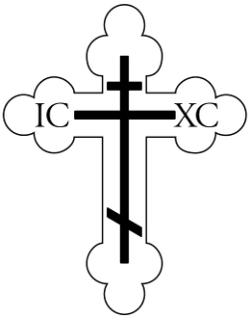


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.**

February 8, 2026

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the

Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms,¹ and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.” She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 1 – Troparion of the Meeting of the Lord

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of ^our souls,//
Who grants us the Resurrection!

Tone 3 – Kontakion for the Prodigal Son

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me.
Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; //
receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

Tone 1 – Kontakion of the Meeting of the Lord

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb
and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.
Now You have come and saved us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,//
O only Lover of Man!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)

The Lord is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.

Tone 3 – Prokeimenon for the Meeting of the Lord (Luke 1)

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6.12-20

Brethren: All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Gospel: Luke 15.11-32

Jesus spoke this parable: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood.

“And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father.

“But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So, he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him.

“So, he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Dalton Richards
Bp. Seraphim (Sigrist)
Nickolai Resunenکو
Jovan Savich
Lori Shaffer
Nikolay Kostromin
Gilbert Rodriguez

Ev. Mem. Darka Shukareff ('32)
William Lomosh ('48)
Maria Egnatoff ('60)
Nina Zaiko ('67)
Joseph Misko ('79)
Vernon Orr (2021)
Victor Meuch (2023)

Health & Salvation

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Cynthia
Hierom. John
Mat. Anne
Valer
Nun Theodora
Rollie
Claudia

Mary Ann
Raymond
Edward
Charlotte
Betsy
Klaudia
Maja
Gerald
Janet

Gerald
Rebecca
Christopher
Moses
Helena
James
Elijah
Lydia
Nina

Ezra	Meagan	Logan
James	Kimberly	Tanya
Rebecca	Stephanie	Christopher
Jesse	Robin	Olga
Autumn	Leonardo	Michael
James	Daniel	Sara
John	Tiffany	John
Jacob	Yelena	Kirby
Carol	Anastasia	Loretta
Snezana	James	Alex
Ryan	Rita	Trudi
Nathan	Alla	Michal
Kara	Betty	Anika
Sarah	Mary Ann	Sarah
Jamie	Maria	Richard
Kyleigh	Londyn	Christine
Lauren	Hattie	Mira
Kyle	Lisa	Joseph
Carolynn	Isabella	Jaroslava
Amelia	Alessandra	Cameron
Aaron	Jennifer	Regina
Marcietta	Steven	Matthew
Charles	Sergei	Cindy
Rosemary	Heidi	Aisha
Nicholas	Jennifer	Don
Natalie	Ethan	

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.

O Lord our God, who are rich in mercy and compassionate in Your love for mankind, look down with kindness upon Your servants. Remove from our hearts all bitterness, wrath, and remembrance of wrongs. Quench every spark of hatred, dissolve every bond of

enmity, and plant within us the spirit of peace and mutual understanding. Grant that we may not seek our own will but learn to bear one another's burdens in humility and truth. Heal those divided from one another, reconcile those at odds, and make us instruments of Your peace. O You who are the Giver of concord and the Savior of our souls, hearken and have mercy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve a memorial for the newly departed **Dalton Richards**. Also 3 years for **Victor Meuch**, 5 years for **Vernon Orr**, and 59 years for **Nina Zaiko**.

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read 2 Chronicles 29-32.

Every year, **Orthodox Christian homes are blessed with the new holy water of Theophany**. House blessings will continue until the start of Great Lent. The digital schedule to book an appointment was emailed to the parish. A paper version is available in the narthex.

Our **Church School** is having their **annual Bowling Event** today at Stardust in Merrillville after coffee hour. The church will pick up the tab for the children. Adults are also welcome to join in the fun.

Parish Annual Reports have been published to the parish website at www.ptvm.com/category/annual-reports/. Hard copies are available in the narthex. The meeting will be held February 15 after our Meatfare potluck.

Mark your calendars:

Feb 9: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Feb 10: **Men's Breakfast** in Valpo @7:15 am

Feb 12: Faith Enrichment @10 am
Men's Reading Group @6:45 pm

Feb 14: **General Panikhida** at 5pm before Vespers for the first Memorial Saturday of the year.

Feb 15: **Annual Meeting** after Liturgy and a **Meatfare Potluck**

Feb 22: **Forgiveness Vespers** after coffee hour

Feb 23: **Clean Monday** (beginning of Great Lent)

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$5,101.40

In Memoriam: Bishop Seraphim (Sigrist)

His Grace Bishop Seraphim, former Bishop of Sendai, Japan fell asleep in the Lord on the morning of February 7, 2026.

Bishop Seraphim was born Joseph Sigrist on December 13, 1941 in New York and baptized in a Presbyterian Church. He was brought up in Pleasantville, NY and studied at Nyack College. While studying at Nyack he began to attend the Orthodox Church and, on completing his degree there, he was received into the Orthodox Church at Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral in New York. He then began study at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and, after graduating in 1967, went to Japan to assist the Orthodox Church in Japan.

In Japan, working first as a teacher in a church related school and assisting as a deacon at the Toyohashi Church, he was tonsured a monk with the name Seraphim and served first as a parish priest in the town of Nakanida. Then, being consecrated in Tokyo on December 19, 1971, from that time he served as Bishop of East Japan living in Sendai.

Bishop Seraphim served in Japan for 19 years, returning to the United States in 1987. He taught in the graduate department of religion at Drew University, wrote three books, and visited Russia frequently in recent years in support of mission especially to youth in Russia. In 2009, he formally transferred to the OCA as a retired bishop.

May Bishop Seraphim's memory be eternal!

Glory to God for
all things!