Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America

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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.

June 28, 2026

Holy Martyrs & Unmercenaries Cyrus and John

Today Catechumens will depart for class in the hall when dismissed.

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 4– Patronal Troparion
Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illumined 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 5 – Troparion for Sts Cyrus and John
O Christ God,
You have given given us the miracles of Your martyrs Cyrus and John,
as an invincible rampart;
through their prayers frustrate the plans of the heathens,
and strengthen the faith of the Orthodox Christians, //
for You alone are good and love mankind.

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Kontakion
On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 3 – Kontakion for Sts Cyrus and John
Having received the gift of miracles through divine grace, O saints,
you work wonders in the world unceasingly.
You remove all of our passions through your invisible surgery,
divinely-wise Cyrus and glorious John,//
for you are truly divine physicians.

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 3 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

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

Epistle: Romans 6.18-23

Brethren: Having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 8.5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

We Remember in Prayer

N.Dep. Carol Lear
Olivia Champion
Hattie Jones
Michael Heavin

Ev. Mem Joseph Plotsky (1937)
Theodore Yakimoff (1948)
Efimy Nepsa (1951)
John Prentoff (1976)
Martha Pachapa (1989)

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
Jarrayd
Kira
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
Katharine
Kalyn
Samuel
Cody
Heidi
Mary Ann
Elizabeth

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

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.

Contact Elizabeth Wysocki, our office administrator, to add names to the **parish prayer list or announcements to the bulletin** in Fr Jacob's absence.

No **Bible Study while Father Jacob is out of town.**

There will be **no Vespers this Saturday, July 4**.

Mark Your Calendars

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

Jun 29-Jul 15: Fr Jacob is on vacation.

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

July 24: **Red Cross Blood Drive** 11am-5pm

July 26: **Parish Picnic** after liturgy

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: $3,736

Metropolitan Theophilus, First Bishop of Chicago

Anniversary of Repose

On June 27, 1950, Metropolitan Theophilus, the first Bishop of Chicago, reposed in the Lord. His Eminence served as the ruling

hierarch of Chicago from 1922-1931. He remained in Chicago until he was transferred in 1931, to become Bishop of San Francisco. After Metropolitan Platon's death in 1934, Bishop Theophilus was elected jointly by the council of assembled bishops and the full Council as the new metropolitan by the Fifth All-American Sobor that convened in Cleveland, OH, on November 20, 1934.

Theodore Nikolayevich Pashkovsky was born on February 6, 1874 in the village of Belichi, near Kyiv, where his father was the priest. He pursued seminary studies in Kyiv at an early age. Due to his reserved, gentle, humble and prayerful demeanor, he was nicknamed "the monk" by his fellow students. In 1892, while playing sports, Theodore sustained a leg injury, which led to a painful lingering bone disease, deemed incurable by doctors. When St John of Kronstadt visited Kyiv in 1893, Theodore received his blessing along with the saint's counsel to pray fervently for healing. As he was quickly restored to good health, Theodore vowed in gratitude that he would consecrate his life to the Lord at the famed Monastery of the Caves in Kyiv, and in 1894 he was admitted to the novitiate there. That same year, he completed his seminary studies and was assigned to teach at the monastery's parochial school.

Some months later, Bishop Nicholas of Alaska, who was looking to enlist talented recruits to serve the Church in America, visited the monastery. Perceiving in young Theodore the qualities necessary for such service, the bishop invited him to come to San Francisco, then the diocesan see of North America. After obtaining a release from the monastery, Theodore arrived in San Francisco with Bishop Nicholas in late 1895 and became the diocesan secretary. Theodore met young Ella Dabovich, niece of Hieromonk Sebastian, the first American-born Orthodox priest, who was then serving at the San Francisco Cathedral. On November 8, 1897, Theodore and Ella were married. On December 3, Theodore was ordained a deacon and two days later he was made a priest by Bishop Nicholas. He was immediately assigned to the San Francisco cathedral, where he would remain for the next fifteen years.

