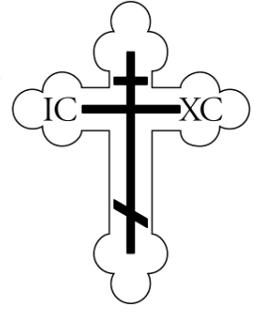
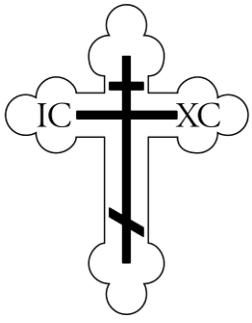


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America

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Merrillville, IN
(219)947-4748
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 8, 2026

2nd Sunday of Great Lent

St. Gregory Palamas

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

St Gregory was born in Constantinople in the year 1296 to a wealthy family, his father a member of the senate of the Byzantine empire. St Gregory was personally known by the Emperor Andronikos II, who admired the youth's intelligence and talents and hoped to use his service in the imperial court. Gregory, however, like Mary the sister of Lazarus who sat at the Lord's feet, was searching for "the one thing needful," that is, the one thing that is eternal and will truly satisfy a man's heart. Gregory set off to the

monasteries of Mount Athos, Greece to seek a deeper relationship with God. There Gregory became a disciple of experienced spiritual guides who taught him what is called the Prayer of the Heart or the Jesus Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Gregory learned to combine this prayer with solitude and silence combined with physical exercises and breathing methods. This practice of prayer is known as hesychasm from the Greek word *hesychos* meaning inner stillness, peace or silence. Through this practice of prayer Gregory and his fellow monks fulfilled the command of the Holy Apostle Paul to “pray without ceasing”. From this experience of prayer, along with repentance, fasting, struggle against the passions and service to their brethren, the monks experienced God’s vision for their lives: to know Him, experience Him, share His life, to become one with Him.

In the year 1326 with the threat of a Turkish invasion hanging over Mount Athos, Gregory moved to the city of Thessalonica where he was ordained as a priest. There he divided his time between his practice of hesychasm and service to the people of the city. He later returned to Mount Athos, serving for a time as the abbot of Esphigmenou Monastery. He was eventually consecrated as the metropolitan of Thessalonica in 1347. In 1354 a ship he was sailing on was captured by Turkish pirates, he was beaten, imprisoned and eventually ransomed. He died on November 14, 1359 with his dying words “To the heights! To the heights!”

THE ORDER OF THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

*At the threshold of the nave, we begin with prayers and the profession of faith. Then we process to the baptismal font and begin the Divine Liturgy. The **baptismal waters** are consecrated, and the initiates are anointed with the **Oil of Gladness**. Then they are **baptized**. Psalm 31 is read. The baptismal garments are placed upon them as we sing:*

Tone 8 – Troparion of Vesting

Grant unto me the robe of light,
O Most Merciful Christ our God,
who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment!

*Then the **Beatitudes** with the **Little Entrance**. We sing the **Hymns of the Day** while the initiates finish dressing.*

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 6– Resurrectional Troparion

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell, not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //
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 8 – Troparion to St. Gregory Palamas

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation,

O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians,

O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of
grace, //

always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Tone 4 – Lenten Kontakion

Now is the time for action!

Judgment is at the doors!

So let us rise and fast,

offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:

“Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;

but forgive us, O Master of all, //

so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion to St. Gregory Palamas

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom,

joyful trumpet of theology,

together we sing your praises, O God-inspired Gregory.

Since you now stand before the Original Mind, guide our minds to

Him, O Father, //

so that we may sing to you: “Rejoice, preacher of grace!”

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.

*The initiates are annointed with the **Holy Chrism**. Then the priest
leads a procession around the baptismal font as we sing:*

Instead of the Trisagion:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 5 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)

You, O Lord, shall protect us
and preserve us from this generation forever.

Tone 3 – Baptismal Prokeimenon (Psalm 26)

The Lord is my Light and my Savior! Whom shall I fear?

Epistle: Hebrews 1.1-2.3 (Sunday)

Brethren: God says to His Son, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.

Romans 6.3-11 (Baptism)

Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried, therefore, with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ

was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 7.26-8.2 (St. Gregory)

Brethren: Such a high Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Gospel: Mark 2.1-12 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So, when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you

reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Matthew 28.16-20 (Baptism)

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 10.9-16 (St. Gregory)

The Lord said to his disciples: "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Joseph Neumann
Richard Mirr
Dalton Richards
Bp. Seraphim (Sigrist)
Nickolas Resunenکو

Jovan Savich
Ev. Mem. Fedor Ruznetsoff ('61)
John Pouh (1962)
Dionisy Tyrlick (1970)
Anatol Meuch (2019)

Health & Salvation	Nina	Natalie
Archpr. Peter	Ezra	Meagan
Mat. Cynthia	James	Kimberly
Hierom. John	Rebecca	Stephanie
Mat. Anne	Jesse	Robin
Valer	Autumn	Leonardo
Nun Theodora	James	Daniel
Rollie	John	Tiffany
Claudia	Jacob	Yelena
Mary Ann	Carol	Anastasia
Raymond	Snezana	Christine
Edward	Ryan	Mira
Charlotte	Nathan	Joseph
Betsy	Kara	Jaroslava
Klaudia	Sarah	Cameron
Maja	Jamie	Regina
Gerald	Kyleigh	Matthew
Janet	Lauren	Cindy
Gerald	Kyle	Aisha
Rebecca	Carolynn	Don
Christopher	Amelia	Patricia
Moses	Aaron	Charlette
Helena	Marcietta	Elias
James	Charles	Shaun
Elijah	Rosemary	Cecilia
Lydia	Nicholas	

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, Palestine, Iran and the Middle East. 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.

*After the Prayer at the Ambo, at "Blessed be the name of the Lord..." the newly-illuminated comes forward with the sponsors to receive **Ablution and Tonsure.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve the **40-day memorial for Nickolas Resunenko** and the **7-year for Anatol Meuch**.

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.

Once again this Lent, PTVM will deliver **72 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 11: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 6pm**, with potluck after

Mar 13: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 9am**

Mar 21: **Spring Cleaning! @ 9am**

Memorial Saturday General Panikhida @ 5pm

Mar 24: **Vigil of Annunciation @ 7pm**

Mar 25: **Vesperal Liturgy of Annunciation @ 6pm**

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: \$4,501.40

Glory to God for all things!