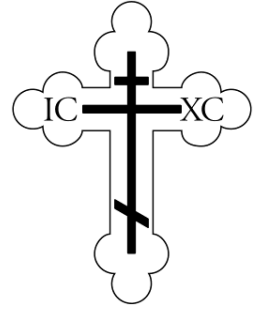
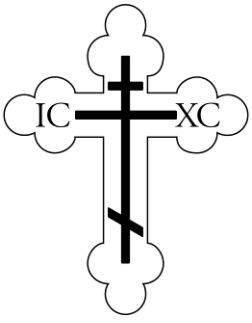


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.

June 21, 2026

Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus

The holy Martyr Julian was born at Diocesarea in the province of Cilicia. He was the son of a pagan senator, but his mother was a Christian. After the death of her husband, she and Julian moved to Tarsus, where her son was baptized and raised in Christian piety. When Julian reached the age of eighteen, Emperor Diocletian (284-305) began to persecute Christians, issuing a decree that everyone had to offer sacrifice to the idols. If they refused, they would be tortured. Among those arrested was Saint Julian. They brought him before the eparch Marcian to be tried, and for a long time they urged him to renounce Christ. Neither tortures nor threats, nor promises of gifts or honors could convince the devout young man to sacrifice

to the idols and deny Christ, and so the holy confessor remained steadfast in his faith.

For a whole year they led the martyr through the cities of Cilicia, everywhere subjecting him to interrogation and torture, after which they threw him in prison. Saint Julian's mother followed her son and prayed that the Lord would strengthen him. In the city of Aegea, she besought the eparch to let her to visit the prison, ostensibly to persuade her son to offer sacrifice to the idols. When she saw him, she did just the opposite. She spent three days in prison with Saint Julian, exhorting him to remain strong until the end.

Once again, Saint Julian was brought before the eparch. Thinking that his mother had persuaded her son to obey the imperial decree, Marcian tried to convince her to offer sacrifice, but she continued to confess Jesus Christ, and boldly denounced polytheism. Marcian then ordered that her feet be cut off, since she had followed her son from Tarsus.

Then Saint Julian was placed into a sack filled with sand and poisonous snakes, and it was thrown into the sea. The Martyr's body was carried by the waves to the shores of Alexandria. There his body was buried by a certain pious Christian. Saint Julian's death occurred around the year 305. Afterward, his relics were transferred to Antioch.

Today Catechumens will remain in the Church for the duration of the Divine Liturgy.

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 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:
Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.
Deliver us from every form of evil
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//
that He may save our souls.

Tone 4 – Troparion for St Julian

Your holy martyr Julian, O Lord,
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from
You, our God.

For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//
Through his intercession, save our souls!

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with
You,//
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 2 – Kontakion for St. Julian

Let us all worthily praise Julian today,
the unconquerable pious warrior and seeker of truth;
To him let us cry out://
“Pray to Christ God for us all!”

Tone 3 – Patronal Kontakion

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,
And with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.
Angels and bishops worship.
Apostles and prophets rejoice together,//
Since for our sake she prays to the eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 2 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

Epistle: Romans 5.1-10 (Sunday)

Brethren: Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance character, and character hope. Now, hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gospel: Matthew 6.22-33 (Sunday)

Jesus said to the Jews who came to Him: "The lamp of the body is the eye. If, therefore, your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

"Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Olivia Champion
Hattie Jones
Michael Heavin

Zach Mlynski
Ev. Mem Peter Evanovich (1936)

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** tomorrow read **Daniel 6-9**.

Today, will take a special collection for the victims of the Merrillville tornado. The funds will be used to purchase gift cards that the Ross Township office will hand out to victims.

Fr Jacob will be out of town June 29 – July 15. For pastoral emergencies, Fr. Nicholas Denysenko is available at 763-670-8011, except for July 3-11, when Fr. Daniel Radu will answer at 248-747-1335.

