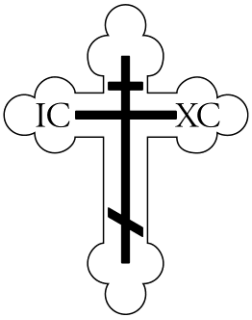
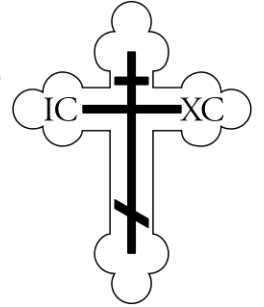


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

September 13, 2026

Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Founding of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Today Catechumens will remain in the Church.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Troparion

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.

You captured hell, not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //
glory to You.

Tone 4 – Troparion for the Founding

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your glory on earth
to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos,
strengthen it for ever and ever
and accept our supplication
which we ceaselessly offer You therein, //
the life and resurrection of all!

Tone 4 – Troparion for the Forefeast

We offer in supplication
the life-creating Cross of Your goodness, O Lord,
which You have granted to us
although we are unworthy. //
Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover
of man!

Tone 6 – Resurrectional Kontakion

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Founding

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light,
which enlightens all the faithful. //
Standing within it we cry: “Establish this house, O Lord!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 6 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 27)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for the Founding (Psalm 92)

Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, / forevermore.

Epistle: Galatians 6.11-18 (Forefeast of the Cross)

Brethren: See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those

who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

2 Corinthians 4.6-15 (Sunday)

Brethren: It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

We are hard-pressed on every side yet not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

So then, death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Hebrews 3.1-4 (Founding)

Holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling: consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

Gospel: John 3.13-17 (Forefeast)

Jesus said to the Jews who came to Him: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Matthew 22.35-46 (Sunday)

At that time, a lawyer asked Jesus a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”

They said to Him, “The Son of David.”

He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Matthew 16.13-18 (Founding)

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. John Ely

Natalie Orloff

Priest John Charest

Archpr. Howard Sloan

Ev. Mem.

Stephen Vuchkovich (1913)

Mary Polk (1923)

Michael Aderychoff (1940)

Jacob Osipchuk (1946)

Alex Lesak (1962)

Patsy Gesteovich (1989)

Sophie Vasil (1989)

Joseph Callas (1995)

Amelia Baker (2012)

Archpr. Anastasy Richter (2021)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Cynthia

Hierom. John

Mat. Anne

Valer

Nun Theodora

Claudia

Mary Ann

Raymond

Edward

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

Meagan

Stephanie

Robin

Leonardo

Yelena

Anastasia

Christine

Jaroslava

Cameron

Regina

Matthew

Cindy

Patricia

Charlette

Sara

Thomas

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	Vitaly	Abigail & unborn
Rhonda	Ilona-Maria	Colin
Doug	Katerina	Gladiola
Terri	Nadia	Angelia
Irina	Derek	Charlotte
Victoria	Miranda & unborn	Kaitlin
Cyan	Lidia	Jackson

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 Petitions 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.

O Lord our Savior, bless us, Your entreating people, with an increase in vocations to the priestly order and the monastic life in service of Your holy Church, we pray You, hearken and have mercy.

O Lord, who love mankind, protect and preserve in holiness those who have responded to Your call to service in Your Church and who have given themselves to Your Gospel, we pray You, hearken and have mercy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After coffee hour today, we will celebrate **Great Vespers** for tomorrow’s feast: **The Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross**.

September is the annual **Support Our Seminarians** month in the Diocese of the Midwest. All donations from parishes as well as individuals— culminating in “SOS Sunday” on September 27—will be distributed directly to the seminarians to offset the cost of their educational and living expenses.

Our parish feast, **the Protection of the Virgin Mary**, is October 1. We will serve **Festal Vespers Wednesday at 6pm** and **Divine Liturgy at 9am Thursday** with local clergy concelebrating.

On the weekend of October 4 & 5, our parish will celebrate its **115th Anniversary**. **Archbishop Daniel will join us**. At Sunday’s Divine Liturgy, he will ordain Daniel O’Day a deacon. Everyone new and old to the parish is warmly invited to the celebrations and to meet our

archpastor. Seasoned volunteers have been preparing for weeks for this exceptional event, and now we are **asking for everyone's help** with a few things in the final stretch:

- 1) **Please tell us if you plan to attend** the Saturday evening reception and/or the Sunday banquet.
- 2) Can you bring something to share on Saturday? We are looking for **finger foods that don't need silverware**.
- 3) Can you help at the end of Saturday night to **turn the hall around for Sunday's banquet?** (cleaning and set-up of tables and chairs)
- 4) After Liturgy on Sunday, in place of coffee hour we will hold a **beautiful banquet in the parish hall** with open bar. This is a celebration for our whole parish community, so **we do not charge for admission**, but it is not a cheap thing. The decorations, the drinks, the desserts, and some special ethnic foods are being donated by members of the church. But the majority of the food, as well as the clean-up, will be handled by a caterer. Therefore, we **suggest a \$25 donation per adult** to cover this cost to the parish. If you can, please consider giving more for the sake of those who can't, so that we can continue making our anniversary celebration special.

Saturday, October 3

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 4pm | Children's Q&A with the bishop |
| 5pm | Great Vespers with Litya |
| 6pm | Wine & Appetizer Reception |

Sunday, October 4

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10am | Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Diaconal Ordination |
| 12:30pm | Anniversary Banquet |

Mark Your Calendars

Sept 14: **Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross @ 10am**
Bible Study @ 7pm

Sept 15: **Parish Council @ 7pm**

Sept 18: **Blood Drive 11am-5pm** in the church hall.

Sept 30: **Festal Vespers for the Protection of the Virgin Mary @ 6pm**

Oct 1: **Divine Liturgy for the Protection of the Virgin Mary @ 9am**

Oct 3 & 4: **Archbishop Daniel pastoral visit**

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$3047

Archpastoral Letter on the 25th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001 from His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

Beloved in Christ,

Twenty-five years ago, on the morning of September 11, 2001, death and evil entered the world and our nation in a shocking and violent manner. Thousands of innocent people lost their lives, and the lives of countless others were forever changed. Parents, children, spouses, friends, neighbors and colleagues were taken. And those who survived were robbed of their loved ones. In the days and years that have followed the terrors of that day, our nation has borne – and continues to bear—profound sorrow and deep grief.

Twenty-five years have now passed, yet 9/11 remains one of the darkest days in our nation's history. In a matter of moments, violence shattered ordinary lives. And that dark moment was played out before our very eyes and is embedded in our memory forever.

However, we also remember that the powers of evil and darkness did not conquer. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Indeed, amid the devastation of that horrific day, light broke through. People revealed extraordinary courage, strength, faith, and love. First responders ran toward danger. Strangers carried one another to safety. Communities gathered to pray, mourn, serve, and rebuild. In one of our darkest hours, the light of compassion shone with remarkable power.

On this twenty-fifth anniversary, let us remember those who died, those who continue to mourn them, and all those whose lives were forever changed. Let us honor the courage of those who served and sacrificed. And let us recommit ourselves to being bearers of Christ's unconquered light – choosing mercy over hatred, unity over division, service over indifference, and hope over fear.

May God comfort all who continue to grieve. May God grant peace to our nation and our world. And may the memory of September 11 call us to live with greater faith, compassion, courage, and love.

With love in Christ the Giver of Light,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest