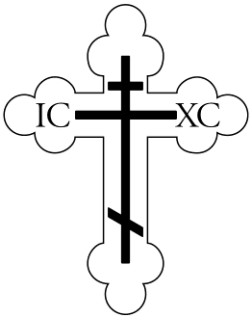
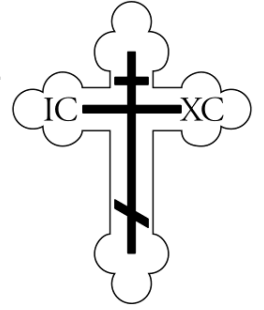


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



8600 Grand Blvd.
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 27, 2026

Martyr Callistratus and his companions

Today Catechumens will remain in the Church.

Saint Callistratus was a native of Carthage. An ancestor of Saint Callistratus, Neochorus, had served under the emperor Tiberius in Palestine, under the command of Pontius Pilate, the procurator of Judea, and was a witness to the suffering on the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, His voluntary death and glorious Resurrection.

The saint's father was a Christian, and he raised his son in faith and piety. Also like his father, Saint Callistratus became a soldier

and excelled among his pagan military comrades by his good conduct and gentle disposition.

At night when everyone slept, he usually stayed up at prayer. Once, a soldier sleeping nearby heard Saint Callistratus invoking the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he reported this to the military commander, who in turn summoned Callistratus, interrogated him and wanted to make him offer sacrifice to idols. The saint resolutely refused to do this, so the military commander ordered that the saint be beaten. Then, covered with wounds, the saint was dragged over sharp stones. The beating and the torments did not sway the firm will and brave endurance of the sufferer.

The saint was sewn up in a leather sack and drowned in the sea. By God's mercy, however, the sack struck a sharp rock and was torn open. Saint Callistratus came to dry land unharmed, carried by dolphins. Viewing such a miracle, forty-nine soldiers came to believe in Christ. Then the military commander threw Saint Callistratus and the believing soldiers into prison. Before this, all of them were subjected to innumerable floggings.

In jail Saint Callistatus continued to preach the Word of God to the soldiers and he bolstered their spirits for martyrdom. Summoned again before the military commander, the sufferers firmly confessed their faith in Christ, after which they were bound hand and foot and thrown into the depths of a great lake behind a dam. But there their bonds broke, and with bright faces the holy martyrs stood in the water, rejoicing in their Baptism, which coincided with the act of martyrdom.

Beautiful bright crowns appeared over their heads, and all heard a voice: "Be brave, Callistratus, with your company, and come rest in the eternal habitations." At the same time, the earth shuddered and an idol standing nearby fell down and smashed. Seeing this, another 135 soldiers also believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The military commander, fearing a mutiny in the army, did not put them on trial, but again imprisoned Saint Callistratus with his 49 companions, where they fervently prayed and gave thanks to the Creator for giving them power to endure such sufferings.

At night the martyrs were cut to pieces with swords by order of the military commander. Their holy relics were buried by the 135 soldiers who remained alive. Later, a church was built on the spot of their sufferings, as Saint Callistatus had foretold.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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 to St. Callistratus

In contest you were strengthened by the Holy Spirit, O Martyr
Callistratus,

and were glorious in casting down the Enemy.

You offered a noble army of athletes

as sweet-smelling incense to Christ.//

With them pray for us who praise you with hymns!

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly
Merciful One!

Tone 4 – Kontakion for St. Callistratus

Like stars you have shone upon the world,

shedding the light of your contests and miracles upon all who cry to
you://

“Rejoice, Martyr Callistratus and fellow company of martyrs!”

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 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6.16 – 7.1

Brethren: what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Therefore, “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”

“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.” Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 5.1-11

At that time, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.”

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So, they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So, when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Archpr. Peter Bodnar
John Ely
Natalie Orloff
Priest John Charest

Ev. Mem. George Kostoff (1919)
Marina Cheechowsky (1944)
Timofey Martin (1956)
Anna Zayats (1988).

Health & Salv.

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
Rhonda
Doug
Terri
Irina
Victoria
Cyan
Vitaly
Ilona-Maria
Katerina

Nadia	Colin	Jackson
Derek	Gladiola	Olga
Miranda & unborn	Angelia	Sergei
Lidia	Charlotte	Jana
Abigail & unborn	Kaitlin	

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

Fr. Peter Bodnar fell asleep in the Lord yesterday morning. After venerating the cross, we will serve a first memorial for him. Please remember him and his widow, Mka. Cynthia, in your prayers.

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

Bible Study tomorrow has been **cancelled**.

The **Parish Directory** is being updated. Please see Mary Morsovillo by October 25th for any changes to your listing, or to be added.

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.** 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 ethnic foods are being donated by members of the church. But most of the food and clean-up will be handled by a caterer. 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 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: \$7,416

S.O.S. Sunday *in the*
Diocese *of the* Midwest

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

SEPTEMBER 27

Send in Your Support!

Diocese of the Midwest
917 N. Wood St. Chicago, IL 60622



Donate Online!

domoca.org/donate online



Donations may also be submitted through your parish. Speak with your priest for more details.

All offerings go directly to the DOM seminarians to offer much needed financial relief.

Glory to God for all things!