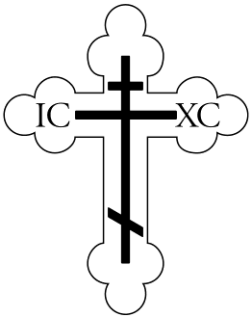
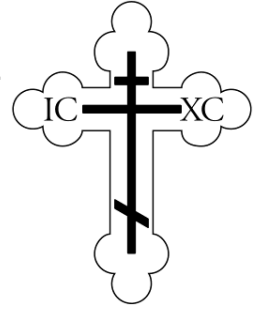


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

October 5, 2025 Holy Martyr Charitina of Amisus

Saint Charitina was from Amisos in Pontus and lived during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). Orphaned at a young age, she became the servant of a noble Roman Christian named Claudianus, or Claudius, who brought her up as his own daughter. The young girl was very pretty, sensible, and kind. She imparted her love for Christ to others and brought many to the path of salvation. Saint Charitina was meek, humble, obedient and silent. Although she was not yet baptized, she was a Christian at heart. She studied the Law of God day and night and vowed to preserve her virginity as a true bride of Christ.

Because Saint Charitina brought many others to the Christian Faith, Dometius, one of Emperor Diocletian's governors, came to hear of her and sent a letter to Claudius, ordering him to send Charitina to him so that he might question her. Claudius had no doubts about the result of this interrogation. Grieved at the prospect of losing her, he put on sackcloth and wept bitter tears. Charitina comforted him, saying: "Do not grieve, my Master, but rejoice, for I am to become an acceptable sacrifice to God, for my sins and for yours."

Claudius replied: "O Servant of God, remember me when you stand before the heavenly King in the ranks of the Holy Martyrs."

The Saint was brought before a judge at the tribunal. He asked her: "Is it true that you are a Christian, and that you delude others by bringing them to your impious faith?"

Charitina replied: "It is true that I am a Christian, but it is a lie that I delude others. On the contrary, I lead them from deception to the path of truth, bringing them to my Christ."

Then the judge ordered her hair to be cut off, but by the power of God, her hair grew back even longer than before. Then burning coals were placed on her head, and vinegar was poured over her scorched flesh, increasing her pain. They drove flaming sticks through her breasts and burnt her sides with candles. Finally, they tied a stone around her neck and threw her into the sea. She cried out: "This is my Baptism." Suddenly, the stone was loosened and sank, and God delivered her from the sea unharmed.

When the judge saw her on the shore, he ordered his men to seize her and strip her naked, and then tie her to a wheel which turned over burning coals, but an Angel of God stopped the wheel and once again Saint Charitina remained unharmed. The judge became furious and ordered that the nails of her hands and her feet be torn out, and that all her teeth be broken.

Then the wicked judge sent many dissolute men to defile her. Fearing this dishonor, Saint Charitina prayed that God would receive her soul before these vile men could defile her virginal body; and so, as she prayed, she surrendered her pure soul to God.

When the judge saw that she was dead, he had her body placed in a sack weighted with stones and tossed it into the sea. By Divine Providence, her body was brought to the shore three days later. Her master Claudius found her body and buried her with appropriate honor and reverence.

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 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. Charitina

Your lamb Charitina calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice:

“I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering.

In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You,

and I died so that I might live with You.

Accept me as a pure sacrifice,

for I have offered myself in love.”//

Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful!

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 to St. Charitina

Having fortified your soul with faith and strengthened by understanding

you openly put the enemy to shame, O Charitina;

you stood before Christ wearing a robe empurpled by your blood,

All-blessed One,

and now you rejoice with the Angels,//

praying for us, O passionbearer.

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 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.16-7.1

Brethren: And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Therefore, “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”

“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.” Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 6.31-36 (Sunday)

The Lord said to His disciples: “Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Dylan Anderson
Edward
Eulalia Moore

Ev. Mem. Sergei Madved (1938)
George Vasiloff (1941)
John Shevchuk (1951)
Julian Yarowsky (1954)w2

Health & Salv.
Archpr. Peter
Mat. Cynthia
Hierom. John
Mat. Anne

Valer
Nun Theodora
Rollie
Claudia
Mary Ann

Raymond
Edward
Charlotte
Betsy
Klaudia

Maja	Ryan	Robin
Gerald	Nathan	Leonardo
Janet	Kara	Daniel
Gerald	Jamie	Tiffany
Rebecca	Kyleigh	Yelena
Christopher	Lauren	Anastasia
Moses	Kyle	James
Helena	Gilbert	Rita
James	Carolynn	Alla
Elijah	Amelia	Betty
Lydia	Aaron	Mary Ann
Nina	Marcietta	Maria
James	Charles	Londyn
Rebecca	Rosemary	Hattie
Jesse	Nicholas	Lisa
Autumn	Natalie	Isabella
Sarah	Jovan	Alessandra
James	Meagan	Jennifer
John	Courtney	Steven
Jacob	Marley	Sergei
Carol	Kimberly	
Snezana	Stephanie	

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

There is **no Bible Study** this week.

