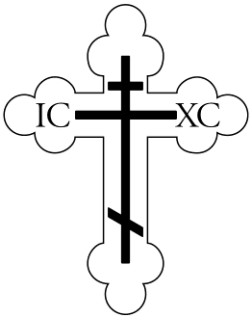


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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 20, 2026

Afterfeast of Exaltation of the Cross Greatmartyr Eustathius with his family

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

THE ORDER OF THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

*We begin in the nave with exorcisms and the profession of faith, then process into the nave and begin Divine Liturgy. The **baptismal waters** are blessed, the initiate is anointed with the **Oil of Gladness**, then **baptized**. He is given his baptismal garment as we sing:*

Tone 8 – Troparion of Vesting

Grant unto me the robe of light,

O Most Merciful Christ our God,

who clothe Yoursel with light as with a garment!

*Then the **Beatitudes** with the **Little Entrance**. We sing the **Hymns of the Day** while the initiate finishes dressing.*

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 1 – Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation!

Tone 4 – Troparion for St. Eustathius

Your holy martyr Eustathius and his wife and sons, O Lord,
through their sufferings have received incorruptible crown from
You, our God.
For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//
Through their intercession, save our souls!

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 2 – Kontakion for St. Eustathius

Having openly imitated the Passion of Christ,
and having eagerly drunk of His cup, O Eustathius,
you became a partaker and fellow-heir of His glory,//
receiving divine forgiveness from on high from the God of all.

Tone 4 – Kontakion for the Cross

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power,
granting them victories over their adversaries//
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

*The initiate is anointed with **Holy Chrism**. Then the priest leads a procession around the baptismal font as we sing:*

Instead of the Trisagion:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 7 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 98)

Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Tone 3 – Baptismal Prokeimenon (Psalm 26)

The Lord is my Light and my Savior! / Whom shall I fear?

Epistle: Galatians 2.16-20 (For the Cross)

Brethren: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2 Corinthians 6.1-10 (Sunday)

Brethren: We, as workers together with Him, also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You."

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of

God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Romans 6.3-11 (Baptism)

Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried, therefore, with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Mark 8.34-9.1 (For the Cross)

When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Matthew 25.14-30 (Sunday)

The Lord said: The kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them and made another five talents. And likewise, he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground and hid his lord's money.

After a long time, the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So, he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed. So, you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore, take the talent from him and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 28.16-20 (Baptism)

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. John Ely
Natalie Orloff
Priest John Charest

Ev. Mem. Joseph Traikoff (1923)
Alexei Zubrica (1940)
Anthony Vanovich (1954)

Health & Salv.	James	Cindy	Katharine
Archpr. Peter	John	Patricia	Cody
Mat. Cynthia	Jacob	Charlette	Heidi
Hierom. John	Carol	Sara	Mary Ann
Mat. Anne	Snezana	Thomas	Elizabeth
Valer	Ryan	Cecilia	Don
Nun Theodora	Nathan	& unborn	Michelle
Claudia	Kara	Rita	Natalie
Mary Ann	Sarah	Kenneth	Vickie
Raymond	Jamie	Alla	Rhonda
Edward	Kyleigh	Maria	Doug
Betsy	Lauren	Ethan	Terri
Klaudia	Kyle	Logan	Irina
Maja	Carolynn	Joseph	Victoria
Gerald	Amelia	Mamie	Cyan
Janet	Aaron	Mary	Vitaly
Gerald	Marcietta	Kimberly	Ilona-Maria
Rebecca	Charles	Michael	Katerina
Christopher	Rosemary	Anastasia	Nadia
Moses	Nicholas	Michal	Derek
Helena	Meagan	Carlos	Miranda
James	Stephanie	Sarah	& unborn
Elijah	Robin	Anika	Lidia
Lydia	Leonardo	Gabriel	Abigail
Nina	Yelena	Kyle	& unborn
Ezra	Anastasia	Louis	Colin
James	Christine	Noni	Gladiola
Rebecca	Jaroslava	Erin	Angelia
Jesse	Cameron	Melissa	Charlotte
Autumn	Regina	Solomon	Kaitlin
	Matthew	Atlas	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.

*At “Blessed be the name of the Lord...” the newly-illuminated comes forward with the sponsors to receive **Ablution** and **Tonsure**.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve a **Molieben of Thanksgiving for John and Mira Lukas’ 50th wedding anniversary**. Then they invite everyone to a coffee hour celebration in the parish hall.

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 most of the food and 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

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|-----|--------------------------------|
| 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 21: **Bible Study @ 7pm**

Sept 22: **Guy's Night Out at Catch Table & Tap @ 6pm**

Sept 24: **Faith Enrichment** has been cancelled.

Sept 26: **Outdoor Cleanup @ 9am**; pizza will be provided for lunch.

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 to PTVM, with Diaconal Ordination of Daniel O'Day at Divine Liturgy**

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$4,626