died within you.

God-bearing Martyr Lawrence, the pillar of those who struggle,

you cried out in the midst of your contest://

“Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ!”

Tone 7 – Kontakion of Transfiguration

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God,
and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;
so that when they would behold You crucified,
they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world//
that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Tone 4 – Festal Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom You have made them all!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3.9-17

Brethren: We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gospel: Matthew 14.22-34

At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

So He said, “Come.”

And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. John Von Lewis, Jr.	Mary Zdyniak ('50)	
Vernon Cayten	Joseph Uskert ('77)	
Ev. Mem. Vladimir Panchak ('25)	Elizabeth Kane ('91)	
Health & Salv.	Gerald	Nathan
Archpr. Peter	Janet	Kara
Mat. Cynthia	Gerald	Moses
Hierom. John	Rebecca	Helena
Archpr. Jonathan	Christopher	James
Mat. Vera	Brianna	Elijah
Mat. Anne	Logan	Lydia
Valer	Olga	Nina
Nun Theodora	Janie	Jamie
Rollie	Sharon	Kyleigh
Claudia	Tanya	Lauren
Mary Ann	Renee	Kyle
Raymond	Ashton	Matthew
Edward	Michael	John
Charlotte	Carol	Erin
Klaudia	Snezana	Aaron
Maja	Ryan	Marcietta

Charles	Carol	Cecilia
Rosemary	Lidia	Shaun
Nicholas	Julie	Ryan
Natalie	Dorothy	Morgan
Jovan	Ann	James
Joseph	Michael	Michael
Thomas	Betty	Mary
Christine	James	Kimberly
Meagan	Jacob	Marley
Minnie	Robert	Miette
Richard	Courtney	Jennifer
Rosie	Sarah	Hunter
Sarah	Ethan	Tim
Milton	Rita	Laura
Andrew	Carrie	Steven

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, Palestine, and Iran. 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, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor! Your childbearing was without corruption; God came forth from your body clothed in flesh, and appeared on earth and dwelt among men.// Therefore, we all magnify you, O Theotokos.

Festal Communion Hymn

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance and will exult in Your Name forever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, please read Revelation 4-6.

Feeding the Flock will hold their Fashion Show Luncheon fundraiser on Saturday, September 27, 11am-2:30pm. Janet Andrus has tickets for sale at coffee hour. Luncheon is \$40/plate. 50/50 Raffle Tickets are 6 for \$5. You do not have to be present to enter the raffle.

On September 1, the beginning of the new Church Year, we will refresh the parish prayer list. Please email or text Fr Jacob the names of anyone who should remain on the prayer list after September 1. This would be anyone with whom you are close who is in particular need of prayer for their physical or spiritual health.

Mark your calendars:

Aug 11: Bible Study @ 7pm

Aug 14: Festal Vespers for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 6pm

Aug 15: Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 9am

Aug 29: Divine Liturgy for the Beheading of St John at Descent of the Holy Ghost, Merrillville @ 10am

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$3,725

On the Feast of Transfiguration

by St Anastasius of Sinai

Upon Mount Tabor, Jesus revealed to his disciples a heavenly mystery. While living among them he had spoken of the kingdom and of his second coming in glory, but to banish from their hearts any possible doubt concerning the kingdom and to confirm their faith in what lay in the future by its prefiguration in the present, he gave them on Mount Tabor a wonderful vision of his glory, a foreshadowing of the kingdom of heaven. It was as if he said to them: "As time goes by you may be in danger of losing your faith. To save you from this I tell you now that some standing here listening to me will not taste death until they have seen the Son of Man coming in the glory of his Father."

Moreover, in order to assure us that Christ could command such power when he wished, the evangelist continues: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John, and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. There, before their eyes, he was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as

white as light. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah appear, and they were talking to Jesus.

These are the divine wonders we celebrate today; this is the saving revelation given us upon the mountain; this is the festival of Christ that has drawn us here. Let us listen, then, to the sacred voice of God so compellingly calling us from on high, from the summit of the mountain, so that with the Lord's chosen disciples we may penetrate the deep meaning of these holy mysteries, so far beyond our capacity to express. Jesus goes before us to show us the way, both up the mountain and into heaven, and – I speak boldly – it is for us now to follow him with all speed, yearning for the heavenly vision that will give us a share in his radiance, renew our spiritual nature and transform us into his own likeness, making us for ever sharers in his Godhead and raising us to heights as yet undreamed of.

Let us run with confidence and joy to enter into the cloud like Moses and Elijah, or like James and John. Let us be caught up like Peter to behold the divine vision and to be transfigured by that glorious transfiguration. Let us retire from the world, stand aloof from the earth, rise above the body, detach ourselves from creatures and turn to the creator, to whom Peter in ecstasy exclaimed: Lord, it is good for us to be here. It is indeed good to be here, as you have said, Peter. It is good to be with Jesus and to remain here forever. What greater happiness or higher honor could we have than to be with God, to be made like him and to live in his light?

Therefore, since each of us possesses God in his heart and is being transformed into his divine image, we also should cry out with joy: It is good for us to be here – here where all things shine with divine radiance, where there is joy and gladness and exultation; where there is nothing in our hearts but peace, serenity and stillness; where God is seen. For here, in our hearts, Christ takes up his abode together with the Father, saying as he enters: Today salvation has come to this house. With Christ, our hearts receive all the wealth of his eternal blessings, and there where they are stored up for us in him, we see reflected as in a mirror both the first fruits and the whole of the world to come.

Glory to God for all things!