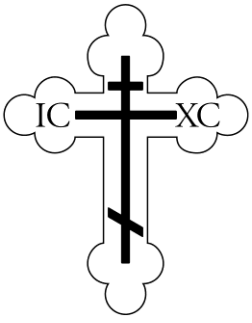
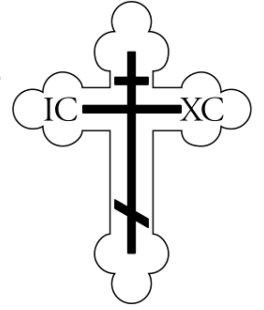


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



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.

October 4, 2026

Sunday after the Feast of the
Protection of the Virgin Mary
115th Anniversary of our Parish
Hieromartyr Hierotheus of Athens

Catechumens will remain in the Church today

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew, at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the bishop's throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because of an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867. Ironically, today this Feast is celebrated as a higher ranking commemoration by the Slavs than by the Greeks.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illuminated 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 1 – Troparion of St. Hierotheus

We the faithful all praise Hierotheus, the disciple of Paul,
Hierarch of Athens,
the world’s teacher and a preacher of the Faith,
who revealed to us Christ’s Mysteries
and poured forth streams of godly doctrine.//
His life was well-pleasing to God, Who is greatly merciful.

Tone 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.
Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 8 – Kontakion of St. Hierotheus

Hierarch of Athens, we praise you for you have instructed us in
awesome and ineffable things,
and you were revealed to be a divinely-inspired writer of hymns.
Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may cry
to you://
Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierotheus.

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 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9.6-11

Brethren: This I say, “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Gospel: Luke 6.31-36

The Lord said to His disciples: “Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Ev. Mem. George Marchuk ('94)
Pearl Gregor ('79)
Rade Koleff ('66)

Joseph Wolotka ('62)
Theodore Kaziol ('50)
Pera Petroff ('50)
Joseph Mediesko ('42)
Philip Zayatz ('40)
Vladimir Maksymchuk ('20)

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

Congratulations to the newly-ordained Deacon Daniel, to his wife, Matushka Tiffany, and his whole family!

In place of coffee hour today 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 were 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.

Tomorrow, Fr Jacob and our lay delegates, Frank Morsovillo and Michael DeGan leave for the annual **Diocesan Assembly**. Please keep us in your prayers. There will be **no Bible Study** tomorrow evening.

Next Sunday, October 11, we will **bid farewell to Fr Nicholas**, who will assume his new assignment at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine, IL.

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 5: No Bible Study

Oct 6: Men's Breakfast at Sophia's in Merrillville @ 7:15

Oct 8: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

Oct 11: Farewell Celebration for Fr Nick during coffee hour

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

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$4,967

Church Musician Sunday - 2026

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved children in the Lord,

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16).

In these words, the holy Apostle Paul makes an important connection between the word of Christ, the teaching of the faith, and the singing of sacred music. This should not surprise us. From generation to generation, Christians have learned the faith not only by hearing it preached or reading it in books, but by singing it.

The hymns of the Church give special voice to her theology. They proclaim Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection; they teach us how to speak of the most holy Theotokos and the saints; they teach us the meaning of the feasts and fasts; they give us words of repentance, thanksgiving, supplication, and praise. Often, words first encountered in worship remain with us long afterward, deep impressed into our memory, because they have been joined to melody and repeated in prayer.

For this reason, the ministry of our church musicians is also a ministry of teaching. Choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, translators, hymnographers, and all those who labor in the musical life of the Church do more than beautify our services. Through their work, they help the word of Christ to dwell richly among us.

This responsibility is especially important as we hand on the Orthodox faith to others. A child learning to sing the responses, a new singer finding his or her place in the choir, or someone entering an Orthodox church for the first time may know little of our musical traditions. Patient instruction, good examples, and the welcoming of new voices are therefore not merely musical concerns. They are part of the work of transmitting the life and tradition of the Church.

Our pursuit of beauty and excellence in worship should never become a barrier to participation. Rather, those who have received musical gifts, knowledge, and experience should generously share them with others. I encourage our parishes and missions to teach their people to sing, to give children opportunities to learn the hymns of the Church, to welcome and form new choristers, and to support those musicians who devote themselves to preserving and handing on this part of our liturgical inheritance.

On this Church Musician Sunday, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all those who give their voices, their skill, their time, and their prayer to the musical service of the Church. Through your efforts, words proclaimed by prophets, apostles, fathers, and saints continue to be placed upon the lips and within the hearts of the faithful.

May the Lord strengthen you in this ministry, and may he grant that, through our common song, his word may dwell ever more richly within us.

With my primatial prayers and blessing,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for all things!