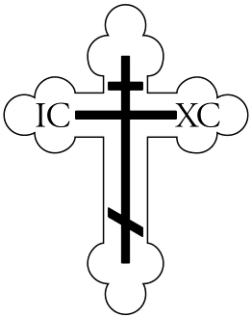


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

September 28, 2025

St. Chariton the Confessor, Abbot of Palestine

Saint Chariton the Confessor was born at Iconium in the province of Lycaonia and suffered there during a persecution against Christians in the reign of Emperor Aurelian (270-275). The example of the holy Protomartyr Thekla, who was also a native of his city, encouraged him to confess Christ, since he had a great devotion to her.

Saint Chariton bravely denounced the pagan gods and staunchly confessed faith in the one True God, Christ the Savior. The holy

Confessor underwent fierce tortures but, by God's Providence, he survived. The persecution ended after Aurelian's death in 275. Saint Chariton was among the many Christians who were released from prison, and he resolved to dedicate his entire life to the service of the Lord. Although he escaped death, he grieved because he had not received the crown of martyrdom.

After arriving at Jerusalem on a pilgrimage to the holy places, he fell into the hands of thieves. They tied him up and threw him in a cave, intending to kill him later. After they left to find people to rob, the saint prayed fervently to God expecting to be put to death. He did not ask God to deliver him, but instead he entreated Him to do with him as He wished.

At this time a snake crawled into the cave and began to drink wine from a vessel setting there. Later it vomited forth its deadly venom, poisoning the wine. When they returned to the cave, the evil men drank the poisoned wine, and they all perished. Thus, their wicked lives came to a fitting end. Saint Chariton gave thanks to God, and then he gave away the gold which the malefactors had stolen, distributing it to the poor, to churches, and to monasteries. He began his ascetic struggles in the place of his miraculous rescue, and there he built a church. In time a monastery was established: the renowned Pharan Lavra in Palestine. Saint Chariton's fame drew many disciples to him. He governed them with paternal affection, and he elevated them to the highest degrees of virtue.

Saint Chariton compiled a strict Rule for his monastery. Yearning for solitude, the monk withdrew farther into the desert in order to avoid the praise of men, but he never rejected anyone who sought his spiritual guidance. He founded two more monasteries: the Jericho (called the Monastery of Saint Chariton) and the Souka, which was called "the old Lavra." He also brought many Jews and pagans to the Faith.

At the end of his life, Saint Chariton struggled in a cave atop a hill near the Souka monastery, but he did not cease to provide guidance for all three of the monasteries which he founded. He fell asleep in the Lord peacefully and at an advanced age on September 28, 350.

According to tradition, Saint Chariton compiled the Office of the Monastic Tonsure. Saint Chariton was buried at the Pharan monastery in accordance with his last wishes. His grace-filled relics were enshrined in the church that had been built on the site of the robbers' cave.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

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 8 – Troparion to St. Chariton

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.
By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe.//
Our holy Father Chariton, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 2 – Kontakion to St. Chariton

You delighted in the monastic life, divinely-wise one,
and conquered the bodily passions;
you increased in faith, blossoming as the Tree of Life in the midst of
Paradise,//
most blessed and holy Chariton.

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 7 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)

The Lord shall give strength to His people.
The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St Chariton (Psalm 149)

Let the saints exult in glory, / let them sing for joy on their couches!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.1-10 (Sunday)

Brethren: We, as workers together with Him, also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (St. Chariton)

Brethren: It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then, death is working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Gospel: Luke 5.1-11 (Sunday)

At that time, as the multitude pressed about Jesus to hear the word of God, He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.”

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So, they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So, when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Gospel: Luke 6.17-23 (Ven. Chariton)

At that time, Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples and said: “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are

you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man’s sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Edward
Eulalia Moore
Marcella Van Sickle
Ronald McClure

Ev. Mem. Juliana Mshar (1922)
Debra Mansfield (1953)
Helen Mason (1995)

Health & Salv.	Nina	Natalie
Archpr. Peter	James	Jovan
Mat. Cynthia	Rebecca	Meagan
Hierom. John	Jesse	Courtney
Mat. Anne	Autumn	Marley
Valer	Sarah	Kimberly
Nun Theodora	James	Stephanie
Rollie	John	Robin
Claudia	Jacob	Leonardo
Mary Ann	Carol	Daniel
Raymond	Snezana	Tiffany
Edward	Ryan	Yelena
Charlotte	Nathan	Anastasia
Betsy	Kara	James
Klaudia	Jamie	Rita
Maja	Kyleigh	Alla
Gerald	Lauren	Betty
Janet	Kyle	Mary Ann
Gerald	Gilbert	Maria
Rebecca	Carolynn	Londyn
Christopher	Amelia	Hattie
Moses	Aaron	Lisa
Helena	Marcietta	Isabella
James	Charles	Alessandra
Elijah	Rosemary	Jennifer
Lydia	Nicholas	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 Petitions at the Augmented Litany:

For Peace

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.

For Seminarians (through September)

O Lord our Savior, bless us, Your entreating people, with an increase in vocations to the priestly order and the monastic life in service of Your holy Church: We pray You, hearken and have mercy.

O Lord, who love mankind, protect and preserve in holiness those who have responded to Your call to service in Your Church and have given themselves to Your Gospel: We pray You, hearken and have mercy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Support Our Seminarians” month culminates today with the annual collection for the families of seminarians from the Midwest. There are 14 men this year at our OCA seminaries committed to serving in our diocese when they have finished their formation. There will be baskets as you leave church today, where you can place a donation to support them. You can also give online at domoca.org/donate.

For **Bible Study** this week, please read **Revelation 21-22**.

Our parish feast, **the Protection of the Virgin Mary**, is Wednesday, October 1. We will serve **Festal Vespers Tuesday night at 6pm**, followed by a toast and hors d'oeuvres. **Divine Liturgy will be at 10am Wednesday morning**, with lunch afterward for all present.

On the following **Sunday, October 5**, we will hold our **annual anniversary banquet after the Divine Liturgy**. Members, newcomers, and friends of the parish are all welcome to join the celebration! There will be no tickets sold, but we ask that you pitch in what you can. \$25 per adult is suggested.

We are preparing a **new edition of the parish directory**. Please see Mary Morsovillo during coffee hour if you need to check and/or update your listing.

MAKS, a local foster child ministry co-run by our own Elizabeth Wysocki, will be hosting its second annual Gala on October 17th at The Inn at Aberdeen in Valparaiso. The Gala includes dinner, drinks, dancing, baskets and more. Tickets available at www.maksgala.org
Please see Elizabeth with any questions.

The new **Reserved Parking Spots** are for those who, for any reason, need to park closer to the door. Please feel free to use them if you have reason to do so.

Coffee hour today will be limited to the narthex and lawn, as our hall is set up for the wedding reception of Edmon and Abigail, who will be married today!

Mark your calendars:

Sept 29: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Sept 30: **Parish Feast Vespers @ 6pm**, with reception

Oct 1: **Divine Liturgy for the Parish Feast @ 10am**, with lunch

Oct 4: **Church Architecture Series w/Fr Nick @ 4:30pm**

Oct 5: **114th Anniversary Banquet** following Divine Liturgy

Oct 16: **Women's Book Group @ 6pm**

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$3,431.99

**Glory to God for
all things!**