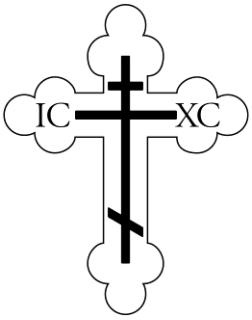


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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 24, 2025

Holy Hieromartyr Eutychius disciple of St. John the Theologian

The Hieromartyr Eutyches, a disciple of the holy Apostles John the Theologian and Paul, lived from the first century into the beginning of the second century, and was from the Palestinian city of Sebastea.

Although St Eutyches is not one of the 70 Apostles, he is called an Apostle because of his labors with the older Apostles, by whom he was made bishop. After hearing about Christ the Savior, St Eutyches first became a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian. Later he met the Apostle Paul and preached together with him on the early journeys.

St Eutyches underwent many sufferings: they starved him with hunger, beat him with iron rods, they threw him into the fire, and then to be devoured by wild beasts. Once, a lion was let loose upon the saint, which astonished everyone because it praised the Creator with a human voice. The hieromartyr Eutyches completed his labors in his native city, where he was beheaded with a sword at the beginning of the second century.

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 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 for St. Eutychius

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,
you became a successor to their throne.
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contem-
plation, O inspired one of God;
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith,
even to the shedding of your blood.//
O Hieromartyr Eutychius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced
with You,//
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 3 – Kontakion for St. Eutychius

A successor of the Apostles and an excellent example to bishops,
Eutychius, you were glorified as a martyr.

You shone forth like the sun enlightening all,
dispelling the dark night of godlessness./.

Therefore, we honor you as truly a godly celebrant of the Mysteries
of Christ.

Tone 3 – Patronal Kontakion

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,
And with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.

Angels and bishops worship.

Apostles and prophets rejoice together./.

Since for our sake she prays to the eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 2 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9.2-12

Brethren, If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working?

Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain."

Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not used this right but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 18.23-25

The Lord spoke this parable: “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

“The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

“So, his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

“So, when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved and came and told their master all that had been done.

“Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

So, My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Marcella Van Sickle	Ev. Mem. Peter Nicoloff (1973)
John Von Lewis, Jr.	Bronko Ponzo (1997)
Vernon Cayten	Protopr. Nicholas Metulynsky (’11)
	Mat. Tresja Denysenko (’21)

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will hold **Memorials for Marcella Van Sickle** (newly departed), **Mat. Tresja Denysenko** (4-year), and the **Protopresbyter Nicholas Metulynsky** (14-year)

For **Bible Study** this week, please read Revelation 10-12.

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.

Next Sunday during coffee hour, the **Ladies' Sodality** will hold a **fundraiser ice cream social**. One scoop of Valpo Velvet with choice of toppings for \$2. Funds benefit the church.

Church School Registration is open! We're excited to begin another wonderful year of learning and growing together. Registration for the 2025–2026 school year is now available on our website (www.ptvm.com)—just click the link to sign up. Classes range from **four years old to high school**.

If you feel called to be part of this joyful ministry—whether as a substitute, teacher, or helper—we would love to hear from you! Please reach out to **Elizabeth Wysocki** for more information.

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 25: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

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

Sept 2: **Men's Breakfast** at Bob Evans in Valpo @ 7:15am

Sept 6: **Fall Outdoor Clean-up @ 9am**. Lunch provided.

Sept 7: **Festal Vespers for Nativity of the Theotokos** after coffee hour

Sept 8: **Divine Liturgy for Nativity of the Theotokos @ 9am**

Sept 11: Women's Book Club @ 6pm

Sept 13: Cemetery Clean-up @ 9am

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,607

Statement of Apology of His Eminence Archbishop Alexei of Sitka and Alaska

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has received the following statement from His Eminence Archbishop Alexei concerning recent events that took place within the Diocese of Alaska.

His Beatitude adds the following clarification:

The encounter to which His Eminence Archbishop Alexei refers in his statement of apology was undertaken on his own initiative and was not authorized by the Holy Synod. The canonical tradition insists that a bishop do nothing without the knowledge of the metropolitan; this meeting was arranged without my knowledge. His Eminence has taken responsibility for his actions, and I wish to affirm that they do not represent the official position of the Orthodox Church in America with respect to external relations. From the very beginning, the Orthodox Church in America has been among the first Orthodox Churches to clearly and repeatedly condemn the aggression against Ukraine, which has caused the loss of countless lives, untold suffering, and the displacement of millions. We have consistently raised our voices against violence, prayed for peace in our liturgical services, and provided support for those displaced by the war. In all of my public statements, including during my primate visit to Ukraine last year, I have expressed the prayerful support of the Orthodox Church in America for His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the entire Ukrainian people. Together with my brother hierarchs on the Holy Synod, I renew my fervent appeal for the immediate cessation of hostilities and for peace to prevail, so that reconciliation and healing may begin for all who have been afflicted by this tragic war.

From His Eminence Archbishop Alexei of Alaska:

I wish to express my sincere apology to those who have experienced pain, suffering, or confusion because of my actions in recent

days. I am deeply sorry for the scandal that I have caused. My actions in no way indicate a change in the position of the Orthodox Church in America and our support for those suffering as expressed in Synodal documents (*Statement on Ukraine* and *Statement on war in Ukraine*).

As Bishop of Sitka and Alaska, I serve as a member of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. As such, I adhere to the guidance and pastoral counsel of the Holy Synod concerning this tragic war, and I seek to lead the faithful of Alaska in prayer and works of mercy for all who suffer. The Diocese of Alaska is one of the dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America, an autocephalous Church whose mission extends from the Arctic Circle to Central America and embraces many peoples, cultures, and languages.

Last week, I greeted President Vladimir Putin during the summit in Anchorage in a peaceful spirit of hospitality after three days of diocesan wide prayer for peace. Since then, I have heard from many who viewed that moment as a missed opportunity for a rebuke or demand for peace amid ongoing conflict and suffering. Again, I repeat, to all who experienced my actions as a cause of sorrow or confusion, I sincerely ask your forgiveness.

I accept full responsibility for the confusion and pain my actions caused. Our Church continually calls the faithful to prayer, to concrete works of mercy, and to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation for all who suffer. In Alaska we have sought to bear witness to this by dedicating days of prayer, invoking the intercessions of the saints who labored in this land, that peace may be restored swiftly and mercy shown to all.

I ask forgiveness of all whom my actions have wounded or troubled, especially those who have lost loved ones. May Christ, the Prince of Peace, swiftly end the bloodshed, comfort the bereaved, return the displaced, and reconcile hearts in truth and love.

Glory to God for
all things!