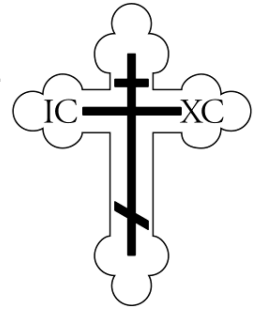
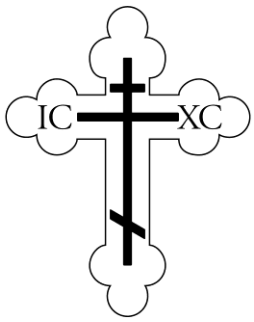


Protection of the Virgin Mary

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.

June 07, 2026

Sunday of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. The Church recognizes many thousands of Saints from different walks of life. What they all have in common is they have preserved in themselves the image and likeness of God in which they were originally created. When God created man, He created him in His own image. This word “image” is simply the

familiar Greek word, icon. In other words, God made the first icon, and man is created to be an icon of God, a faithful copy of the original.

The people of God see God's image in His saints. For this reason, our church buildings contain many icons of saints to remind us that we are meant to see the image of God in ourselves and in each other. The living people of God gather together in temples in the presence of the icons of men and women who have shown in an especially notable way what it means to live life fully in Christ.

The word saint means holy, thus "Saint John" means, in fact, "Holy John." This is not to say that he was always perfect; that he was a genius; that he was a great man according to the world; that his views on politics, social life, or economics were desirable or correct. It means only that, within the context of his age, he manifested the image of God in himself in some way—that he was an icon, an original creation, a new creature in Christ.

In praying to a saint, we simply ask the holy person to pray for us. We can, of course, ask for the prayers of those who are not officially saints. In fact, we often ask our friends and families to pray for us. We may ask a person who has died—a mother or father or grandparent—to pray for us. But we are especially interested in seeking out the prayers of those whose lives have been wholly devoted to prayer, who are in fact, "experts" in prayer. The Orthodox Christian also venerates icons—he bows and kisses the icon and in doing that he bows before and kisses the image of God which he sees in the saint. He bows and kisses to show his love for that image, and to express his hope that the image of God will also become manifest in himself. In a similar way the priest censes the icons and bow to them—again, seeing the image of God, censing it, bowing to it; and then the priest turns and censes the people gathered in the Church and bows to them, just as he did to the icons. He also sees the image of God in the people of God who are the Church of Christ on earth. In turn, the people bow to the priest, seeing also in him that same image, that same call to be an icon.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 – Troparion of All Saints

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,
Your Church has been adorned with Your martyrs' blood shed
throughout all the world.

She cries to You, O Christ God:

“Send down Your bounties on Your people,//
grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of All Saints

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.

By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation in abiding peace//
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for All Saints (Psalm 67)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Epistle: Hebrews 11.33 – 12.2

Brethren: Through faith, the Saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not receiving deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, and by chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, because God had provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set

before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: Matthew 10.32-33, 37-38; 19.27-30

The Lord said to His disciples, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?"

So, Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Zach Mlynski	Danica Achizow (1969)
Ljubica Pavleska	Kenneth Ott (1970)
Ev. Mem David Malfin (1915)	Alex Chapko (1978)
Adam Elchuk (1945)	Michelle Haddad (1978)
Vladimir Momchilovich (1963)	Maria Zubarow (1989)
Stephen Hrinyo (1967)	

Health & Salv.	Edward	Helena
Archpr. Peter	Charlotte	James
Mat. Cynthia	Betsy	Elijah
Hierom. John	Klaudia	Lydia
Mat. Anne	Maja	Nina
Valer	Gerald	Ezra
Nun Theodora	Janet	James
Rollie	Gerald	Rebecca
Claudia	Rebecca	Jesse
Mary Ann	Christopher	Autumn
Raymond	Moses	

James	Christine	Joseph
John	Mira	Mamie
Jacob	Jaroslava	Mary
Carol	Cameron	Kimberly
Jamie	Regina	Michael
Kyleigh	Matthew	Anastasia
Lauren	Cindy	Michal
Kyle	Aisha	Carlos
Carolynn	Don	Sarah
Amelia	Patricia	Anika
Aaron	Charlette	Gabriel
Marcietta	Elias	Kyle
Charles	Sara	Louis
Rosemary	Thomas	Noni
Nicholas	Jarrayd	Erin
Natalie	Kira & unborn	Melissa
Meagan	Shaun	Solomon
Stephanie	Cecilia	Atlas
Robin	Rita	Katharine
Leonardo	Kenneth	Kalyn & unborn
Daniel	Alla	Heidi
Tiffany	Maria	Michael
Yelena	Ethan	Bettie
Anastasia	Logan	

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.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Table at Coffee Hour - Tiffany will have a few tables with free items during coffee hour this week and next!

The **outdoor cleanup** scheduled for yesterday was **postponed due to rain**. God-willing, we will have it **this Saturday from 9am until lunch**.

For **Bible Study tomorrow** read the prophet **Daniel up to chapter 4**.

New catechism classes will be held every other week during the Divine Liturgy beginning next Sunday, June 14. **After the Litany for the Catechumens, they will be dismissed from the nave** and led by an instructor to the parish hall, where class will last until the end of Liturgy. Anyone preparing to enter the Orthodox Church, even if not yet a catechumen, is welcome to join the class.

Mark Your Calendars

June 8: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

June 9: **Guys' Night Out** at Maxim's Lounge @ 6pm

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

Jun 13: **Spring outdoor clean-up @ 9am** (rescheduled from the 6th)

Jun 25: **Vigil at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago** for the feast of the Tikhvin/Chicago Icon of the Mother of God @ 6pm

Jun 26: **Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago** for the Tikhvin/Chicago Icon of the Mother of God @ 9:30am

Jun 29-Jul 16: Fr Jacob on vacation.

July 26: **Church Picnic** after Liturgy in honor of **St Clement of Ohrid**

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$2,873

ARCHPASTORAL GREETINGS ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

from His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

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

*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing
mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were
sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire,
and one sat upon each of them. (Acts 2:2-3)*

I greet you with joy as we celebrate the great feast of Holy Pentecost. Recalling the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the new-born Church, we give thanks to God for granting the seven-fold gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord to the Holy Apostles gathered in Jerusalem and to the fullness of the Church throughout the ages. May the same Holy Spirit renew our hearts and guide our diocesan family to an always-increasing and ever-deepening life in Christ.

I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our diocesan graduates at the various stages of their education: your dedication, perseverance in your studies, and academic accomplishments are a blessing to your families, your parish communities and to our entire Diocese. May the Lord continue to guide your path, granting you strong faith, wisdom, and purpose in every new endeavor. May you always be encouraged to use your gifts and talents to serve Christ and His Church.

As summer begins, I urge everyone to enjoy this blessed season with gratitude and joy. May your summer activities — family gatherings, travel and vacations, camps, barbecues and picnics, parish events, and times of rest and relaxation — be filled with safety, fellowship, and opportunities to grow closer to Christ. Let us continue to remain active in prayer, worship, and acts of kindness wherever we may be.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit strengthen and protect you always.

With love in the Lord,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Glory to God for
all things!