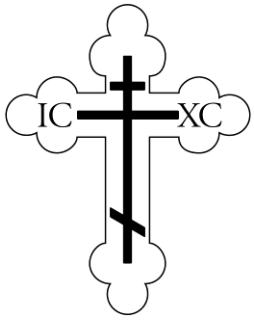
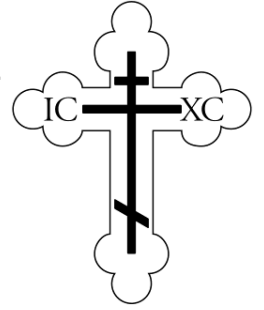


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

November 30, 2025 Holy Apostle Andrew

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, the Holy Apostle Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dnieper, he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands. From here the apostle went through the land of the Varangians towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. In Sinope they pelted him with stones, but remaining unharmed, the persistent disciple of Christ continued to preach to people about the Savior. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom.

The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the illustrious citizen Sosios recovered from serious illness and Maximilla and Stratokles, the wife and brother of the governor of Patra, were healed. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle and his fiery speech enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patra with the true Faith.

Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeatos. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince Aegeatos. The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo Saint Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross.

St Andrew accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take St Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

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. Andrew

O Andrew, first-called of the Apostles,

and brother of the foremost disciple,

entreat the Master of all

to grant peace to the world,//

and to our souls great mercy!

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 for St. Andrew

Let us praise Andrew, the herald of God,

the namesake of courage,

the first-called of the Savior's disciples

and the brother of Peter!

As he once called to his brother,

he now cries out to us://

“Come, for we have found the One Whom the world desires!”

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!

Tone 8 – Prokeimenon for St. Andrew (Psalm 18)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the universe!

Epistle: Ephesians 4.1-6 (Sunday)

Brethren: I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

1 Corinthians 4.9-16 (St. Andrew)

Brethren: I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel: Luke 13.10-7 (Sunday)

At that time: Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore, come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Gospel: John 1.35-51 (St. Andrew)

At that time: John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

They said to Him, "Rabbi," (which is to say, when translated, Teacher) "where are You staying?"

He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"

Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Paul Van Sickle		Maria Gorbovetz (1925)	
Simeon Tanaskoski		Edward Lemanski (1966)	
Ev. Mem. Mary Kubak (1918)		Thomas Glegorovich (1978)	
John Korson (1924)		Dana Shocaroff (1991)	
Health & Salvation	Helena	Carolynn	Mary Ann
	James	Amelia	Maria
	Elijah	Aaron	Londyn
	Lydia	Marcietta	Hattie
	Nina	Charles	Lisa
	James	Rosemary	Isabella
	Rebecca	Nicholas	Alessandra
	Jesse	Natalie	Jennifer
	Autumn	Jovan	Steven
	Sarah	Meagan	Sergei
	James	Marley	Heidi
	John	Kimberly	Jennifer
	Jacob	Stephanie	Ethan
	Carol	Robin	Logan
	Snezana	Leonardo	Tanya
	Ryan	Daniel	Christopher
	Nathan	Tiffany	Olga
	Kara	Yelena	Michael
	Jamie	Anastasia	Ivanka
	Kyleigh	James	Silas
	Lauren	Rita	Christine
	Kyle	Alla	
	Gilbert	Betty	

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, 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 **40-day memorial for Simeon Tanaskoski**.

There will be **no Bible Study this week**.

The **Advent** season began on November 15. During this time, we rededicate ourselves to **prayer**, we make a **confession**, we **fast**, and we find opportunities to **give to those in need**. Over the next several weeks, several opportunities will be made available at our parish. Our annual **Angel Tree** is up in the Narthex. Please consider fulfilling a card for a local child in poverty. Today is **IOCC Sunday**, a day set aside every year to highlight the humanitarian work of **International Orthodox Christian Charities**. We will take a second collection to support their work.

Sodality will be hosting a **Cookie Walk** on the Sunday before Christmas (**December 21st** during coffee hour) with prebaked festive cookies of all kinds for purchase by the dozen.

Some of the **parish children will be caroling** at Green Oaks Assisted living in Valparaiso at 2pm on December 7th. Anyone who would like to join should see Abigail Krull.

Mark your calendars:

Dec 4: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Dec 5: **Great Vespers @ 6pm**

Dec 6: **Divine Liturgy** for St Nicholas @ 9am, followed by **pancake breakfast and decorating the church**

Dec 7: **Children's Caroling** at Green Oaks Assisted living in Valparaiso @ 2pm

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,002

Thanksgiving Day 2025

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

Christ is in our midst!

To all my flock in the United States of America: Happy Thanksgiving! And to all my flock throughout the North American continent: Glory to Jesus Christ!

Despite secularization, polarization, ubiquitous commercialization and corporatization on every side, rapid social change on every front, today Americans from all walks of life set aside a day for thanksgiving, a day celebrating tradition and community. The prominence of this holiday in American life speaks not just to the best impulses of our national culture, but to the basic yearnings of every human heart. We long for meaning, for belonging, for a life that is simple and good.

In the Church, we find the ultimate fulfillment of these yearnings; we find our destiny as vessels of the overflowing life and love of the Godhead; we find our eternal place in the everlasting family of God, adopted unto the Father through the Cross of the Son. As we give thanks to God this day for his earthly bounty, for the joys of family and friends and communal life, let us also thank him for his merciful invitation to enter into the joy of unending thanksgiving in heaven, where the eternal holiday of salvation is celebrated, where the banquet of the Lamb delights all the children of God unto ages of ages.

Finally, in giving thanks, let us remember also the hungry hearts of those around us who do not yet know Christ, who have yet clearly to hear his call; and remembering this, let us put into practice the words of the Savior: “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:37–38).

Glory to God for all things!

With my primatial prayers and blessing,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada