

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

Prophet Zephaniah

TONE 4

Thou hast been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, Prophet Zephaniah, for thou didst proclaim the coming of God: "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem! Behold, thy King is coming to save mankind!"

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.

Prokeimenon

TONE 1: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

Vs. Rejoice in the lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians 5:9 – 19

Epistle

Brethren: (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord.

Alleluia

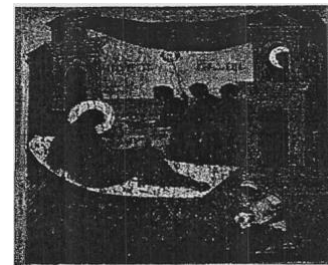
God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me!

v: He magnifies the salvation of His King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

The Gospel according to Apostle and Evangelist Luke 18:18 - 27

Gospel

At that time a certain ruler asked Jesus, saying: Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for the those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."



Schedule

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

6:30 P.M. Vespers at St. Nicholas Family & Life Center, Town & Country

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Feast of St. Nicholas

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Greek orthodox Church, St. Louis

Saturday, December 9, 2023

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, December 10, 2023

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 16, 2023

11:00 A.M. Parish Council

Meeting

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 22, 2023

10:00 A.M. Royal Hours

7:00 P.M. Vespers

Saturday, December 23, 2023

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

John Chrysostom

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

2:00 P.M. Vespers

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church

416 Ewing Ave, Madison, IL 62060

Sunday, December 3, 2023

26th Sunday After Pentecost; Prophet Zephaniah;

www.nativityofthevirgin.com

"Brethren! Amongst the beings created by God, there are the temporal, transitory ones, such as all unintelligent, animate and inanimate creatures, organic and inorganic, as well as the world itself, which will pass away: "for the fashion of this world passeth away (1 Corinthians 4:31)." And there are eternal beings, which are not transitory, such as the angels and the souls of men, the demons themselves with Satan. For man, the earthly life, life in the body, serves only as a preparation for eternal life, which will begin after the death of the body. Therefore we must avail ourselves without delay of the present life as a preparation for the other life; and as we chiefly work during week-days for the earthly life, we must work on Sundays and other holidays wholly for the Lord God, devoting them to attendance at Divine service, to reading the Word of God, to pious meditation, to edifying conversations, good works, and especially to works of mercy. Those sin grievously who neglect the matter of their spiritual education for eternal life in the world above. How can we forget our final destination? How is it possible to be so ungrateful to the Creator, Who created us after His own image and likeness, incorruptible, and for union with Himself; Who redeemed us by His cross, and opened to us the gates of the kingdom of heaven? How can many of us become "like the beasts that perish (Psalm 49:21)"? "Let us lift up our hearts (Exclamation at the Divine Liturgy)!" The body, being only the temporal garment of the soul, is perishable, and does not constitute the true life of the man. The true life is the spiritual life. If you rend, if you destroy the man's garment still he himself remains alive; so also after"

Prayer Requests

Those in this earthly life

David	Andrew	Diana
Adina	Bridget	Barbara
Ioan	Edmund	Elaine
Christopher	Elizabeth	Victor
Rebecca	Priest Joseph	Wilma
Donna	Presbytera Irené	Michael
Andrea	Ioannis	April
Jacob	Matushka Irene	Joseph
Melia	Priest Andrew	Michael
Rachel	Theresa	Barb
Dorothy	John	Barbara
Reader Stephen	Mark	Mark
Michael	Reader George	Angela
Andrea	David	Elijah
Teo	Shawn	Sophia
Ronald	Gabriella	Matushka Tanya
Eugene	Catechumen Rebecca	Mary
Deborah	Marie	Archpriest Moses
Mark	Michael	Archpriest John
James	Patricia	Matushka Margaret
Shawn	Alexandra	Matthew
Heather	Reader Michael	Priest Joseph
David	Michelle	Archpriest Michael
Constance	Mikaela	Reader Peter
Xenia	Zachary	Patricia
Hope	John	Matushka Virginia
Brandyn	Cyndi	

Those in the life to come

Ioannis	Archpriest Thomas	Jean
Randall	Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Edward
Vincent	Archpriest Vladimir	Nancy
Julia	Archbishop PAUL	Magdalene
David	Archimandrite Innocent	
<u>Ray</u>	Olga	
Matushka Olga	Francis	

"the slaying, after the death, the corruption of the body, the soul remains alive. Let us then chiefly care for the soul, for its salvation! O, holy temple, how good, how sweet it is to pray in thee! For where can there be ardent prayer if not within thy walls, before the throne of God, and before the face of Him Who sitteth upon it? Truly the soul melts from prayerful emotion, and tears flow down the cheeks like water. It is sweet to pray for all. I marvel at the greatness and life-giving properties of the Holy Sacrament. An old woman who was spitting blood, and who had lost all strength, being unable to eat anything, after the communion of the Holy Sacrament, which I administered to her, began to recover on the same day from her illness. A young girl who was almost dying, after the Communion of the Holy Sacrament began to recover on the same day from her illness; began to eat, drink and speak; whilst before this she was almost in a state of unconsciousness, violently tossed about, and could neither eat nor drink anything. Glory to Thy life-giving and terrible Mysteries, O Lord! Be true to God always and in everything. If you say the prayer "Our Father ..." pronounce each word sincerely, with reverence, fixing your mind and heart upon God alone, not paying attention to anything or anybody around you. If you say any other prayer, say it also with all your soul, not with your heart divided, not paying undue attention to anything or anybody. The enemy of our salvation especially strives to draw our heart and mind away from God when we are about to serve Him, and endeavors to adulterously attach our heart to something irrelevant. Be always, every moment, with God, especially when you pray to Him. At this time be especially true and constant to Him. If you are inconstant, you will fall away from life, and will cast yourself into sorrow and straitness." My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt

Troparia

Resurrection

TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy Most Pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Prophet Zephaniah

TONE 2

We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord; through him we entreat Thee, save our souls.

Kontakia

Resurrection

TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!