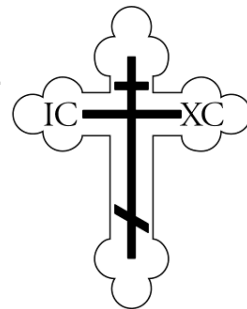
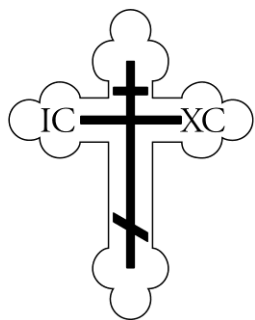


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.**

April 5, 2026

The Feast of Palms

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the

joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: “Do you accept Christ?” We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: “I accept Him as King and God!”

Thus, on the eve of Christ’s Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

First Antiphon

I love the Lord because He has heard
the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Because He inclined His ear to me;
therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. (*Refrain*)

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of hell laid hold on me. (*Refrain*)

I suffered distress and anguish,
so I called on the Name of the Lord. (*Refrain*)

I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living. (*Refrain*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. (*Refrain*)

Second Antiphon

I kept my faith, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted.”

Refrain: O Son of God who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to
You: “Alleluia!”

What shall I render to the Lord
for all the things He has given me? (*Refrain*)

I will receive the cup of salvation
and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Refrain*)

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all His people. (*Refrain*)

Glory.. now and ever...

And we continue with “Only-Begotten Son” as usual.

Third Antiphon

Cantor: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy
endures forever! Let the house of Israel say that He is good,
for His mercy endures forever!

Choir: **Tone 1 – Troparion of the Feast**

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion,
You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God.
Like the children with the palms of victory,
we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death:
“Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

Cantor: Let the house of Aaron say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever! Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Repeat the Troparion

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has revealed Himself to us.

Repeat the Troparion again, then...

Tone 4 – Another Troparion for Palm Sunday

When we were buried with You in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection.

Now we praise You and sing:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

Tone 6 – Kontakion of Palm Sunday

Sitting on Your throne in Heaven,

carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God,

accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing://

“Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of the Feast (Psalm 117)

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: John 12.1-18

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

Therefore, the people who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Michael McCune
Patriarch Ilia (of Georgia)
Joseph Neumann

Ev. Mem. John Medved (1931)
Sam Kubinetz (1948)
Mary Medved (1957)

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

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.

Festal Theotokion (*Instead of "It is Truly Meet..."*)

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Celebrate the feast and come with gladness!

Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches,

singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!"

Communion Hymn

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please review the **Holy Week sign-up board** in the Narthex and sign up to participate in the services. There are opportunities to hold vigil candles at the Passion Gospels, participate in the various processions, keep vigil by Christ's tomb Friday night, and read Scripture on Holy Saturday.

Next Sunday, after **Agape Vespers** at 11am, we will have our usual **Easter Egg Hunt** for the children. Then, everyone is invited to the Paschal Potluck Cookout from 1pm until 5pm. Bring something to share. A grill will be available.

Tonight is the first Bridegroom Matins of Holy Week, served as usual at **Holy Trinity Cathedral at 6pm.**

The annual **Ladies' Sodality Bright Week Luncheon** will be at Outback Steakhouse on Tuesday, April 14 after Divine Liturgy. Interested new members are encouraged to join them for lunch.

On Friday, April 17, the O-Club will host our annual **Trivia Night Fundraiser for Mommy's Haven** maternity home in Lowell. Tickets are \$25/person at the door or a table of eight for \$180. Pizza, beer, wine, and soda are included. BYO food and drink is also allowed. Cash prize for the winning table. Doors open at 6pm. Trivia starts at 6:30pm.

Mark Your Calendars

Holy Week Schedule

- Sunday: **Bridegroom Matins at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 6pm**
- Monday: **Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday @ 6pm**
- Tuesday: **Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday @ 6pm**
- Wednesday: **Presanctified Liturgy @ 2pm**
Bridegroom Matins of the Last Supper @ 6pm
- Thursday: **Liturgy of the Last Supper @ 10am**
Matins of the Passion (12 Gospels) @ 6pm
- Friday: **Royal Hours of the Passion @ 9am**
Vespers of Entombment @ 2pm
Matins with Lamentations @ 6pm
- Saturday: **Vesperal Liturgy of Pascha @ 10am**
Paschal Vigil @ 11pm, followed by blessing of baskets
- Sunday: **Agape Vespers @ 11am, with egg hunt and cookout**

Apr 13: **Bright Monday Liturgy** at Sts Peter & Paul Macedonian Church in Crown Point @ 10am

Apr 14: **Bright Tuesday Liturgy** (at our church) @ 10am

Apr 17: **Bright Friday Liturgy** @ Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Church in Merrillville @ 10am
O-Club Trivia Night for Mommy's Haven @ 6pm

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$6,036.08

**Glory to God for
all things!**