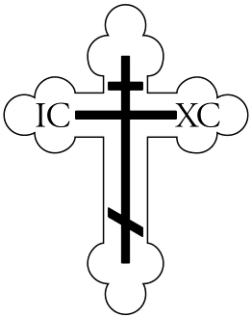


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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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.

August 17, 2025

Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

Holy Martyr Myron of Cyzicus

The Holy Martyr Myron was a presbyter in Achaia (modern Greece) in the third century. He suffered in the year 250 under the emperor Decius. The presbyter was gentle and kind to people, but he was also courageous in the defense of his spiritual children.

On the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, he was celebrating the Divine Liturgy. The local governor Antipater came into the church

with soldiers to arrest those praying there and to subject them to torture. St Myron began to plead for his flock, accusing the governor of cruelty, and for this the saint was delivered over to be tortured.

They took St Myron and struck his body with iron rods. They then threw the presbyter into a red-hot oven, but the Lord preserved the martyr, though about 150 men standing nearby were scorched by the fire. The governor then began to insist that the martyr worship idols. St Myron firmly refused to do this, so Antipater ordered leather thongs to be cut from his skin. St Myron took one of the leather thongs and threw it in the face of his tormentor.

Falling into a rage, Antipater gave orders to strike St Myron all over his stripped body, and then to give the martyr to wild beasts to be eaten. But the beasts would not touch him. Seeing himself defeated, Antipater in his blind rage committed suicide. They then took St Myron to the city of Cyzicus, where he was beheaded by the sword.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!”

Tone 1 – Troparion for Dormition

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.
You were translated to life O Mother of Life,//
and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Myron

Your holy martyr Myron, O Lord,
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from
You, our God.
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//
Through his intercession, save our souls!

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.

Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://

“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 4 – Kontakion to St. Myron

From childhood you longed for Christ, all glorious one,
keeping His divine commandments and running to Him with all your
being, all-honored Myron.

Now you zealously pray with the Angels,
asking remission of sins//

for those who celebrate your memory.

Tone 2 – Kontakion for Dormition

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.

For being the Mother of Life, //

she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

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

Tone 3 – Prokeimenon for Dormition (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4.9-16

Brethren: I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you: imitate me.

Gospel: Matthew 17.14-23

At that time, when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down to Him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. John Von Lewis, Jr. Vernon Cayten	Ev. Mem. Michel Kichkailo (1920) Jason Shurak (1932) Julia Bartosh (1942)
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Health & Salv.	Valer	Charlotte
Archpr. Peter	Nun Theodora	Klaudia
Mat. Cynthia	Rollie	Maja
Hierom. John	Claudia	Gerald
Archpr. Jonathan	Mary Ann	Janet
Mat. Vera	Raymond	Gerald
Mat. Anne	Edward	Rebecca

Christopher	Matthew	James
Brianna	John	Jacob
Logan	Erin	Robert
Olga	Aaron	Courtney
Janie	Marcietta	Sarah
Sharon	Charles	Ethan
Tanya	Rosemary	Rita
Renee	Nicholas	Carrie
Ashton	Natalie	Cecilia
Michael	Jovan	Shaun
Carol	Joseph	Ryan
Snezana	Thomas	Morgan
Ryan	Christine	James
Nathan	Meagan	Michael
Kara	Minnie	Mary
Moses	Richard	Kimberly
Helena	Rosie	Marley
James	Sarah	Miette
Elijah	Milton	Jennifer
Lydia	Andrew	Hunter
Nina	Carol	Tim
Jamie	Lidia	Laura
Kyleigh	Julie	Steven
Lauren	Dorothy	Leo
Kyle	Ann	Stephanie
Gilbert	Michael	Ronald
Carolynn	Betty	

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...*)

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin,
were struck with wonder,
seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.
The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin:
for birth-giving remains virginal, and life is united to death;
a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,
you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** this week, please read Revelation 7-9.

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 18: **Bible Study @ 7p**

Aug 19: **Parish Council Meeting @ 7p**

Aug 21: **Faith Enrichment @10a**

Aug 23: **Church Architecture Lecture Series #2 @ 4:30p**

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: \$1,353

A Sermon on the Dormition of the Mother of God

by St. John of Kronstadt

Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honorable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation - she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honorably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the center of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.

We say that our dead have “fallen asleep” or “passed away.” What does this mean? This means that for the true Christian there is no death. Death was conquered by Christ on the cross. But there is a translation, i.e, a rearrangement of his condition, i.e. his soul is in another place, in another age, in another world beyond the grave, eternal, without end, that is what is meant by “falling asleep”. It is as if it were a temporary dream after which, by the voice of the Lord and the fearful yet wonderful trumpet of the Archangel, all the dead shall live and come forth each to his place: either to the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:29). This is what the Christian means by translation. We should be ready for this translation, for the day of the general resurrection and judgment, for this indescribable world event, recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

This preparation for the meeting of the heavenly King before the dread judgment seat, after death, is essentially the person’s preparation throughout the whole of his life. This preparation means a change in all his thoughts, and the moral change of all his

being, so that the whole man would be pure and white as snow, washing clean everything that defiles the body and spirit, so that he is adorned with every virtue: repentance, meekness, humility, gentleness, simplicity, chastity, mercifulness, abstention, spiritual contemplation, and burning love for God and neighbor.

Our preparation for meeting the heavenly King, and for the inheritance of eternal life in heaven, should consist of these things. The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact the human soul is more spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in it and will fill it with Himself. “We will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23), says the Lord about the souls who love Him.

And so, you participants in the present feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, you who are brightly adorned with every virtue and translated to the heavenly kingdom, to Her Son and God, proclaim to each and every one about preparing their souls to be the dwelling place of the Lord, about continual repentance, and about the incorruptible adornment of Christian virtue. Let your death also be unashamed and peaceful, serving as the pledge of a good answer at the dread judgment seat of Christ. Amen.

Glory to God for
all things!