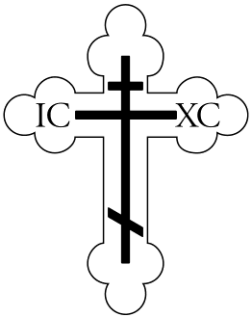
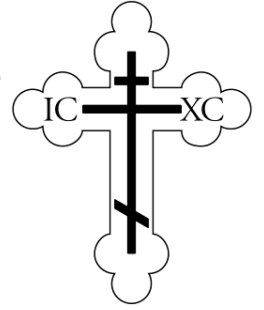


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN  
46410  
(219)947-4748  
[www.ptvm.com](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## October 11, 2026

# Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

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

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

### **Tone 8 – Troparion for the Holy Fathers**

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!

You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

### **Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,

seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!

The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with

You,//

and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

### **Tone 6 – Kontakion for the Holy Fathers**

The Son Who shone forth from the Father

was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman.

Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form,

but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.

Thus, keeping the True Faith,//

the Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.

### **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 2 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 117)**

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

### **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for the Holy Fathers (Daniel 3)**

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,

and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

### **Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11.31-12.9 (Sunday)**

Brethren: The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

### **Hebrews 13.7-16 (Holy Fathers)**

Brethren: Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore, let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

## **Gospel: Luke 7.11-16 (Sunday)**

At that time, Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

## **John 17.1-13 (Holy Fathers)**

At that time, Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

# WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**N.Dep.** Elizabeth Stanko  
Mary Ann Witek  
Archpr. Peter Bodnar  
John Ely  
**Ev. Mem.** Naum Vasil (1916)  
Jacob Vaskevich (1950)

Victor Barancyk (1962)  
Paul Markowicz (1982)  
Anna Vargo (1985)  
Christ Proff (1988)  
Michael Svihra (2007)

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

*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

After venerating the cross, we will serve a **memorial** for the newly departed **Mary Ann Witek, Elizabeth Stanko**, and 40-days for **John Ely**.

Visitation for **Beth Stanko** is today from 2pm until the memorial service at 4pm at Geisen Funeral Home in Crown Point.

Visitation for **Mary Ann Witek** (John Lukas' sister) is 3-7pm at Edmonds & Evans Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be Wednesday at 11am at St. Patrick Catholic Church, both in Chesterton.

Today, we **bid farewell** to **Fr. Nicholas**, who becomes the rector of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine, IL on November 1.

For **Bible Study** tomorrow, read **Proverbs 17-20**.

**Ladies' Sodality Meetings** will be at 9am on the second Sunday of the month. All women of the parish are welcome.

**MAKS' annual Gala** is at The Inn at Aberdeen on October 23. Our own Elizabeth Wysocki runs this organization for foster children in Northwest Indiana and would love our support. Get your tickets this week @ <https://www.makskids.org/event-list>

The **Chili cookoff** is October 25. Fire up your favorite recipe and sign up in the narthex. Prizes will be awarded to the top three chefs!

The **Parish Directory** will be reprinted in November. See Mary Morsovillo by October 25 to change to your listing, or to be added.

**Women's Social Event** this Friday, October 16: **Hiking in the Indiana Dunes** from Bailly Homestead & Chellberg Farm @ 3pm. RSVP in the narthex or text Mka. Jenna at 314-229-4924. Then a **Gals' Night Out** November 5 at Asparagus restaurant in Merrillville. RSVP by Nov 3.

## Mark Your Calendars

Oct 13: **Cemetery Metting @ 6pm**  
**Church Council Meeting @7pm**

**Oct 15: Faith Enrichment @ 10am**

**Oct 16: Women's Social:** Indiana Dunes Hike from Bailly Homestead & Chellberg Farm, Porter, IN @ 3pm

**Oct 23: Parish Feast Liturgy at St. Iakovos** in Valparaiso @ 10am

**Oct 24: Memorial Saturday Panikhida** at PTVM cemetery @ 10am

**Oct 25: Chili Cook-Off** after Divine Liturgy in place coffee hour

**Oct 30: Vigil for St. John of Chicago** at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 6pm

**Oct 31: Divine Liturgy for St. John of Chicago** at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 9:30am

**Nov 5: Gals' Night Out** at Asparagus in Merrillville @ 5:30pm

**Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$6,840**

# **An Appeal for Ukrainian Refugees from His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon**

Beloved Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

More than four years have passed since the outbreak of the devastating war in Ukraine. Although the world's attention has increasingly turned elsewhere, the suffering of countless families has not ended. More than one million Ukrainian refugees remain in Poland, many of them women, children, and the elderly, who continue to face the daily challenges of displacement, uncertainty, and rebuilding their lives far from home.

From the very beginning of this tragedy, the Orthodox Church in America has sought to respond with Christian compassion. In the first weeks of the war, the generosity of our faithful made possible a large charitable collection, raising more than \$720,000 for ELEOS, the humanitarian agency of the Polish Orthodox Church. Those funds provided immediate and tangible assistance to refugees seeking safety and shelter and have continued to bear fruit through programs that have helped thousands rebuild their lives. Our relationship with ELEOS has continued since that initial appeal, and earlier this year our Chancellor had the opportunity to visit the staff and ministries of ELEOS in Poland, witnessing firsthand the remarkable work being carried out by the Polish Orthodox Church on behalf of those who continue to suffer the consequences of this conflict.

As this terrible war continues, so too does our responsibility to stand with our suffering brothers and sisters. For this reason, I am grateful that the Orthodox Church in America is able once again to support this sacred work through our partnership with International Orthodox Christian Charities. Working together with ELEOS, IOCC has provided compassionate and practical assistance to thousands of Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Through this partnership, vulnerable families have received emergency financial assistance to meet their most basic needs. Church-owned properties have been adapted to provide safe shelter for newly arrived refugees. Community Integration Centers have offered legal guidance, housing assistance, employment counseling, and access to a national refugee information service. Thousands of refugees have participated in Polish language classes, hundreds of children have received daycare services, and vocational training, together with small business grants, has enabled many families to begin rebuilding their livelihoods with dignity and hope.

Yet, despite these encouraging signs, the need remains great. Countless families continue to depend upon the generosity of the faithful as they strive to rebuild their lives after the trauma of war and displacement. Together with IOCC, we hope to raise \$50,000 to continue providing the resources and opportunities that help Ukrainian refugees move from uncertainty toward stability and hope. I therefore encourage all who are able to prayerfully consider making a generous contribution to IOCC's ongoing ministry to Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

As we continue to pray for a just and lasting peace, let us also remember that our prayers find their fullest expression in works of mercy. In caring for those who have been displaced by war, we bear witness to the love of Christ Himself, who identifies with the stranger, the suffering, and the afflicted. May the Lord bless all who give generously to this worthy effort and strengthen those who labor to bring hope to our brothers and sisters in need.

With paternal love in Christ,

TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

# Glory to God for all things!