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.

November 1, 2026

Holy Unmercenary Healers Cosmas and Damian

Catechumens will remain in the Church today.

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother Saint Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, Saint Theodota preserved her children in purity of

life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Saints Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When Saint Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. Saint Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where Saint Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman in Mesopotamia.

Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenaries. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus' friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home

and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith.

Two fiercesome men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, "My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?"

They replied, "We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian," and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened to her. Glorifying God, she went up to the icon of the holy brothers and tearfully offered prayers of thanksgiving for her deliverance. And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life.

Hymns of the Day

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion
Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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 8 – Troparion for Sts Cosmas and Damian
Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian,
heal our infirmities.//
Freely you have received; freely you give to us.

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion
You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,//
and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Tone 2 – Kontakion for Sts Cosmas and Damian
Having received the grace of healing,
you grant healing to those in need.
Glorious wonder-workers and healers, Cosmas and Damian,
visit us and put down the insolence of our enemies,//
and bring healing to the world through your miracles!

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 5 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 11)

You, O Lord, shall protect us
and preserve us from this generation forever!

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 8.26-39

At that time, Jesus and His disciples sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house, but in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

We Remember in Prayer

N.Dep. Elizabeth Stanko
Mary Ann Witek

Archpr. Peter Bodnar
Ev. Mem. Rada Yordanov (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
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
Rita
Kenneth
Alla
Maria
Ethan
Logan
Joseph
Mamie
Mary
Kimberly
Michael
Anastasia
Michal
Carlos
Sarah
Anika
Gabriel
Kyle
Louis
Noni

Melissa
Solomon
Atlas
Katharine
Cody
Heidi
Elizabeth
Don
Michelle
Natalie
Vickie
Rhonda
Irina
Victoria
Cyan
Vitaly
Ilona-Maria
Katerina
Nadia
Derek
Lidia
Abigail & unborn
Colin
Gladiola
Angelia
Charlotte
Kaitlin
Jackson
Olga
Sergei
Jana
Veronica
Miriana
Charlie
Arianna & unborn
Kira & unborn
Cecilia
Patricia

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 29-31.**

Our Annual Winter Coat Drive runs through Sunday, November 20. Please donate new or lightly used coats, hats, & gloves.

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.

Starting next Sunday, **November 8** coffee hour will be **potluck unless otherwise announced.** Please bring something simple to share.

Mark Your Calendars

Nov 2: **Bible Study** @ 7pm

Nov 5: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am
Gals' Night Out at Asparagus in Merrillville @ 5:30pm

Nov 10: **Men's Breakfast** at Pappas' in Crown Point @ 7:30am

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

Nov 15: **Beginning of Advent**

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: $2,639

St John of Chicago (Oct 31)

John Kochurov was born on July 13, 1871. His father was a priest. He was educated at Ryazan Seminary before finishing at the St. Petersburg Theological Academy. After graduating in 1895, Fr. John married and ordained a priest at the St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg by Bishop Nicholas of the Diocese of Alaska.

Expressing the desire to be a missionary priest in the United States, Fr. John was soon assigned as the first permanent priest of St. Vladimir's parish in Chicago. This parish would become Holy Trinity Cathedral. As St. Vladimir's did not yet have their own building, his first major project was construction of a church. Under the guidance of Bishop Tikhon (later Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow and saint), Fr. John enlisted the services of the noted architect Louis Sullivan. To finance the project, Fr. John obtained donations from Tsar Nicholas II as well as a few wealthy Americans in Chicago, notably Harold McCormick and Charles R. Crane. The church was completed and consecrated in 1903 by Bishop Tikhon.

Fr. John devoted much effort to helping establish other parishes in Illinois and even further afield. He performed the first service for the future Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in southwest Chicago. He was active in the formation of the parishes in Madison, Streator, and Joliet, and he was helpful to the parishes in Buffalo, NY, Hartshorn, OK, and (possibly) Slovak, AR.

Fr. John returned to Russia in 1907 where he was assigned to Narva, Estonia, where he taught catechism in the public school. In 1916, he was transferred to St. Catherine's Cathedral in Tsarskoe Selo, just outside St. Petersburg. There he established himself as a popular priest known for his moving sermons. In October 1917 the Bolshevik uprising in St. Petersburg spilled over quickly into Tsarskoe Selo. People thronged to the churches, where clergy held services and led processions through the town praying for peace.

On October 31, 1917, the Bolsheviks entered Tsarskoe Selo in force and arrested Fr. John. He was taken out of town where he was summarily shot. By this act, Fr. John became the first priest-martyr of the Bolshevik revolution and the Soviet yoke. Fr. John was buried several days later in the crypt of St. Catherine's Cathedral.

Glory to God for all things!