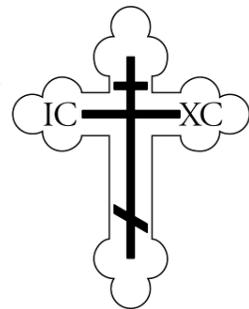
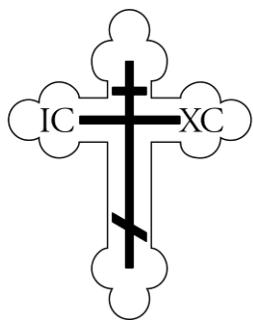


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.

March 1, 2026

First Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy

During Lent, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 2 – Troparion for Sunday of Orthodoxy

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy.
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//
by coming to save the world.”

Tone 8 – Kontakion for Sunday of Orthodoxy

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be
described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to
divine beauty.//
We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Epistle: Hebrews 11.24-26;32-12.2

Brethren: By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: John 1.43-51

At that time, 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 the One Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote about – 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. Richard Mirr
Dalton Richards
Bp. Seraphim (Sigrist)
Nickolas Resunenko
Jovan Savich

Ev. Mem. George Tasseff (1914)
Tikhon Yaruta (1939)
John Bikoff (1946)
John Duvay (1969)
Phyllis Zayas (1978)
John Gooliak (1988)

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
James
Rebecca
Jesse
Autumn
James
John
Jacob
Carol
Snezana
Ryan
Nathan
Kara
Sarah
Jamie
Kyleigh
Lauren
Kyle
Carolynn
Amelia
Aaron
Marcietta
Charles
Rosemary
Nicholas

Natalie
Meagan
Kimberly
Stephanie
Robin
Leonardo
Daniel
Tiffany
Yelena
Anastasia
Christine
Mira
Joseph
Jaroslava
Cameron
Regina
Matthew
Cindy
Aisha
Don
Patricia
Charlette
Elias
Shaun

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.

At the end of Divine Liturgy, we hold a Triumph of Orthodoxy procession with the children in the nave:

Tone 2 – Troparion of Orthodoxy Sunday

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;

and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.

Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy.

Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:

“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//

by coming to save the world.”

Priest: The Church of God has established that on this day we give yearly thanksgiving to God and reaffirm the dogmas of piety.

Therefore, following the sayings of the prophets, honoring the exhortations of the apostles, and being instructed by the histories of the Gospels, we celebrate this day of consecration. For Isaiah says:

"Be consecrated to God, you islands," by which he means the churches of the many nations, which are not the structures and embellishments of the temples, but rather the gathering of the faithful who serve God with hymns and praise. The Apostle also exhorts us "to walk in newness of life" and that the "new creation in Christ" be renewed. For He has delivered us who are unworthy from adversity, redeeming us from those who afflicted us. And He has established the free proclamation of piety, the veneration of icons, and this Festival which brings all of us salvation. For in the icons we see what our Master bore for us: the Cross, the grave, hell slain and pillaged; we see the trials of His witnesses and their crowns of salvation, which our First Prize-giver and Contest-master and Crown-bearer wrought in the midst of the earth. Today we celebrate this festival; we rejoice together with prayers and processions, and we cry out with psalms and hymns:

**Choir: Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God, who alone does wonders!**

Priest: For You overthrew those who slighted Your glory and showed them to be cowards and fugitives who were disrespectful and impudent against the icons. Therefore, as the prophets have seen, as the apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the teachers have set forth in dogmas, as has been made known to the whole world, as Grace has shone forth, as the truth was demonstrated, as falsehood has been banished, as wisdom emboldened, as Christ has awarded: thus we believe, thus we speak, thus we preach Christ our true God and His saints, honoring them in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in temples, and in icons, worshipping and respecting Christ as God and Master and honoring the Saints with relative adoration, because of our common Master, for they are His genuine servants.

People: This is the Faith of the apostles! This is the Faith of the fathers! This is the Faith of the Orthodox! This is the Faith that has established the world!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During Coffee Hour today, we will have a **presentation about the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center** from Michael Gallo.

