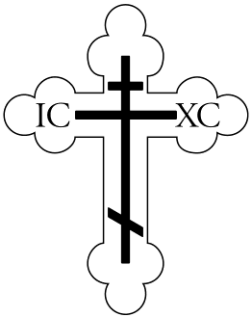


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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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.

May 3, 2026

Sunday of the Paralytic

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Tone 3 – Kontakion for the Paralytic

By Your divine intercession, O Lord,
as You raised up the Paralytic of old,
so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts;
so that being saved I may sing to You://
“Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!”

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You!

Epistle: Acts 9.32-42

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the

saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Gospel: John 5.1-15

At that time, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Stephen Miller

Michael McCune

Ev. Mem. Taranty Vatskoff ('28)

Mary Zaginiec (1948)

Mudrick Novack (1951)

Dimitry Kalinowsky (1951)

Helen Aleksy (1961)

Mary Borisenko (1976)

Stephen Sawochka (1979)

Leverne Wenner (2012)

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

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

After venerating the cross, we will serve a **memorial for the newly-departed Stephen Miller** along with the **14-year memorial for Leverne Wenner**.

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

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.

From the Church School Director: Dear Families, we kindly ask for your help in keeping our spaces clean and welcoming. Before leaving coffee hour, please take a moment to sweep your area, wipe surfaces, and return chairs to the tables, and if your children play outside, help pick up any toys, food, or trash. Thank you for your care and partnership in keeping our church a safe and beautiful place for everyone!

Mark Your Calendars

May 4: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

May 6: **Divine Liturgy at St. George Cathedral, Chicago** for their parish feast (Old Calendar) @ 9:30am

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

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

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$4,697.80

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

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR THIS LAND

As the United States of America marks the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding, we, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, raise our hearts and voices in gratitude to God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, Who in His inscrutable providence has planted His Holy Church in this land and caused her to take root, grow, and flourish.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the United States of America—a nation that has, by the grace of God, afforded its people the freedom to worship, to follow the way of Jesus Christ, and to bear witness to the Gospel without fear or compulsion. We do not take these gifts for granted. They are blessings of divine providence,

entrusted to us as a sacred responsibility. The freedom to gather in our churches, to catechize our children in the Faith, to proclaim the Resurrection of Christ openly and without hindrance—these are gifts for which every generation must give thanks to God and remain worthy stewards.

While this statement is offered on the occasion of the United States' particular milestone, we note with gratitude that the Orthodox Church in America spans the breadth of this continent. Our dioceses in Canada and Mexico share with us in this moment of thanksgiving, giving glory to God for the freedom to worship and to serve the peoples of North America in all their diversity. The blessing we celebrate belongs, in different measure and manner, to the whole Church on this continent.

We call upon the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to celebrate this historic milestone with prayers of thanksgiving, offered in your parishes, your homes, and in the quiet of your hearts, for this land and for all who dwell in it.

II. THE CHURCH PLANTED, GROWN, AND ESTABLISHED IN THIS LAND

The history of Orthodoxy in America is itself a testament to divine providence. From the earliest missionaries who brought the light of the Gospel to the shores of Alaska, to the generations of faithful who built parishes and communities across this vast continent, the Orthodox Church has been woven into the fabric of American life. She has welcomed the immigrant and the native-born, the seeker and the inheritor of the Faith, the learned and the simple—all those whom Christ Himself has called.

The granting of autocephaly to the Orthodox Church in America in 1970 was not merely an administrative act. It was an ecclesiological affirmation that this land has a Church of its own—a local Church, fully Orthodox, fully catholic, fully apostolic. The Orthodox Church in America is the Church for this land and for the people of this land. We are at home here, rooted in this soil, and the people of America—of every background, every heritage, every walk of life—are those whom Christ has entrusted to our pastoral care.

We embrace with joy the richness of our diversity. The Orthodox Church in America gathers faithful whose ancestors came from Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania—nations whose ancient Orthodox heritage now finds a new home on this continent—as well as from Eastern Europe more broadly, Greece, the Arab world, Africa, Asia, and the Americas themselves. This

diversity is not an obstacle to unity but an icon of the Kingdom of God, where there is “neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free” (Galatians 3:28), but all are one in Christ Jesus. We treasure every thread even as we weave them together into a single garment: the local Orthodox Church in America.

II. THE GREAT COMMISSION AND OUR PARTICULAR CALLING

As our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He entrusted to His disciples—and to His Church in every age and every land—a mission that admits of no exception and no delay: “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” (Matthew 28:19–20). This is not a mission given to us in the abstract. It is a mission given to us here, in this place, among these people, at this moment in history.

The early Christians understood this calling with a simplicity that still instructs us. As an anonymous disciple wrote in the second century, in the Epistle to Diognetus:

They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers.

We find in these ancient words a description of our own vocation. The Orthodox Church in America is at home in this land, fully engaged in its common life—and yet her citizenship is ultimately in heaven, her culture the culture of the Kingdom. It is precisely from this position that she can offer something to American society that no merely political or ideological force can provide—the presence of the living God.

The Orthodox Church in America accepts this calling with humility and with urgency. We are called to be the presence of Jesus Christ in American society—in its cities and its rural communities, in its universities and its prisons, in its hospitals and its institutions, among its poor and its prosperous. We are called not to retreat from the complexity of our times, but to illumine it with the light of the Gospel. We are called to be, as our Lord taught, salt and light—preserving what is good and true, and shining in the darkness without being overcome by it.

*The remainder of the Statement will appear in next week's bulletin.
To read it now, visit www.OCA.org.*