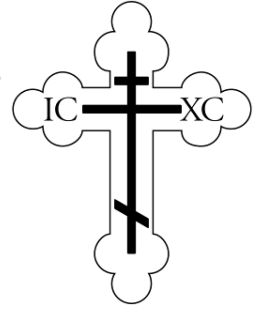
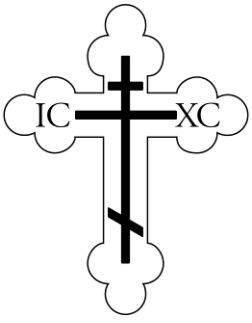


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America

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(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## Sixth Sunday of Pascha: The Blind Man

We read in Saint John's Gospel (9:1-38): "As He passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth." It might appear that Jesus was on His way to something or someone else, but in his Commentary on the Gospel of Saint John, the ever-memorable Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas, quotes from Homily LVI of Saint John Chrysostom: "that on going out of the Temple, He proceeded intentionally to the work, is clear from this: it was He who saw the blind man, and not the blind man who came to Him...."

Christ's disciples asked Him who had sinned, the blind man or his parents that he had been born blind. Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God might be manifested in him" (John 9:3). It was thought that a person who had

some affliction must have sinned (or his parents did) to deserve such punishment. In the Book of Exodus (20:5), God said that he would visit "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."

The blind man was not born blind just so the miracle could be performed, but seeing the man in such a condition, the Lord decided to use him in a way that would manifest God's glory. He Who is the Light of the world healed the blind man and enlightened him. Giving sight to the blind was one of the signs which would identify the Messiah (Matthew 11:4-6).

This manner of healing reminds us of the way God created man by fashioning him from the dust of the earth. In the Old Testament God created man from the dust of the earth, now Christ, the same God, fashions eyes from the clay and places them in the blind man's empty sockets.

Saint Theophylaktos says in his Commentary that "Jesus our Lord fashioned all the members of the blind man's body except for the eyes, which He omitted. By healing them now, he completes the divine act of creating and demonstrates that He is the Creator."

Jesus tests the faith of the blind man by sending him to the Pool of Siloam (which means "sent"). He respects the man's freedom, but asks for his voluntary and free participation in the miracle. The blind man, with faith, obeys God's command. He goes and washes in the pool, and he returns seeing.

The former blind man's life was not made easier, however. He becomes the object of the Scribes' and Pharisees' evil and hatred, those who believed in God and in the observance of His Law. They themselves were blind, yet they were suspicious of the formerly blind man, imagining that he only pretended to be blind and now was able to see. "They willingly were made blind by the dark letter of the Law, in which Christ, the resplendent Sun shines."

## 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 4 – Kontakion of the Blind Man**

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,  
and call to You in repentance://

“You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

#### **Tone 8 – Kontakion of 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.a

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

#### **Epistle: Acts 16.16-34 (Sunday)**

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.”

Then the multitude rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all

the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

### **Gospel: John 9.1-38 (Sunday)**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So, he went and washed and came back seeing.

Therefore, the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

Therefore, they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

Then they said to him, "Where is He?"

He said, "I do not know."

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore, some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight.

And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, they would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So they again called the man who was blind and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered saying, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Zach Mlynski  
Ljubica Pavleska  
Stephen Miller

**Ev. Mem.** Virginia Tekich (1913)  
Mary Barsuko (1928)  
Gregory Sajkovich (1957)  
John Puskos (1988)

### Health & Salv.

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  
Jaroslava  
Cameron  
Regina  
Matthew  
Cindy  
Aisha  
Don  
Patricia  
Charlette  
Elias  
Sara  
Thomas  
Shaun  
Cecilia  
Rita  
Kenneth  
Alla  
Maria  
Ethan  
Logan

Joseph  
Mamie  
Mary  
Kimberly  
Michael  
Anastasia

Michal  
Carlos  
Sarah  
Anika  
Gabriel  
Kyle

Louis  
Noni  
Erin  
Melissa  
Solomon  
Atlas

*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**

Today is the **last day of Church School**. Thank you to all of our **teachers**. We will resume classes in September.

There is **no Bible Study tomorrow**.

This Thursday is the **Feast of our Lord’s Ascension**, 40 days after Pascha. It coincides this year with the feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen (May 21). For this reason, **Liturgy for the feast this year will be at Sts Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville**. They will serve Orthros (Matins) at 8am, with Divine Liturgy at 9am. We will still serve the **Festal Vigil at our parish Wednesday evening** as planned.

Next Monday, May 25, is **Memorial Day**. **Grave blessings** will begin as usual at our cemetery after a panikhida at 9am in the chapel. Afterwards, **Fr Jacob will visit other cemeteries by request**.

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 19: Parish Council @ 7pm**

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

**May 21: Divine Liturgy at Sts Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville for the Feast of Ascension & their patronal feast @ 9am (Orthros @ 8am)**

**May 23: Catechism: Services of the Church @ 4:30pm**

**May 25: Grave Blessings** starting at PTVM cemetery @ 9am

**May 28: Women's Book Club** in the church hall @ 6pm

**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.

**June 9-11: Woman's Retreat** at Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan

**Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$1,649**

**Christ is risen!**  
**Indeed, He is risen!**