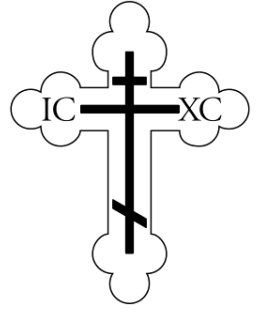
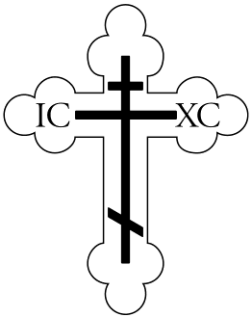


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.**

Fifth Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman

Midfeast (between Pascha and Pentecost)

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen, //

granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 8 – Troparion of Midfeast

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,
fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, as You cried to all:
“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!” //
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

Tone 8 – Kontakion for the Samaritan Woman

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;
she saw You, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly.//
She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of Midfeast

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all,
cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law:
“Come and draw the water of immortality!”
We fall before You and faithfully cry://
“Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 3 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Epistle: Acts 11.19-26, 29-30

At that time, those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel: John 4.5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

In the meantime, His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

Therefore, the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."

So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word.

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Zach Mlynski

Ljubica Pavleska

Stephen Miller

Ev. Mem. Militsa Buryan (1915)

Julianna Pilenok (1923)

Michael Korhan (1928)

Stephan Vasiliuk (1937)

Cyril Andronoff (1944)

Nikita Diachuk (1955)

Andrew Korotky (1959)

Anastasia Golwas (1972)

Christina Saragavetz (1975)

Steve Nezovich (1976)

Mary Naumoff (1981)

Kateryna Gruszyk (2012)

Archpr. Anastasy Richter (2021)

Health & Salv.

Claudia

Gerald

Elijah

Archpr. Peter

Mary Ann

Janet

Lydia

Mat. Cynthia

Raymond

Gerald

Nina

Hierom. John

Edward

Rebecca

Ezra

Mat. Anne

Charlotte

Christopher

James

Valer

Betsy

Moses

Rebecca

Nun Theodora

Klaudia

Helena

Jesse

Rollie

Maja

James

Autumn

James	Marcietta	Jaroslava	Alla
John	Charles	Cameron	Maria
Jacob	Rosemary	Regina	Ethan
Carol	Nicholas	Matthew	Logan
Snezana	Natalie	Cindy	Joseph
Ryan	Meagan	Aisha	Mamie
Nathan	Kimberly	Don	Mary
Kara	Stephanie	Patricia	Kimberly
Sarah	Robin	Charlette	Michael
Jamie	Leonardo	Elias	Anastasia
Kyleigh	Daniel	Sara	Michal
Lauren	Tiffany	Thomas	Carlos
Kyle	Yelena	Shaun	Sarah
Carolynn	Anastasia	Cecilia	Anika
Amelia	Christine	Rita	Gabriel
Aaron	Mira	Kenneth	

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, 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, rejoice O you people!

Shine, shine, shine O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the resurrection of your Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve a memorial for the newly departed Ljubica Pavleska and the 14-years for Kateryna Gruszyk.

For Bible Study tomorrow, we will read Judith 7-12.

This 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

May 11: Bible Study @ 7pm

May 14: 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 23: Catechism (newcomers welcome) @ 4:30pm

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

June 6: Spring Outdoor Cleanup beginning @ 9am; lunch provided.

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$3,635

Statement of the Holy Synod of Bishops on the Occasion of the 250th Anniversary of Our Nation

Continued from last week. Read the full statement at www.OCA.org

IV. OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS NATION AND ITS PEOPLE

We, the Holy Synod of Bishops, reaffirm the commitment of the Orthodox Church in America to the well-being of this nation and all its people. We are committed to the cultivation of peace, the promo-

tion of human dignity, the practice of charity, and the witness of reconciliation in a society that stands in great need of all these gifts.

In this regard, we recall with appreciation the aspiration expressed at the very founding of this republic. President George Washington, writing in 1790, articulated a vision of civic life that went beyond the mere tolerance of religious difference to something more generous:

“All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights.”

This aspiration—that religious liberty is not a concession granted by the powerful to the weak, but an inherent right belonging to all persons equally—has made it possible for the Orthodox Church to take root and flourish in this soil. We receive this gift with gratitude, even as we acknowledge with honesty that the distance between founding aspiration and faithful fulfillment has often been great, and that this very tension is itself a summons to continued repentance and renewal. The Church does not exist at the pleasure of the state, nor does she seek dominion over it. Rather, she stands within society as a witness to a Kingdom that exceeds all earthly kingdoms, illumining the civil order with the wisdom of the Gospel and the witness of holy lives.

In a moment of rapid and, at times, unsettling change, we offer the unchanging Christ—the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Our parishes are to be places of genuine welcome, of profound worship, and of selfless love where our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is always manifested. Our contribution to America is not power, not politics, but the presence of the living God among His people.

V. A CALL TO REPENTANCE AND HUMILITY

Gratitude, however, is not the Church’s only word on this occasion. The prophets of ancient Israel—those whom God raised up precisely because they loved their people—never ceased calling rulers and people alike to repentance and humility before God. It is a mark of genuine love for this nation that the Church, too, must speak this word.

Two hundred and fifty years is a span of time sufficient to accumulate both great achievements and grave failures. This nation—like all nations under God—has known the heights of generosity and the depths of injustice; the nobility of aspiration and the tragedy of

betrayal. The Church does not pretend otherwise, nor would it serve this nation's good for her to do so. We bear witness to a God before Whom no nation and no person stands without need of mercy.

The promise spoken to Solomon rings out across the centuries with undiminished urgency: *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land"* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

It is in this spirit that we call the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America—and, through their witness, this nation—to repentance: repentance for injustices past and present; for the idols of wealth, comfort, and power that seduce every generation; for the divisions and enmities that tear at the fabric of common life; and for the ways in which we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. A true commemoration of a nation's founding is not mere self-congratulation; it is a moment of sober examination, of honest confession, and of renewed dependence upon God.

The Church does not speak this word from a posture of superiority. We acknowledge our own failures—in charity, in unity, and in the fullness of our witness to the Gospel. We, too, stand in need of God's mercy. But it is precisely because the Church has known the healing power of repentance that she cannot withhold this word from the world she is called to serve.

VI. A CALL TO THE DIOCESES

We encourage all dioceses, parishes, monasteries, and institutions of the Orthodox Church in America to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States of America in a manner befitting the occasion. Special services of thanksgiving, educational programs, civic engagement, and acts of charity are all fitting expressions of our gratitude to God and our love for this country and this continent.

VII. CONCLUSION

We close with a prayer offered in both gratitude and penitence, that this nation, conceived in aspiration toward freedom and formed through the struggles and sacrifices of many generations, may yet heed the ancient call to humility before God, and so continue to be a place where the Church of Christ flourishes, where the Gospel is proclaimed, and where all people are able to seek the face of God without fear.

To Him Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**