Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest

Orthodox Church in America

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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 25, 2027

Holy Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius of Constantinople (†335)

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

The Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius served in a Constantinople cathedral. Marcian was a reader and Martyrius a subdeacon. They both performed in the capacity of notaries, i.e. secretaries, for the Holy Patriarch Paul the Confessor.

Arian heretics expelled and secretly executed the righteous Patriarch Paul. His throne was given to the heretic Macedonius. The heretics attempted to entice Sts Marcian and Martyrius over to their side by flattery. They offered them gold and promised to consecrate them as archbishops, but all the efforts of the Arians were in vain.

Then the impious threatened to slander them before the emperor and sought to intimidate them with torture and death. But the saints steadfastly confessed Orthodoxy, as handed down by the Fathers of the Church. Marcian and Martyrius were sentenced to death. Before death, the martyrs prayed, "Lord God, Who has invisibly created our hearts and directed all our deeds, accept with peace the souls of Your servants, since we perish for You and are considered as sheep for the slaughter. We rejoice that by such a death we shall depart this life for Your Name. Grant us to be partakers of life eternal with You, the Source of life." After their prayer the martyrs, with quiet rejoicing, bent their necks beneath the sword of the impious.

Their holy bodies were reverently buried by Orthodox Christians. Later, by decree of St John Chrysostom, the relics of the holy martyrs were transferred to a church built in their honor. Believers here were healed of many infirmities through the prayers of the saints, to the glory of the One Life-Creating Trinity.

Hymns of the Day

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
"Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!"

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 for Sts Marcion and Martyrius
In holy zeal you dispelled the error of Arius
and proclaimed the Trinity, one in essence.
Holy martyrs Marcian and Martyrius,
unshaken bulwarks of Orthodoxy,
entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion
My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master,//
He has risen on the third day!

Tone 4 – Kontakion for Sts Marcian and Martyrius
From your youth you were good athletes, wise Marcian and Martyrius,
vanquishing the Arian heretics;
you kept the faith perfect by following in the footsteps of your bishop and teacher Paul,
therefore, you are worthy to be with him in eternal life, //
as respected defenders of the Holy Trinity.

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 4 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom have You made them all.

Epistle: Galatians 2.16-20

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.

Gospel: Luke 16.19-31

Jesus spoke this parable: "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores.

"So it was, that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

"But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

"Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

"And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

"But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

We Remember in Prayer

N.Dep. Elizabeth Stanko
Mary Ann Witek
Archpr. Peter Bodnar

Ev. Mem. Peter Goyda (1956)
Mary Medved (1963)
Carl Svetcoff (1984)

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
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
Elizabeth
Don
Michelle
Natalie
Vickie
Rhonda
Irina
Victoria
Cyan
Vitaly
Ilona-Maria
Katerina
Nadia
Derek
Miranda & unborn
Lidia

Abigail & unborn
Colin
Gladiola
Angelia
Charlotte
Kaitlin
Jackson
Olga
Sergei
Jana
Sherry
Veronica
Miriana
Charlie
Arianna & unborn
Kira & unborn

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

For **Bible Study tomorrow**, read **Proverbs 28-31.**

Our Annual Winter Coat Drive runs through Sunday, November 20. Coats, hats, & gloves will be delivered to **Hilltop Neighborhood House** in Valparaiso.

The **Chili cookoff** is today. Come try and vote for your favorite chili. Prizes will be awarded to the top three chefs!

The **Parish Directory** will be reprinted in November. Contact Mary Morsovillo today to change to your listing, or to be added.

Gals' Night Out November 5 at Asparagus restaurant in Merrillville. RSVP by Nov 3.

Book Store Pre-Order for Christmas cards. Please see Tiffany if you will be ordering Christmas Cards from the bookstore this year (10 pack is $15).

The **Lost and Found** is overflowing please check the specified table at coffee hour for your items.

Parish Potluck **November 8th** please bring one of your favorite dishes to share. Many hands make light work!

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 26: **Bible Study** @ 7pm

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

Nov 13: **Family Play Date** in the parish hall @ 10am

Nov 20: **Red Cross Blood Drive,** 11am-5pm
Festal Vespers for the Entrance of the Theotokos @ 6pm

Nov 21: **Divine Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos** @ 9am
Catechism @ 4:30pm

Nov 26: **Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving** @ 9am

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: $7,204

Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in America Approves American Sign Language Lexicon and Works on Common Catechism

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America met in Pittsburgh, PA from October 3-6, 2026, for the 15th convening since its formation. The Assembly expressed sincere gratitude to Metropolitan Savas for hosting the meeting at the new Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Center, as well as the Pittsburgh pan-Orthodox community for hosting public events.

The weekend began with Vespers at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church on Saturday, October 3rd and a concelebration of the Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Sunday, October 4th.

The Assembly focused primarily on the ongoing effort to create a Common Catechesis. After reviewing the work of the Theological Education Committee, the Assembly reaffirmed the mandate to the Committee to formulate a classical catechetical text.

The Assembly approved additional work on catechesis that engages many of the Assembly's committees and new working

groups. This comprehensive approach is unique in its inclusion of many voices and crucial in its collaborative nature for the teaching of the Orthodox faith in English. This represents a significant and distinctive undertaking which received the blessing and full support of all the Hierarchs present during the Assembly. Inspired by Saint Paul's words: "and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2), this collaborative project will be a unique offering to the entire Orthodox Church.

Additionally, the Assembly of Bishops approved the American Sign Language Lexicon of Orthodox Christian Terminology, as presented by the Assembly's American Sign Language lexicon team. The lexicon team members present included Presbytera Karen Bartz (Interpreter), Greg Coogan, Hannah Mann, and Lola Lee Beno, accompanied by Savannah Foster, President of the Orthodox Christian Deaf Association (OCDA). Deacon Tigran Khachikyan, Emily Hart (Interpreter) and Mah-Rya Proper (Interpreter) were also present digitally.

During their time together, the Hierarchs of the Assembly reaffirmed their calls for a peaceful and just ending to the ongoing war in Ukraine and the conflicts in the Middle East. Reiterating earlier statements, the Assembly continues to call for "an immediate cessation of hostilities wherever war persists." They urged the governments engaged in these conflicts to end the suffering of the people. Also, the Hierarchs grieved the dangers that Orthodox Christians face daily, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the diminishing populations of Christians there. The Hierarchs urge their flocks to offer assistance through charitable giving to those agencies working to alleviate the suffering of people, as especially through the various programs of the Assembly's Humanitarian Agency: International Orthodox Christian Charities. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

Glory to God for all things!