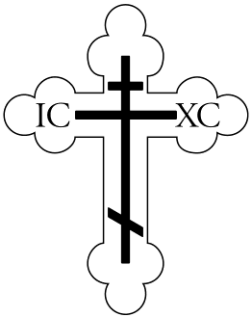
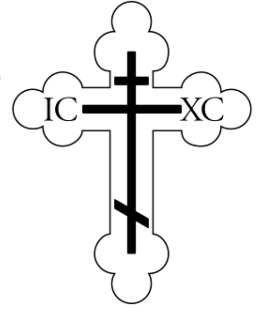


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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
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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.**

April 26, 2026

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nicodemus asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40)

were there sitting opposite the sepulcher, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).

Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Joanna, Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee, Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus, and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James and Joses. Today we also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple, and Saint Nicodemus, who was a disciple by night.

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 2 – Troparion for St Joseph

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 2 – Troparion for the Myrrhbearers

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: “The Lord is risen,//
granting the world great mercy.””

Tone 2 – Kontakion for the Myrrhbearers

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first
mother.
You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles://
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion for Pascha

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,

You destroyed the power of death.

In victory You arose, O Christ God,

proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//

granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Prokeimenon of the Myrrhbearers (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

Epistle: Acts 6.1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15.43-16.8

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then he bought fine linen, took Jesus down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

So, they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Stephen Miller

Michael McCune

Patriarch Ilia (of Georgia)

Ev. Mem. Anna Matzueff (1925)

Michael Kondrat (1944)

Vangel Steffoff (1952)

Vasily Wozhrechka (1957)

Sveta Nicoloff (1968)

Harry Darosky (1980)

Archbishop Paul (2022)

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	Tiffany	Thomas
Lauren	Yelena	Shaun
Kyle	Anastasia	Cecilia
Carolynn	Christine	Mat. Katherine
Amelia	Mira	Rita
Aaron	Joseph	Kenneth
Marcietta	Jaroslava	Alla
Charles	Cameron	Maria
Rosemary	Regina	Ethan
Nicholas	Matthew	Logan
Natalie	Cindy	Joseph
Meagan	Aisha	Mamie
Kimberly	Don	Mary
Stephanie	Patricia	Kimberly
Robin	Charlette	Michael
Leonardo	Elias	
Daniel	Sara	

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.

Paschal Theotokion (Instead of “*It is Truly Meet...*”)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
 “Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
 your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
 With Himself He has raised all the dead.”
 Rejoice, O you people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!
 The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
 Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!
 Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
 in the Resurrection of your Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read Judith 1-4.

Fr Jacob will serve the **burial services for Stephen Miller** at Hillside Funeral Home in Highland. Panikhida Thursday at 7:30pm; funeral Friday at 10am. Stephen was reconciled to the Church in the final weeks of his life and died a member of our parish. Please keep him and his wife Elaine in your prayers.

On Saturday, May 16, **Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church** in Merrillville will host a **retreat with Fr Barnabas Powell**. Schedule and other information are in the narthex. This event is free, but registration is required, which you can do through this QR code:



The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 30th**, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Hobart. The proceeds will be used for the continuation, support, and development of various Church projects. Golfers (\$95) Hole sponsors (\$125) other monetary or prize donations would be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to help in any way (including making desserts or appetizers), or to purchase banquet tickets (\$20 each), please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. This is a major fundraiser for our church and we thank you in advance for your support, The Golf Committee.

Mark Your Calendars

Apr 27: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Apr 30: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

May 16: **Retreat with Fr Barnabas Powell @ Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville**

May 20: **Vigil for the Feast of Ascension @ 6pm**

May 21: **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Ascension @ 9am**

May 30: **Golf Outing at Indian Ridge Country Club @ 8am**
Vigil for the Feast of Pentecost @ 6pm

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$4,106

Archpastoral Message on the Bright and Joyous Feast of Pascha

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

In this radiant and holy season of Pascha, we proclaim with joy that death is overthrown and eternal life is promised to those who believe. The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is not merely an historic event from the past, but the living foundation of our faith, the unshakable promise of our future, and the transforming power of our present.

By His Cross, Christ entered into the depths of human suffering. By His glorious Resurrection, He shattered the gates of Hades and destroyed the dominion of death forever. What once seemed final has been rendered powerless. What once brought fear now opens the way to eternal hope.

Pascha assures us that life—true, abundant, and everlasting life—is not a distant dream, but a divine promise and guarantee. In the Risen Christ, despair gives way to hope, sin to forgiveness, sorrow to joy, and death to immortality. No darkness can overcome the Light that shines from the empty tomb.

As we celebrate this Feast of Feasts, let us renew our faith, strengthen our love, and embody the victory of the Resurrection in our daily lives. Let us become witnesses of this triumph—proclaiming by word and deed that Christ has conquered death and opened for all humanity the path to eternal life.

May the joy of the Resurrection fill your hearts, strengthen your families, and bless our communities throughout our beloved Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest. And may the peace of the Risen Lord abide with you always.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

With paternal love and Paschal joy,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

A Letter of Welcome from His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel to the Newly-Illumined Members of the Orthodox Church in the Diocese of the Midwest

Holy Pascha, April 12, 2026

Beloved Sons and Daughters in the Lord,

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is risen!

With great joy and thanksgiving to Almighty God, I greet each of you who have recently been received into the Holy Orthodox Church in the Diocese of the Midwest. You have fully embraced the ancient faith that has been preserved in the Orthodox Church throughout the centuries, the faith transmitted to us by the Apostles themselves. Your entry into Christ's Body is cause for celebration throughout our entire Diocese. You have taken a courageous and grace-filled step along the narrow path that leads to life, and we, your brothers and sisters in the Lord, rejoice that you now share fully in the life of the Holy Mysteries, the prayers, and the communion of the Church.

You now belong to a living tradition—the faith once delivered to the saints, kept alive through love, repentance, and the joy of the Resurrection. May your hearts remain open to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us in every good word and work, and Who will guide you ever more deeply into the mystery of life in Christ.

I also wish to express heartfelt gratitude to those who have accompanied you on this journey—your sponsors and catechists as well as all the clergy and faithful who have taught, prayed for, and encouraged and guided you. Their care and witness have been a true offering of love to the Lord and to His Church.

As your bishop, I assure you of my sincere welcome, prayers, and blessing. May you always find in our parishes places of refuge, peace, and growth. Continue steadfast in prayer, in participation in the Holy Mysteries, and in acts of mercy, that your light may shine before all, glorifying our Father in heaven.

With paternal love in Christ,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest