

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Cross*  
**TONE 7**

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has mysteriously been quenched by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Savior, has come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into paradise."

*In the place of the Trisagion (i.e. "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!") We sing:*

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify! (After each – we make a full prostration – head to the ground and stand back up)

*Prokeimenon*

**TONE 6:** O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!

vs. To Thee, O Lord, will I call, O my God, be not silent to me!

**Another (St. Tikhon) TONE 1:** My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

**Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews 4:14 – 5:6**

*Brethren:* Seeing that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

*Alleluia*

v: Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.

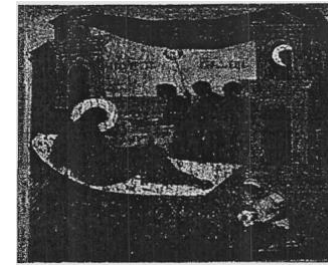
v: God is our King before the ages: He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

v: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

**Mark 8:34-9:1**

*Gospel*

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste of death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."



*Schedule*

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

*The Cross*

5:00 P.M. Vespers at Ss. Cyril and Methody Bulgarian Orthodox Church (OCA), Granite City, IL

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

3:30 P.M. Inquirer's Encounter

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

*St. John of the Ladder*

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

6:00 P.M. Vespers at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, St. Louis, MO

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

7:00 P.M. Vespers

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

*Akathist Saturday*

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

3:30 P.M. Inquirer's Encounter

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

*St. Mary of Egypt*

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

5:00 P.M. Vespers at Ss. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Swansea, IL

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

**Orthodox Church**

**416 Ewing Ave, Madison, IL 62060**

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent; Veneration of the Precious Cross*

[www.nativityofthevirgin.com](http://www.nativityofthevirgin.com)

*"The great litany daily said in the Orthodox Church is the most wise litany, the litany of love; in it both living Christians and the saints are represented as fellow members of the Body of Jesus Christ. It finishes most beautifully with the following exclamation: "Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God." The redoubled and supplicatory litanies are also beautiful. We have grown accustomed to them, but let us imagine that we hear them for the first time: let us put ourselves in the position of foreigners. When praying to God, we must always represent to ourselves His infinite greatness, His worship by thousands of thousands and millions of millions of the angels of Heaven and the saints; also His omnipresence and omniscience, His infinite mercy, righteousness and holiness. When in prayer you call the most holy Virgin Mother of God, most holy most pure, most spotless, most blessed - represent to yourself that Her very being is holiness eternal, immovable, unchangeable, unimaginable, "impenetrable, even to angelic eyes (From the Akathistos to the Mother of God)." Think the same of all the angles and saints - that is, that their being is holiness and goodness, by the grace of Jesus Christ. Always consider as a"*

**Prayer Requests**

**Those in this earthly life**

Thomas	Rebecca	Elaine
Tanya	Richard	Victor
Carl	Patricia	Wilma
Shawn	Ava	Michael
Selaphiel	Antoinette	April
Margaret	Michael	Joseph
James	Roger	Michael
Macarius	Marc	Barb
Gabrielle	Kathryn	Barbara
John	Sandra	Mark
Gregory	Geraldine	Angela
Rosemary	Delilah	Elijah
Anthony	Reader Stephen	Sophia
Julie	Shawn	Matushka Tanya
Brendan	Gabriella	Mary
Dylan	Catechumen Rebecca	Archpriest John
Julie	Marie	Matushka Margaret
Reader George	Michael	Matthew
Romanus	Catechumen Mary	Priest Josef
Subdeacon Paul	Alexandra	Archpriest Michael
Judith	Mary Magdalene	Reader Peter
Peter	Diana	Patricia
	Barbara	Matushka Virginia

**Those in the life to come**

Theodore	Archpriest Thomas	Francis
Sue	Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Jean
Laverne	Archpriest Vladimir	Edward
Florence	Archbishop PAUL	Nancy
Don <i>Schroff</i>	Archimandrite Innocent	Magdalene
<u>Andrew</u>	Olga	John
Matushka Olga		

*"great happiness for you to be able to converse in prayer with the Lord, or with His most pure Mother, or with the angels and saints, and pray to them with joy and trembling reverence, remembering with Whom you are conversing, you an impure and insignificant worm. "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory," not ours. We ourselves should like to reign with our passions - that is, to order everything as we like, to trust our own power, and not to Thine, to seek our own glory, and not Thine; but this is the Devil's wish in us. We ought to submit everything to Thy will, seek in all matters Thy power and do everything for Thy glory. "Do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)." By the Cross, as well as by the sign of the Cross, the Lord Jesus Christ is ever with us, living and life-giving, and ever acts by means of various powers for our salvation, through our faith in Him, our God and Savior. Glory for this to our Lord, who is ever present with us! "I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen (St. Matthew 28:20)."" My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt*

**TROPARIA**

*Resurrection*

**TONE 3**

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

*Cross*

**TONE 1**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and by virtue of Thy Cross preserve Thy habitation.

*St. Tikhon*

**TONE 1**

Let us praise Tikhon, the patriarch of all Russia, and enlightener of North America an ardent follower of the Apostolic traditions, and good pastor of the Church of Christ. Who was elected by divine providence, and laid down his life for his sheep. Let us sing to him with faith and hope, and ask for his hierarchical intercessions: Keep the church in Russia in tranquility, and the church in North America in peace. Gather her scattered children into one flock, bring to repentance those who have renounced the True Faith, preserve our lands from civil strife, and entreat God's peace for all people!

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

**KONTAKIA**

*St. Tikhon*

**TONE 3**

Today the assembly of New Martyrs stands together with us in the Church and together we raise a festive song celebrating the uncovering of the relics of our Hierarch Father Tikhon who defeated the enemy and preserved the Faith while protecting the flock entrusted to him. For he ever prays for us all that we may never be deprived of the Love of God.