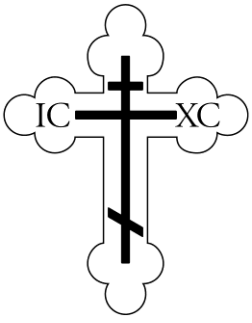
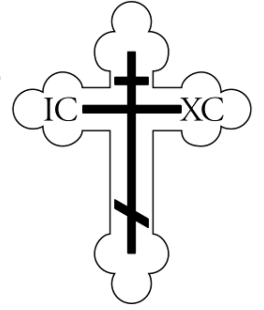


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

July 5, 2026

St. Athanasius, founder of Monasticism on Mt. Athos

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

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen, //
granting 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 3 – Troparion for St. Athanasius

The angelic hosts marveled at your life in the flesh,
how, though still in the body,
you engaged the invisible powers in combat, O ever-glorious one,
and routed the hosts of demons.
Therefore Christ has bestowed rich gifts upon you, O Athanasius.//
For this cause, O father, intercede for the salvation of our souls.

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their
chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master,//
He has risen on the third day!

Tone 8 – Kontakion for St. Athanasius

O most excellent seer of immaterial beings
and a truly faithful interpreter of their workings,
your flock calls out to you, O God-inspired orator:
“Do not cease to pray for your servants,
that we may be delivered from dangers and demonic attacks,//
as we cry out to you: Rejoice, O Father Athanasius!”

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 4 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom have You made them all.

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St. Athanasius (Psalm 115)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

Epistle: Romans 10.1-10 (Sunday)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Galatians 5.22-6.2 (St. Athanasius)

Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 8.28-9.1 (Sunday)

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Luke 6.17-23 (St. Athanasius)

At that time, Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man’s sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Carol Lear

Olivia Champion

Hattie Jones

Michael Heavin

Ev. Mem Philip Golin (1928)

Christ Sugareff (1951)

Zachary Lavrick (1952)

John Panchak (1961)

Pauline Czarnecki (2009)

Health & Salv.	Ryan	Sara
Archpr. Peter	Nathan	Thomas
Mat. Cynthia	Kara	Jarrayd
Hierom. John	Sarah	Kira
Mat. Anne	Jamie	Shaun
Valer	Kyleigh	Cecilia & unborn
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	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.

Mark Your Calendars

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

July 19: Blessing of Vehicles after Liturgy

July 21: Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm

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

July 26: Parish Picnic after liturgy

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$ 3217.20

St. Athanasius, founder of Monasticism on Mt. Athos

Saint Athanasius of Athos, in holy Baptism named Abraham, was born in the city of Trebezond. He was orphaned at an early age, and being raised by a certain good and pious nun, he imitated his adoptive mother in the habits of monastic life, in fasting and in prayer. Doing his lessons came easily and he soon outpaced his peers in study.

After the death of his adoptive mother, Abraham was taken to Constantinople, to the court of the Byzantine emperor Romanus the Elder, and was enrolled as a student under the renowned rhetorician Athanasius. In a short while the student attained the mastery of skill of his teacher and he himself became an instructor of youths. Reckoning as the true life that of fasting and vigilance, Abraham led a strict and abstinent life, he slept little and then only sitting upon a stool, and barley bread and water were his nourishment. When his teacher Athanasius through human weakness became jealous of his student, blessed Abraham gave up his teaching position and went away.

During these days there had arrived at Constantinople Saint Michael Maleinos (July 12), igumen of the Kyminas monastery. Abraham told the igumen about his life, and revealed to him his secret desire to become a monk. The holy Elder, discerning in Abraham a chosen vessel of the Holy Spirit, became fond of him and taught him much in questions of salvation. One time during their spiritual talks Saint Michael was visited by his nephew, Nikēphóros Phocas, a military officer and future emperor. Abraham's lofty spirit and profound mind impressed Nikēphóros, and all his life he regarded the saint with reverent respect and with love. Abraham was consumed by his zeal for the monastic life. Having forsaken everything, he went to the Kyminas monastery and, falling down at the feet of the holy igumen, he begged to be received into the monastic life. The igumen fulfilled his request with joy and tonsured him with the name Athanasius.

With long fasts, vigils, bending of the knees, with works night and day Athanasius soon attained such perfection, that the holy igumen blessed him for the exploit of silence in a solitary place not far from the monastery. Later on, having left Kyminas, he made the rounds of many desolate and solitary places, and guided by God, he came to a place called Melanos, at the very extremity of Athos, settling far off from the other monastic dwellings. Here the monk made himself a cell and began to live an ascetical life in works and in prayer, proceeding from exploit to exploit towards higher monastic attainment.

The saint established at the monastery a cenobitic monastic Rule on the model of the old Palestinian monasteries. Divine services were served with all strictness, and no one was so bold as to talk during the services, nor to come late or leave the church without necessity.

The Heavenly Patroness of Athos, the All-Pure Mother of God Herself, was graciously disposed towards the saint. Many times he

was privileged to see Her with his own eyes. By God's dispensation, there once occurred such a hunger, that the monks one after the other quit the Lavra. The saint remained all alone and, in a moment of weakness, he also considered leaving. Suddenly he beheld a Woman beneath an ethereal veil, coming to meet him. "Who are you and where are you going?" She asked quietly. Saint Athanasius from an innate deference halted. "I am a monk from here," Saint Athanasius replied, and spoke about himself and his worries.

"Would you forsake the monastery which was intended for glory from generation unto generation, just for a morsel of dry bread? Where is your faith? Turn around, and I shall help you." "Who are you?" asked Athanasius. "I am the Mother of the Lord," She answered, and bid Athanasius to strike his staff upon a stone. From the fissure there gushed forth a spring of water, which exists even now, in remembrance of this miraculous visitation.

The brethren grew in number, and the construction work at the Lavra continued. Saint Athanasius, foreseeing the time of his departure to the Lord, prophesied about his impending end and besought the brethren not to be troubled over what he foresaw. "For Wisdom disposes otherwise than as people judge." The brethren were perplexed and pondered the words of the saint. After giving the brethren his final guidance and comforting all, Saint Athanasius entered his cell, put on his mantiya and holy kukolion (head covering), which he wore only on great feasts, and emerged after prolonged prayer. Alert and joyful, the holy igumen went up with six of the brethren to the top of the church to inspect the construction. Suddenly, through the imperceptible will of God, the top of the church collapsed. Five of the brethren immediately gave up their souls to God. Saint Athanasius and the architect Daniel, thrown upon the stones, remained alive. All heard the saint call out to the Lord, "Glory to Thee, O God! Lord, Jesus Christ, help me!" The brethren with great weeping began to dig out their father from the rubble, but they found him already dead.

Glory to God for all things!