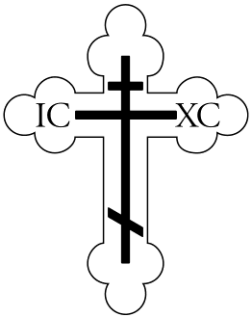
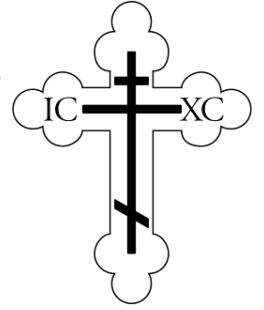


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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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.

October 26, 2025

Holy Greatmartyr Demetrius

Commemoration of the Great Earthquake

at Constantinople in 740 A.D.

The Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-gusher of Thessaloniki was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessaloniki. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of Saint Demetrios were secret Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home.

By the time Demetrios had reached maturity and his father had died, Emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305).

Maximian, confident in Demetrios's education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessaloniki district. The young commander's principal duties were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The Emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply: "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The Emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrios he had provided him with the opportunity to bring many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrios returned to Thessaloniki and confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and the worship of idols. The compiler of his Life, Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessaloniki, particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" founded the first community of believers in the city.

The Lord also destined Saint Demetrios to follow Saint Paul on the path to martyrdom. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the Emperor's rage knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the area of the Black Sea, the Emperor decided to lead his army through Thessaloniki, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, Saint Demetrios ordered his faithful servant Lupus to give his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the Emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrios, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian ordered Demetrios to be thrown into prison. An Angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

Meanwhile the Emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to Saint Demetrios, his instructor in the Faith, asking for his blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Saint Demetrios, Nestor defeated the fierce

German and hurled him from the platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor (October 27) and sent a guard to the prison to kill Saint Demetrios. At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the Saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, Saint Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of Saint Demetrios he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified the blood of Saint Demetrios, Saint Lupus began to heal the infirm. The Emperor ordered his soldiers to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrios was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Tone 8 – Troparion for the Earthquake

O Christ our God, You look upon the earth and it trembles;

deliver us from the terrible threat of earthquakes//

and through the prayers of the Theotokos, send down upon us Your abundant mercy and save us!

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illuminated 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 3 – Troparion to St. Demetrius

The world has found you to be a great defense against tribulation and a vanquisher of heathens, O Passion-bearer.

As you bolstered the courage of Nestor,
who then humbled the arrogance of Lyaaios in battle,//
Holy Demetrius, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy!

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Kontakion

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 2 – Kontakion to St. Demetrius

God, Who has given you invincible might,
has tinged the Church with streams of your blood, Demetrius.
He preserves your city from harm,//
for you are its foundation.

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 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St. Demetrius (Psalm 63)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, / and shall hope in Him.

Epistle: Galatians 1.11-19 (Sunday)

Brethren: I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contem-

poraries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2.1-10 (St. Demetrius)

My Son: You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Gospel: Luke 16.19-31 (Sunday)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

“But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’

“And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

“But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

Gospel: John 15.17-16.2 (St. Demetrius)

The Lord said this to his disciples: “These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Simeon Tanaskoski	John Borzdun (1964)
Cana Papuckoski	Natalie Korhan (1966)
Dylan Anderson	Fedor Korhan (1972)
Ev. Mem. Nikolai Tsuprev (1926)	Frank Sprigel (1984)
Rodion Suchanuk (1954)	Eugene Denysenko (2005)
Paul Drahuschak (1955)	

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

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:

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross we will serve the **20-year memorial for Eugene Denysenko**.

For **Bible Study** this week, read 1 Chronicles 14-17.

November books for men's **book club** can be picked up in the bookstore for \$5 each. Please sign up in the narthex.

The **Ladies' Sodality annual Coat Drive** is on through October. Please leave new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, and scarves of all sizes in the bin near the Hall Entrance. Thank you!

The **O-Club** is collecting **cleaning products for the poor** in Northwest Indiana. They will be distributed through Catholic Charities. Needed items are listed on sticky notes, which you can take from the wall in the narthex as a reminder to bring them back to Church. We will collect items until the beginning of Advent (**November 14**).

Mark your calendars:

Oct 26: **Great Vespers for St Olga of Alaska** after the cook-off

Oct 27: **Divine Liturgy for St Olga of Alaska @ 9am**
Bible Study @ 7pm

Oct 31: **Divine Liturgy for St John of Chicago at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 9:30am**

Nov 7: **Fall Family Event @ 6pm**

Nov 21: **Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6pm**

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$3,892

**Glory to God for
all things!**