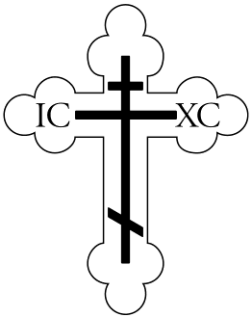
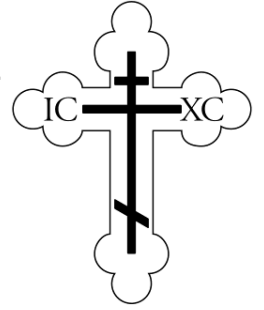


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(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
parish hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

July 26, 2026

St. Jacob of Alaska

St Clement of Ohrid

(transferred from Monday)

St Clement was a disciple of Sts Cyril and Methodius. At first, he lived as an ascetic in Moravia. He was fluent in Slavonic, Greek and Latin. The Enlighteners of the Slavs were opposed by German missionaries, who had the support of the Pope and the patronage of the Moravian prince. Pope Stephen VI prohibited the use of Slavonic in church.

The proponents of the three-tongued heresy (who wanted to use only Hebrew, Greek, or Latin for Church purposes), after setting aside the ancestral language of the Slavic peoples, brought the disciples of St Methodius to trial, including St Clement. They subjected

them to fierce torture: dragging them through thorns, and holding them in prison for a long time, just as they had done with their spiritual Father, St Methodius. In 886 some of the prisoners were sold to slave-traders and ended up in the Venice marketplace. The ambassador of the Byzantine Emperor went to Venice, ransomed the saints, and brought them to Constantinople.

In 907 Moravia collapsed under the onslaught of the Magyars, and Moravian refugees escaped along those same paths followed earlier by the saints they had exiled. The Bulgarians received the Slavonic confessors with respect and requested them to conduct divine services in the Slavonic language. The Bulgarian prince Boris sought out such people as the disciples of St Methodius, who labored for the enlightenment of his nation. The saints immediately began to study Slavonic books collected by the Bulgarian nobles.

St Clement received the appointment to teach at Kutmichivitsa, a region in southwest Macedonia. St Clement had been a teacher while he was still in Moravia. In Bulgaria, he worked as an instructor until 893. He organized a school at the princely court, which attained high esteem during the reign of Simeon. In southwest Macedonia he created separate schools for adults and for children. St Clement instructed the children in reading and in writing. The total number of his students was enormous. Those chosen and accepted for the clergy amounted to 3,500 men. In the year 893, St Clement became Bishop of Dremvitsa, or Velitsa.

St Clement was the first Bulgarian hierarch to serve, preach and write in the Slavonic language. To this end he systematically prepared clergy from among the Slavic people. The holy bishop labored for the glory of God into his old age. When his strength failed and he was unable to fulfill his responsibilities in the cathedral, he asked Tsar Simeon to let him retire. The Tsar urged the saint not to forsake the cathedral, and St Clement agreed to continue his episcopal service. After this he went to Ochrid, to a monastery he founded. There the saint continued with his translation activities and translated important parts of the Pentecostarion (Hymns for Pascha).

The saint became seriously ill and departed to the Lord in the year 916. The saint's body was placed in a coffin he made with his own hands and was buried in Ochrid's St Panteleimon monastery. St Clement is considered the first Slavonic author. He not only continued the translation work begun by Sts Cyril and Methodius, but also left behind works of his own composition, the first samples of Slavonic spiritual literature.

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

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Troparion

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 4 – Troparion to St Clement

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
your humility exalted you;
your poverty enriched you.
Hierarch Father Clement,
entreat Christ our God
that our souls may be saved.

Tone 7 – Resurrectional Kontakion

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 3 – Kontakion for St. Jacob

O Holy Father Jacob,
teacher of the knowledge of God,
you revealed your love for your people,
taking up your cross and following Christ,
enduring hardships like the Apostle Paul.
Pray on our behalf to Christ our God//
to grant us great mercy!

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 7 – Prokeimenon for Sunday (Psalm 28)

The Lord shall give strength to His people.

The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for the Saints (Psalm 63)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 (Sunday)

Brethren: I plead with you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Philippians 3.7-14 (Saints)

Brethren: Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.

Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 14.14-22 (Sunday)

At that time, Jesus went out and saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.”

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”

He said, “Bring them here to Me.” Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Mark 10.29-31, 42-45 (Saints)

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples: “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Elias Ponziano	Myron Korzow (1957)
Lisa Marie Exl	Frank Romanow (1966)
Carol Lear	Militsa Christoff (1979)
Olivia Champion	Marian Havrila (2018)
Ev. Mem. Maxim Saganovich ('29)	Protopr. George Havrila (2019)
Lambo Yakimoff (1933)	

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

Katharine	Natalie	Cyan
Cody	Vickie	Vitaly
Heidi	Rhonda	Ilona-Maria
Mary Ann	Doug	Katerina
Elizabeth	Terri	Nadia
Don	Irina	Derek
Michelle	Victoria	

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

After announcements, we will process to the St Clement Monument for the blessing of the Kolac and to kick off our Summer Picnic. After the blessing, we will serve the **7-year Memorial for Fr. George and 8-year for Marian Havrila.**

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read Daniel 10-12.

Feeding the Flock Luncheon and Fundraiser tickets for September 19 are now available. Janet Andrus will be selling both luncheon and 50/50 raffle tickets at Coffee Hour. **Luncheon Tickets:** \$45 per person and **50/50 Raffle Tickets:** \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Mark Your Calendars

July 27: **Divine Liturgy for the Great Martyr Panteleimon** at St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church in Summit, IL @ 9:30am
Bible Study @ 7pm

July 30: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

Aug 1: **Beginning of the Dormition Fast**

Last Week’s Gifts to the Lord: \$3,798