

Prokeimenon

**-tone 8:** Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

v: In Judah God is known, His Name is great in Israel.

**Another (St. Mary) -tone 4:** God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

**The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (9:11-14):**

Epistle

*Brethren:* but Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood he entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Alleluia

v: Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

v: I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my prayer.

**The Gospel according to St. Mark (10:32-45):**

*At that time:* they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you; shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for man."



Schedule

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

*St. Mary of Egypt*

6:30 P.M. Vespers at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, St. Louis, MO

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Thursday, April 10, 2025**

7:00 P.M. Holy Unction

**Friday, April 11, 2025**

7:00 P.M. Vespers

**Saturday, April 12, 2025**

*Lazarus Saturday*

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

5:00 P.M. Vespers - blessing of palms and willows

**Sunday, April 13, 2025**

*Palm Sunday*

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

7:00 P.M. Bridegroom Matins

**Monday, Tuesday, April 14 - 15, 2025**

7:00 P.M. Bridegroom Matins

**Wednesday, April 15, 2025**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

7:30 P.M. Matins for Holy

Thursday

**Thursday, April 16, 2025**

10:00 A.M. Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church**

**416 Ewing Avenue, Madison, IL 62060**

***5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent; St. Mary of Egypt***

<http://www.nativityofthevirgin.com/>

*"When we speak of the God of glory, of His will, of His law, then we must entirely forget our own glory and be completely absorbed in the contemplation of the glory of God or of his most wise, all-gracious will. At such times we should not think of our own imperfections, which the Devil puts into our mind and feeling in order to lower us in our own eyes and to plunge us into false shame, despondence, and despair. We must remember that there is no perfection in anything upon earth, nor in any earthly glory: "For we know in part, and we prophesy [preach] in part (1 Corinthians 13:9)." And he who is ashamed and blushes for his imperfection is ashamed of a phantom, appearing to him in his own imagination, and is proud of his imaginary perfections. I have seen and heard men relate maliciously and malevolently the dark spots in the life and activity of great and even holy men, and condemn, on account of such imaginary or real dark spots, the whole life of such men, calling them hypocrites and almost apostates. They will even present to you facts; only these facts are as dark and doubtful as their own suspicious, cunning souls, which would like to find an imaginary justification for their own vicious deeds, in the spots, sins, and weakness of others. But such people do not justify themselves, but only increase their own condemnation by beholding the mote in their brother's eye and judging him, not considering the beam (truly a beam) in their own eye (St. Matthew 7:3). You say: "There are such and such sins in this holy father, or in that pious man." What of that? He is a man, and no man is sinless. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8)." Are you yourself sinless? If not, then why do you cast the stone of condemnation at your brother? If I were to examine your life, in accordance with the Word of God, I should convict you by your"*

**Prayer Requests**

**Those in this earthly life**

Michelle	Selaphiel
Janet	Margaret
David	James
John	Macarius
Joann	Gabrielle
Priest Nikolai	John
<i>N.I.</i> Gwendolyn	Gregory
Sarah	Archpriest James
John	Elizabeth
Anthony	Kristine
Michelle	George
Ioan	Jake
Sophia	Cecelia
Marie	Gabriella & CTBB
Ben	Shawn
Elyssa	Reader Simeon
Kelly	Anna
Brad	Elizabeth
Lorraine	Edmund
Carl	Reader Stephen
Nicholas	Priest Andrew
<i>N.I.</i> Michael	Popadija Joan
Peter	Eva
Maria	Catechumen Athanasius
Evelyn	Alex
Andrew	Julia
Briget	Martha
Jason	Kendra
John	David
Shawn	Adina

Catechumen Mary
Alexandra
Mary Magdalene
Catechumen David
Subdeacon Jason
Justin
Dymphna
Hope
Theodora
Evangeline
Diana
Barbara
Anastasia
Maria
Elaine
Wilma
Mark
Angela
Elijah
Sophia
Matushka Tanya
Mary
Archpriest John
Matushka Margaret
Matthew
Priest Josef
Archpriest Michael
Reader Peter
Patricia
Matushka Virginia

*"own words of innumerable and grievous sins: of pride, presumption, unbelief, love of money, adultery, and of the misinterpretation of the Word of God and of God's commandments, of coldness to your faith, and of what besides. I should perhaps find that the whole of your body is dark, because the eye of your heart is evil. O, how revolting to me is this devilish rejoicing at the sins of your neighbor, these infernal endeavors to prove their real or imaginary weaknesses! And yet people who act thus dare to say that they respect and strive with all their might to fulfill the commandments concerning love for God and their neighbor! What sort of love is it, when they intentionally wish to see and find dark spots even in great and holy persons - when they blacken the whole life of such persons for a single sin, and do not wish to hide their neighbor's sins, if, indeed, it really exists? Have they forgotten that "charity endureth all things?" (1 Corinthians 13:7) What an amount of evil these moral worms do themselves and others! They prejudice the lawful respect of others for a renowned person, darken his light for them, hinder them from imitating him, and trouble their minds with thoughts of condemnation; and harm themselves, too, by receiving from the Devil the poison of judging their neighbor. Brother! "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yes, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. (Romans 14:4)."" My Life in Christ, by St. John of Kronstadt*

**Troparia**

*Resurrection*

**TONE 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

*Nativity of the Virgin Mary*

**TONE 4**

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Son of Righteousness Christ our God, has shown from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death He has granted us eternal life.

*St. Mary*

**TONE 8**

In thee, O Mother, was preserved with exactness what was according to the image; for thou didst take up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, thou hast taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away; but to care for the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore, O Venerable Mary, thy spirit rejoices with the Angels.

**Kontakia**

*Resurrection*

**TONE 8**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*St. Mary*

**TONE 3**

Having been a sinful woman, thou didst become a Bride of Christ through repentance. Having attained the angelic life, thou defeated demons by the weapon of the Cross; therefore, O most glorious Mary thou art a Bride of the Kingdom.

*Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

*Nativity of the Virgin Mary*

**TONE 4**

By thy Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life."

**Those in the life to come**

Helen	Jean
<u>Jane</u>	Olga
Matushka Olga	Cheryl
Archpriest Thomas	Nancy
Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Magdalene
Archpriest Vladimir	John
Archbishop PAUL	Victor
Archimandrite Innocent	
Edward	
Francis	