In late 1898, Bishop (eventually St.) Tikhon succeeded Bishop Nicholas. As one of Tikhon's most trusted aides, Fr Theodore managed the day-to-day affairs of the North American Diocese in San Francisco, until the diocesan see was relocated to New York in 1905. Fr. Theodore was then appointed dean of the San Francisco cathedral and district dean of the Western States Deanery. The great earthquake of 1906 and ensuing fire demolished the San Francisco

cathedral. He oversaw the timely construction of a new church there by 1909, which still stands and is now the cathedral of the OCA Diocese of the West. In 1912, Fr Theodore petitioned Archbishop Platon, St Tikhon's successor in North America, to return to Russia. Fr Theodore left San Francisco with his wife and four children in late 1912 and began serving as second priest of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Warsaw (then still part of the Russian Federation).

With the German occupation of Poland in World War I, most of the Russian state functionaries and clergy of the diocese were evacuated eastward into Russian held territory in 1915. Many of Warsaw's Orthodox churches were soon turned into Roman Catholic churches, including Holy Trinity Cathedral where Fr Theodore had served. For a time, Fr Theodore and his family found refuge in Vilnius, now the capital of Lithuania, but as war continued to spread, they made their way to Moscow. Fr Theodore soon undertook service as a military chaplain along the frontlines of the Russian Civil War in Belarus and Ukraine. During this time, both Fr Theodore's beloved wife Ella and their eldest daughter perished from disease. And after serving under the white banner of anti-Bolshevik forces during the Russian Civil War, Fr Theodore's two sons were forced to flee Russia.

Eventually, St Tikhon, who had become Patriarch of Moscow, blessed Fr. Theodore to return to America, and in April 1922, Fr Theodore was elected to be the first Orthodox Bishop of Chicago. Fr Theodore returned to the US with his ten-year-old daughter Ljuba in July 1922, and quickly reacclimated to the American ecclesiastical situation. With the departure of Archbishop Alexander, the rise of the schismatic "Living Church" on the North American continent, and other ecclesiastical divisions in the shadow of upheaval in Eastern Europe, this was indeed a chaotic time for the Church in America. On November 25, Fr Theodore was tonsured a monk with the name Theophilus, and on December 10, 1922 he was consecrated as Bishop at St Nicholas Cathedral in New York by Metropolitan Platon, Bishop Aftimios of Brooklyn and Archbishop Panteleimon of Neapolis, a visiting hierarch of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Bishop Theophilus was first assigned as auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. His efforts laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Diocese of the Midwest. He oversaw renovation of Chicago's historic Holy Trinity Cathedral and produced publications in both Russian and English. In 1931, Bishop Theophilus was transferred to San

Francisco. Here he proceeded to renovate and expand the structure of Holy Trinity Cathedral that he had built a quarter century earlier. When Metropolitan Platon reposed in 1934, Bishop Theophilus was the unanimous choice of the American bishops to replace him.

As Metropolitan, Theophilus was invited by Patriarch Varnava of Serbia in 1935 along with other senior metropolitans of the Russian diaspora to travel to Yugoslavia where they signed an agreement reconciling their sometimes-conflicting relationships. This agreement forged harmony and peace between the Metropolia and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and unified their parallel jurisdictions and hierarchies in North America from 1935 until 1946.

St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries were opened in 1938 for the training of clergy. Metropolitan Theophilus took an active role in the founding and initial development of these new theological schools.

In the Metropolia's continued pursuit of ecclesial peace and unity under the leadership of Metropolitan Theophilus, a decision of the 7th All-American Sobor in 1946 sought reconciliation with the Church of Russia by recognizing the spiritual authority of the Patriarch of Moscow while maintaining a broad autonomy in the governance of the Metropolia. This overture towards relations with the Patriarchate in Russia caused a relapse in the relations between the Metropolia and ROCOR, as those hierarchs, clergy and parishes who could not accept any relationship with the Patriarchate reconstituted a separate ROCOR jurisdiction in North America.

In the spring of 1950, Metropolitan Theophilus was gravely stricken by cancer. Early in the morning of June 27, 1950, he reposed in the Lord. His funeral took place at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco on July 1, 1950, and he was interred at the Serbian Cemetery in the nearby town of Colma.

Glory to God for all things!