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 22, 2026

Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Holy Apostles of the Seventy Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, and Onesimus

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

According to Holy Tradition, the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture, and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. “If anyone were to ask me,” said Saint Jerome, “how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian.”

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 – Troparion of the Feast
Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice
and sing to her://
"Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!"

Tone 3 – Troparion for the Holy Apostles
Holy Apostles Philemon, Archipus, Apphia, and Onesimus,
entreat the ^merciful God//
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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 2 – Kontakion for the Holy Apostles
Let us praise the Apostles of Christ,
who illumine the ends of the earth like all-radiant stars:
glorious Philemon and dedicated Archippus,
Onesimus, together with Mark and Apollos, and the all-wise Apphia.
Let us cry to them://
"Unceasingly pray for us all!"

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Feast
The most pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,
is presented today to the house of the Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
therefore, the angels of God praise her://
"Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!"

Scripture Readings

Tone 8 – Resurrection Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

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

Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos (Luke 1)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle: Ephesians 4.1-6

Brethren: I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel: Luke 12.16-21

Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: "The fields of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

"So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'

"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have prepared?'

"So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

We Remember in Prayer

N.Dep. Elisa Cox
Elizabeth Stanko
Ev. Mem. Peter Yaremchuk ('13)
Michael Ivanov (1917)
Margarita Yatsev (1922)
Theodore Krill (1924)
Stephan Petrov (1944)
Pete Elieff (1978)
Mitrofan Shawkun (1987)
Archpr. Peter Rozdelsky (1986)

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
Marina
Colin
Gladiola
Angelia
Charlotte
Kaitlin
Jackson
Olga
Sergei
Jana
Miriana
Charlie
Arianna & unborn
Kira & unborn
Cecilia
Patricia
Cynthia
Stacey
Ernesto

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 the **39-year memorial for Archpriest Peter Rozdelsky.**

For **Bible Study tomorrow**, read **Genesis 6-9.**

During **Advent**, we rededicate ourselves to **prayer**, we make a **confession**, we **fast**, and we find opportunities to **give to those in need.** In the coming weeks, opportunities for almsgiving will be made available at our parish. The annual **Angel Tree** is up in the Narthex. Please consider fulfilling a card for a local child in poverty. **Today is IOCC Sunday**, a day set aside each year to highlight the humanitarian work of **International Orthodox Christian Charities**. We will take a collection to support their work.

Coffee hour this week and next will be **potluck.** During the Advent fast, please avoid bringing meat, dairy, or egg products. This is a good opportunity to share and explore fasting dishes and recipes!

Thank you to everyone that participated in the **blood drive.** We had over 30 people!

Are you handy? Could you help with a few projects around the church and share your time and talents for the Kingdom? Please see **Father.**

The Thanksgiving Bake Sale pick up is today. Thank you to our bakers for making such delicious treats.

A reminder that the **Holy Synod of the OCA** has blessed the faithful to partake in the **traditional Thanksgiving meal** (though it falls during our Advent fast), as we give thanks to God alongside our family, friends, and fellow-citizens of this God-protected land.

All are warmly invited to a **Thanksgiving meal in the parish hall** on Thanksgiving Day, shortly after the Divine Liturgy. The parish O-Club will provide the turkey, and those attending are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. To help us plan, please RSVP as soon as possible, preferably by Sunday, November 22, to Nicholas Revak. 312-593-8278 or nmrevak78@gmail.com.

Ancient Faith & IOCC Gifts of Hope service project will be December 3 at 6:30 pm at the Ancient Faith Headquarters in Chesterton. Come help assemble school kits for children in need.

Join us December 5 at **10:00 AM** as we celebrate **Saint Nicholas** with an Akathist, a children's craft, a pancake breakfast, and decorating the church in preparation for Nativity. Please let us know if your family plans to attend so we can have plenty of food and craft supplies ready for all the children. Visit the BAND app for more details and to RSVP!

Women's Christmas Meetup will be December 12th from 1-4pm at Melissa Sarafin's house. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Mark Your Calendars

Nov 23: **Bible Study** @ 7pm

Nov 26: **Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving** @ 9am
O-Club Thanksgiving Dinner (approx. 12pm)

Dec 3: **Ancient Faith Service Project** @ 6:30pm

Dec 5: **St Nicholas celebration & Church decoration** @ 10am

Dec 12: **Woman's Meetup at Melissa's** 1-4 pm

Dec 24: **Royal Hours of Nativity** @ 9am
Vesperal Liturgy @ 10:30am
Vigil of Nativity @ 7pm

Dec 25: **Nativity of Christ** Festal Divine Liturgy @ 9am

Dec 28: **Annual Yolka (Christmas Pageant)** during coffee hour

Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: $9,320.23

IOCC Sunday Encyclical

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. – Gal. 6:2

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States:

Greetings to you in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Each year the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops calls the faithful to observe the Sunday before Thanksgiving as "Humanitarian Relief Sunday." On this day, we give thanks to God for His abundant blessings and for the opportunity to honor Christ by serving those in need. In this spirit, the Assembly of Bishops gives special recognition to its humanitarian relief agency, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), for its life-changing work around the world. As we prepare for Thanksgiving, may we remember those facing hardship and respond with generosity and love.

Through nearly 35 years of service, IOCC has established a presence in over 60 countries around the world, offering relief to millions of people who face challenges due to conflict and displacement, natural disasters, economic hardship, poor health, and lack of food, water, and basic hygiene. In the spirit of Christ's love, IOCC works to restore dignity and hope to those it serves.

In helping meet the needs of others, all Orthodox Christians are asked to answer Christ's call to feed, clothe, and serve our brothers and sisters (Matthew 25:31-46). In support of this mission, I invite all parishes and communities of our Holy Orthodox Churches to participate in the observance of Humanitarian Relief Sunday by engaging with IOCC's projects and becoming involved in other local relief opportunities.

May the Lord bless you and your parish communities and reward your generosity.

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

Metropolitan Nicolae
Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas
Episcopal Liaison to IOCC

Glory to God for all things!