Mark Your Calendars

June 22: Bible Study @ 7pm

June 25: Vigil for the Tikhvin Icon of the Theotokos in Chicago at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 6pm

June 26: Divine Liturgy for the Tikhvin Icon of the Theotokos in Chicago at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 9:30am

June 29: Feast Day Liturgy at Sts Peter & Paul in Burr Ridge @ 9:30am

June 30: Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Valpo @ 7:15am

Jun 29-Jul 17: Fr Jacob is on vacation.

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$3,472

GREETINGS ON THE FEAST OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE TIKHVIN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

from His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

Beloved Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the God-protected
Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest:

On this joyous feast of the Appearance of the Wonderworking Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, the patronal feast of the Diocese of the Midwest, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ and glorify His Most Pure Mother, the heavenly Protectress of our Diocese. We celebrate with gratitude, giving thanks for the special blessings received throughout the decades because of the presence in the Diocese of the Midwest of this greatly venerated and wonderworking icon. Together, as clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Diocese, we rejoice in the motherly care, protection, and intercession granted us in this God-protected corner of the Lord's Vineyard.

The Tikhvin Icon is among the type of icons of the Theotokos known as hodegetria, "She who shows the way." In the icon, we see Mary lifting her right hand upward and pointing toward her Divine Son, whom she holds in her left arm. She draws attention away from herself and directs us to Christ, the source of our salvation. This is the foremost role of Mary: she always points us toward her Son, guiding us to the One who is our Lord and Savior. We are reminded of this role in the story of the wedding at Cana of Galilee, when she directs the wine stewards to go to Christ and to "do whatever He tells you," (John 2:5).

In her Tikhvin Icon, Mary directs us to her Son, even as she looks forward, gazing into the eyes of those who approach her image. Her gaze toward the beholder is quiet and peaceful, almost contemplative. In looking upon those who approach her image in faith, she looks at us with the gentle eyes of a loving mother, inviting us to share something that is within her heart (cf. Luke 2:5). Mary draws us in and invites us to share in her love for her Son, to imitate her fidelity to Him, to follow her example of serving Him, and to always place our trust in Him.

This loving mother was near her Divine Son throughout His life and saving ministry, beginning from the moment of His conception and His birth, throughout the hidden, unrecorded years in Nazareth, and during His public ministry. She heard Him preach and teach and witnessed Him performing miracles. Ultimately, she stood beneath

the cross, near her Son as He died for us, so that we might live. And she remains near to Him in the Kingdom of Heaven, where He sits forever at the Father's right hand.

This nearness of Mary—to her Son and to us—is not merely a pious thought or comforting notion. It is a reality. It is a theological truth that is grounded in the Church's teaching on the nature of the Church itself and the communion of its saints. The continuing intercession of Mary is very real. The mother who stood beneath the Cross on Golgotha, who received her Son's dying gift in the person of Saint John, who was present with the Apostles in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, continues to be mother to those who were given her, by her Son Himself. Today, we rejoice that she continues to be our Mother. She continues to guide us and draw us ever nearer to Christ.

For generations, the Mother of God, honored in her Tikhvin Icon, has watched over the parishes, clergy, monastics, and faithful people of the Diocese of the Midwest and has interceded for them with her unfailing prayers. Through times of trial and sorrow, as well as times of great spiritual joy, she has remained a steadfast refuge, guiding us to her Son and blessing our diocese and our families with her maternal protection.

As we celebrate the feast of the Appearance of the Tikhvin Icon on June 26, I invite you to join me in prayer, asking the Most Blessed Theotokos to continue to bless our Diocese of the Midwest, to strengthen our clergy in their ministry, to preserve our parishes in peace and unity, and to protect every family and home entrusted to her care.

Let us especially pray that under her maternal gaze our children may grow in faith, our communities may abound in love, and all who seek Christ within our Diocese may find healing, consolation, and salvation. May this feast renew our faith in Christ, deepen our devotion to His Most Pure Mother, draw us ever closer to the one who gave birth to God the Word, and fill our hearts with peace, hope, and joy.

With love in the Lord,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Glory to God for all things!