Today, 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 to check and/or update your listing.

The Ladies' Sodality has started their annual Coat Drive. 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!

Sodality's monthly meeting is next Sunday during coffee hour.

The Sodality annual chili cook-off will be Sunday October 26th. Look out for a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Coffee hour is a team effort. Please make sure you are cleaning up after yourself and your children. If you are able, please pitch in and help the coffee hour crews that work so hard to provide food for our fellowship. Thank you!

Mark your calendars:

Oct 6: No Bible Study

Oct 7: Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evan's 7:15am

Oct 9: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

Oct 16: Women's Book Club @ 6pm

Oct 23: Parish Feast Liturgy at St. Iakovos in Valparaiso @ 10am

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$1,781

Archpastoral Message on the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God from His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

**Beloved and Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Faithful of
the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest,**

I greet you all with joy as we celebrate the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. Today we gather in prayer and worship, singing the praises of the Most Holy Theotokos, our Mother and Protectress. This feast commemorates a special vision experienced by Saint Andrew, Fool for Christ, during the tenth century. According to tradition, he and others, including his disciple Saint Epiphan-

ius, were gathered in prayer in the Church of Saint Mary *Blachernae* in the city of Constantinople, on Sunday, October 1. While in prayer, Saint Andrew witnessed the roof of the church suddenly opening. The Mother of God descended into the church, moving in the air above him. She was surrounded by a bright light and accompanied by angels, holy martyrs, and other saints. Having descended into the church, she knelt and prayed with tears for all faithful Christians in the world. In her prayer, she asked her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to receive the pleas and prayers of all the people entreating Him for His mercy and asking for her protection. After she had finished praying, she spread her *omophorion* (veil) over all the people in the church as a sign of her extending protection over them. Saint Andrew turned to Saint Epiphanius, who was standing near him, and asked, “Do you see, my son, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “Yes, Holy Father, I do see it and am amazed!”

While the origins of today’s feast are found in Saint Andrew’s transcendent experience, its meaning for us today is to be found in our own experience as Orthodox Christians, as disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and as the children of the one Mother, whom Christ Himself gave to us as He hung upon the Cross.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. (John 19:25-27)

From that moment, the special relationship between Mary and the Church came into existence. All faithful Christians, represented at the Holy Cross by Saint John, the faithful disciple, have been entrusted to Mary as her own children. She became, and remains, our mother given to us by the Lord Himself. And, like John, we receive her as our mother, *welcoming her into our homes, our lives, our hearts.*

As our loving Mother, the Mother of God intercedes for us before her Divine Son and, as she did in the vision of Saint Andrew, she extends her veil of love and concern over us all. On this festal day, we run to her, seeking her intercession for all her children throughout the world: Christians who are persecuted and suffering,

the innocent victims of war and violence, the sick and those who suffer in loneliness, the poor and marginalized, and all her children who are searching for the fullness of the Truth that is Jesus Christ and those who, without knowing it, are looking for the salvation that comes from Him alone. We ask her to protect the Holy Church from division, strife, and confusion. And we entrust to her care our own selves and all our dear ones.

Recalling today the amazing vision of Saint Andrew, the Blessed Fool for Christ, we are presented with the opportunity to renew our relationship with Mary, the ever-virgin Mother of Christ our God. Let us draw near to Mary, as individuals and as families and communities. As we sing today:

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, illumined by thy 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."

May the Mother of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ receive all of us under her protecting veil. I entrust all our parish and mission communities, our clergy, monastics, and all the faithful, their friends and loved ones to her intercession and maternal protection. Having just concluded our annual Support our Seminarians (SOS) Appeal, I also entrust to her motherly guidance and care our diocesan seminarians, as well as all those throughout the Diocese of the Midwest who are discerning the call to ministry. Wishing all of you a joyous and blessed feast, and assuring you of my continued prayer for each and every one, I remain

With love in Christ,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Glory to God for all things!