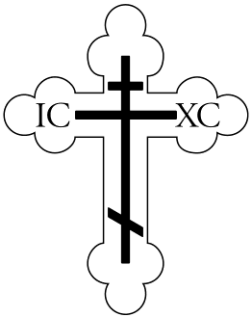
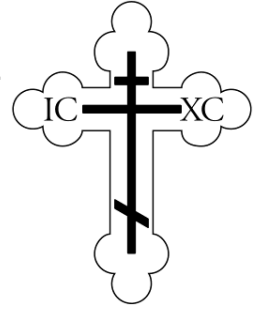


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(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 after
Vespers or by appointment

Welcome visitors!
Please join us in the
parish hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

August 9, 2026

Afterfeast of Transfiguration Holy Father Herman of Alaska

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

Saint Herman came from a family of merchants of Serpukhov, a city of the Moscow Diocese. His name before he was tonsured is not known. (The monastic name is given when a monk takes his vows). He had a great zeal for piety from youth, and at sixteen he entered monastic life. First, he entered the Trinity-Sergius Hermitage which was located near the Gulf of Finland on the Peterhof Road, about 10 miles from Saint Petersburg.

In the second half of the 18th century, Russian merchants discovered the Aleutian Islands which formed in the Pacific Ocean a chain from the eastern shores of Kamchatka to the western shores of North America. With the opening of these islands there was revealed the sacred duty to illumine with the light of the Gospel the native inhabitants. Metropolitan Gabriel gave to the Elder Nazarius the task of selecting capable persons from the brethren of Valaam for this holy endeavor. Ten men were selected, and among them was Father Herman. The chosen men left Valaam for the place of their great appointment in 1793. (The members of this historical mission were Archimandrite Joseph (Bolotoff); the hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, Athanasius, Stephan, and Nectarius; hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen; and the monks Joasaph and Herman.)

In America, Father Herman chose as his place of habitation Spruce Island, which he called New Valaam. This island is separated by a strait about a mile and a quarter wide from Kodiak Island on which had been built a wooden monastery for the residence of the members of the mission, and a wooden church dedicated to the Resurrection of the Savior.

Spruce Island is not large and is almost completely covered by a forest. Almost through its middle a small brook flows to the sea. Herman selected this picturesque island for the location of his hermitage. He dug a cave out of the ground with his own hands, and in it he lived his first full summer. For winter there was built for him a cell near the cave, in which he lived until his death. The cave was converted by him into a place for his burial. A wooden chapel, and a wooden house to be used as a schoolhouse and a guest house were built not too distant from his cell. A garden was laid out in front of his cell. For more than forty years Father Herman lived here.

As a result of the holy zeal of these preachers, several thousand pagans accepted Christianity. A school for the education of newly-baptized children was organized, and a church was built at the place where the missionaries lived. But by the inscrutable providence of God the general progress of the mission was unsatisfactory. After five years of very productive labor, Archimandrite Joasaph, who had just been elevated to the rank of bishop, was drowned in a shipwreck. Before this the zealous Hieromonk Juvenal was granted the martyr's crown. The others died one after another until in the end only Father Herman remained. The Lord permitted him to labor longer than any of his brethren in the apostolic task of enlightening the Aleutians.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 7 – Troparion of Transfiguration

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,
revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.

Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,
through the prayers of the Theotokos!//

O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Tone 7 – Troparion of St Herman

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ,
guiding all men to the heavenly Kingdom;
teacher and apostle of the True Faith;
intercessor and defender of the oppressed;
adornment of the Orthodox Church in America:
blessed Father Herman of Alaska,
pray to our Lord Jesus Christ //
for the salvation of our souls!

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.

Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://

“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 3 – Kontakion for St Herman

The eternal light of Christ our Savior
guided you, O blessed Father Herman,
on your evangelical journey to America
to proclaim the Gospel of peace.

Now as you stand before the throne of glory;

intercede for your land and its people://

peace for the world and salvation for our souls!

Tone 7 – Kontakion of Transfiguration

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God,
and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;
so that when they would behold You crucified,
they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world//
that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You!

Tone 7 – Prokeimenon for St Herman (Psalm 115)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4.9-16 (Sunday)

Brethren: I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you, imitate me.

Galatians 5.22-6.2 (St Herman)

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 17:14-23 (Sunday)

At that time, when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Luke 6.17-23 (St Herman)

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. Archpr. Howard Sloan

Elias Ponziano

Lisa Marie Exl

Ev. Mem. Michael Krochta (1919)

Simeon Belle (1947)

Peter Birosh (1966)

Mary Bilous (1972)

Peter Kosyak (1976)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Cynthia

Hierom. John

Mat. Anne

Valer

Nun Theodora

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

Yelena

Anastasia

Christine

Jaroslava

Cameron

Regina

Matthew

Cindy

Patricia

Charlette

Sara

Thomas

Shaun

Cecilia & unborn

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

Cody

Heidi

Mary Ann

Elizabeth

Don

Michelle

Natalie

Vickie

Rhonda

Doug	Cyan	Nadia
Terri	Vitaly	Derek
Irina	Ilona-Maria	Miranda & unborn
Victoria	Katerina	Lidia

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.

Instead of *It is Truly Meet...*

Magnify, O my soul the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor! Your childbearing was without corruption; God came forth from your body clothed in flesh, and appeared on earth and dwelt among men.// Therefore we all magnify you, O Theotokos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read James 3-5.

This Wednesday evening at **St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church** in Merrillville, Fr Jacob will take part in a Q&A panel with other local priests on the topic **“The Priest as Spiritual Father: Boundaries between Spiritual Direction, Confession, and Counseling.”** He will serve the **Supplication to the Virgin Mary** at PTVM at 6pm as planned, then head over to St Sava’s for the event. All are welcome.

This **Saturday is the Dormition of the Most Blessed Theotokos**. At Vigil Friday Night we will **process with her burial shroud and sing the Lamentations**. At Liturgy on Saturday, we will **bless flowers**.

PTVM O-Club has organized an **August Diaper Drive** to support the work of Women’s Care Center in Hammond. Sizes 5 and 6 are their biggest need. Collection ends August 30. Thank you!

Feeding the Flock Luncheon and Fundraiser tickets for September 26 are 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. Note that the date has been changed from September 19 to 26. See Janet if you need a refund.

Mark Your Calendars

Aug 10: Bible Study @ 7pm

Aug 12: Supplication to the Theotokos @ 6pm

Discussion on Spiritual Fatherhood at St. Sava's @ 6:30pm

Aug 13: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

Aug 14: Vigil of the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 6pm

Aug 15: Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 9am

Aug 22: Catechism with Fr Jacob @ 4:30pm

Aug 30: Sunday School Parent/Teacher Meeting during coffee hour

Sept 13: First Day of Church School

Oct 3 & 4: Archbishop Daniel pastoral visit to PTVM, with Diaconal Ordination of Daniel O-Day at Divine Liturgy

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$3,825

**Glory to God for
all things!**