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers will be at **Sts Peter & Paul Macedonian Orthodox Church in Crown Point at 6pm tonight** with Bishop Andrei of the OCA Romanian Archdiocese presiding. A free dinner will follow in their banquet hall.

The **Chicago Deanery Lenten Vespers** return at 6pm on Sundays:

March 8 at St Nicholas in Kenosha

March 15 at St Nicholas in Joliet

March 22 at St George Cathedral in Chicago

March 29 at St Elizabeth in Chesterton

April 5 Bridegroom Matins at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians **make more time for prayer, fast from rich and satisfying foods** (meat, dairy, fish), and find opportunities to **help those in need** (almsgiving). They also examine their consciences and repent of their sins before the Lord in the **Sacrament of Confession**. Confession is available before or after evening services. You can also make an appointment with Fr Jacob, including before Sunday Liturgies, if necessary.

During Great Lent, join **Ancient Faith Ministries at 1050 Broadway Ave. Suite 6, Chesterton, IN** to serve those in need! Together, we will assemble **emergency hygiene kits** for International Orthodox Christian Charities to be sent all over the world after disasters strike. **They will provide the supplies but need help assembling the kits.** Service nights are on Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, **March 5, March 19, and April 2.** Register here to volunteer:



Once again this Lent, PTVM will deliver **Easter ham dinner baskets** to the **Ross Township food pantry** for local families in need. **There is a posterboard in the narthex with more details**, where you can sign up to bring the various shelf-stable foods that are needed.

Mark your calendars:

- Mar 1: Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at Sts Peter and Paul in Crown Point @ 6pm**
- Mar 4: Presanctified Liturgy @ 6pm**
- Mar 5: Lenten Service Project at Ancient Faith @ 6:30pm**
- Mar 6: Presanctified Liturgy @ 9am**
- Mar 21: Spring Cleaning! @ 9am**
Memorial Saturday General Panikhida @ 5pm
- Mar 27: Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm-6pm**
- Mar 28: Pysanki Making Classes 9-12 & 12:30-3:30**
Catechism @ 4:30pm

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,986

Sunday of Orthodoxy Encyclical Assembly of Bishops Sunday 2026

Dearly beloved faithful in Christ,

On the first Sunday of Great Lent—the **Sunday of Orthodoxy**—we joyfully commemorate the restoration of holy icons to the life of the Church. This feast celebrates the unity established by the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787) and the final restoration of icons

in 843 under the leadership of Empress St. Theodora, together with her son, Emperor Michael III, and Patriarch St. Methodios. Today, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America carries this legacy forward, manifesting that same spirit of unity. In this light, “Assembly of Bishops Sunday” is now observed nationwide in conjunction with this historic celebration.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul’s ancient plea still resonates: he calls us to be “united in the same mind and the same judgment,” leaving no room for division (1 Cor 1:10). This mandate, paired with the celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, reminds us that the restoration of icons was more than a historical event—it was the restoration of Church unity itself. It was the victory of faith over fear and the reality of a God incarnate over a distant deity. Just as we honor holy icons, we are called to see the icon of Christ in one another. By standing firm like the Saints of the 8th and 9th Centuries, we move past our differences to embrace the grace that unites us in the Body of Christ.

As we celebrate Assembly of Bishops Sunday – along with the Sunday of Orthodoxy – we encourage you all to learn about the Ministries of the Assembly as well as to support our sincere efforts for Orthodox Christian Unity through the steadfast and generous gifts of your time, talent, and treasure.

With Paternal love in Christ and prayers for a blessed Lenten journey, on the 1st of March, 2026.

Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chair
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Metropolitan Saba, Vice-Chair
Antiochian Orthodox Church

Archbishop Michael
Treasurer

Metropolitan Gregory
Secretary

Bishop Irinej
Serbian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Nicolae
Romanian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Joseph
Bulgarian Orthodox Church

Bishop Saba
Georgian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Tikhon
Orthodox Church in America

Glory to God for all things!