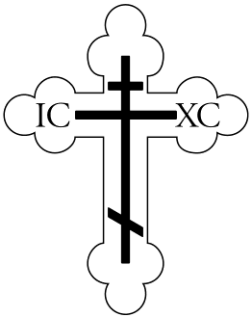
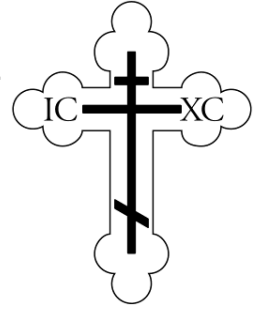


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN
(219)947-4748
www.ptvm.com

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.

November 2, 2025

Martyrs Acindynus, Pegasius, Elpidephorus, Aphthonius and Anempodistus

Saint Acindynus suffered martyrdom in Persia along with Saints Pegasias, Aphthonius, Elpidephorus, Anempodistus, and 7,000 other Christians at the time of King Sapor II (310-381). These saints were Sapor's courtiers and were secret Christians. When the king began his persecution against Christians, envious pagans denounced them to him. Summoned to Sapor's presence for trial, the holy martyrs fearlessly confessed their faith in the Holy Trinity. The king ordered them to be beaten with whips.

Sapor told the people that Acindynus, Pegasias, Anempodistus and Elpidephorus would have their heads cut off, and that he would not permit the Christians to bury their bodies. A tremendous crowd accompanied these saints as they were led outside the city walls for execution, glorifying Christ. On Sapor's orders, soldiers massacred all the Christians in the procession (about 7,000), including Saint Elpidephorus.

Acindynus, Pegasias, and Anempodistus were burned on the following day with the mother of the emperor. Christians came secretly by night to the place of execution, found the bodies of the holy martyrs unharmed by the fire, and they buried them with reverence.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!”

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 2 – Troparion for the Martyrs

Blessed is the earth that received your blood passion-beariers of
the Lord,
and holy is the dwelling place which received your spirits.
You triumphed over the enemy in the stadium,
and you preached Christ with boldness. //
Since He is good, we pray that you beseech Him to save our souls.

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion

My Savior and Redeemer

as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.

He has shattered the gates of hell,

and as Master,//

He has risen on the third day!

Tone 2 – Kontakion to the Martyrs

You have received into the enjoyment of Your goodness and repose,

O only Good One,

the pious and God-bearing martyrs, who abandoned all earthly things:

Akíndynus, Pegásius, and Anempódistus,//

together with Aphthónius and Elpidephórus.

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 4 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;

in wisdom have You made them all.

Epistle: Galatians 2.16-20

Brethren: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin?

Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Luke 8.26-39

At that time: They sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when Jesus stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you."

And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Simeon Tanaskoski
Cana Papuckoski
Dylan Anderson
Ev. Mem. Tanko Bulov (1918)
Olga Krill (1926)

Paul Malinoff (1955)
John Gable (1979)
Helen Vargo (1980)
George Molchan (1995)
Anne Shaffer (2014)

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

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to **this year's coat drive!**

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

This Friday is **Fall Family Night** in the parish hall, beginning at 6pm: Food, games, bonfire. All are welcome.

November books for men's **book club** on **November 13** can be picked up in the bookstore for \$5.

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 Sunday, November 16.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated **November 9, 2025 as Steward Sunday** for the Orthodox Church in America. This Sunday invites the faithful to support the life and mission of the Church through financial gifts that enable the work of her ministries, departments, and offices across North America. In the days leading up to Steward Sunday, follow the OCA's social media channels on Facebook, X, Instagram, and Telegram for stories and reflections from the Church's departments and offices showing how your support directly impacts their ministry.

Mark your calendars:

Nov 3: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

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

Nov 8: **Divine Liturgy for Archangel Michael and the other bodiless powers @ 9am**

Nov 9: Women's Group "Lunch & Learn" 1-3pm

Nov 13: Men's Reading Group @ 6:45pm

**Nov 15: Beginning of the Advent fast: 40 days until Nativity
Catechism @ 4:30pm**

Nov 20: Festal Vespers for the Entrance of the Theotokos @ 6pm

**Nov 21: Divine Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos @ 9am
Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6pm**

Nov 27: Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving @ 9am

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$1,248

Steward Sunday 2025

a message from His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved children in the Lord,

Christ is in our midst!

As I greet you in anticipation of our annual Stewardship Sunday, I reflect with gratitude on the many blessings of God's merciful provision. I am grateful for the common bounties we enjoy—the air we breathe, the sun and the stars, the rain and the wind, animals and plants, the life of the mind, the protection of the angels, the words of the Gospel, rebirth in the baptismal font, the pledge of the Spirit, the hope of life everlasting. These free gifts of nature and of grace constantly remind us of the goodness of the Giver.

Each of us also enjoys many particular blessings, both spiritual and material. We all have talents, gifts of the Spirit, and material resources. However, these particular blessings are given to us, not so that we can selfishly hoard them, but so that we can share them with others.

Today, as we consider the Christian vocation to good stewardship, we have the opportunity to reflect on the way in which our special gifts can be turned to the common benefit of the Church. One has only to look at the resources available on the website of the Orthodox Church in America. Skilled musicians have used their time

and talent to create free resources for daily worship from which we all may benefit: rubrics, service outlines, sheet music, and more. Experienced pastors and educators have produced helpful articles, catechetical resources, and Sunday School curricula. Forward-thinking and discerning leaders dispense planting grants for new missions. This is all the work of the Departments of the Orthodox Church in America.

On this Stewardship Sunday, we are all given the opportunity to contribute our own blessings to the life of our Church. By pledging our financial support to the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America, we are able to make our own contribution the work of the Department of Liturgical Music and Translation; the Department of Christian Education; the Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry; and more.

In assisting the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America, we are all able to fulfill our basic human vocation of offering back to God his own of his own, on behalf of all and for all; we are all able to participate in the building up of the Church and the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I ask each of you, on this annual Stewardship Sunday, prayerfully to consider contributing your own two mites to this godly work.

With my primatial prayers and blessing, and also my gratitude for your faithfulness and generosity,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for
all things!