

# NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST



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WEEKLY BULLETIN 3/15/2026

Third Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of the Cross ([learn more](#))

## Regular Schedule

- ◇ **Fr. Peter's Office Hours:** Tue-Thur 10-3 (parish office) or by appointment
- ◇ **Saturdays:** Great Vespers 5pm followed by confession
- ◇ **Sundays:** Hours & Divine Liturgy 9:30am followed by fellowship at the parish center. All are welcome.
- ◇ **Book study** every Tuesday 7pm (online only)

## Announcements, Etc.

- **Special Collection** for OCMC March 15 & 22
- **Pan Orthodox Vespers March 15 6:30pm:** Sts. Cyril and Methody. Granite City. Light refreshments to follow.
- **Presanctified Liturgy:** Wednesday 6pm
- **Tuesday, March 17** pierogi session 8:30am.
- Click [here](#) to sign up to volunteer to help serve a FOCUS breakfast to the needy on Wednesdays.
- 2026 coffee hour sign up sheet in parish hall.

## Father's Wishlist

Please consider supporting the projects listed in the narthex. The list includes iconography for the temple!

### [John 20:1-10](#)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

### [Hebrews 4:14-5:6](#)

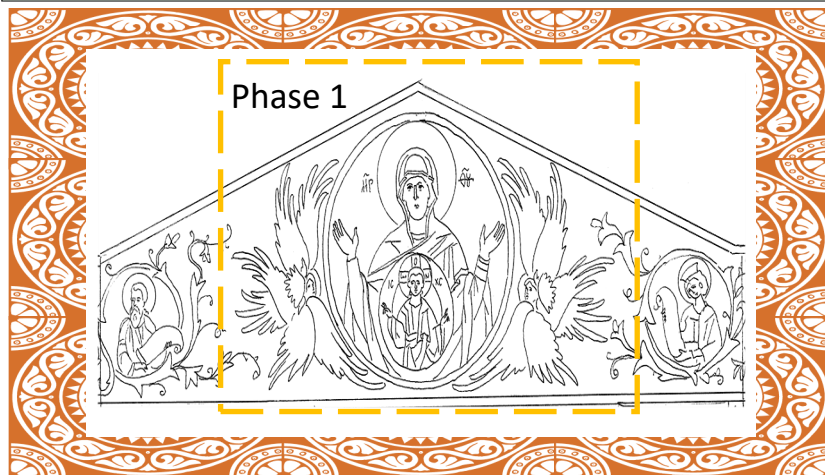
Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain

mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken 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";

### [Mark 8:34-9:1](#)

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 also

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 death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."



### New iconography!

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop DANIEL, we have contracted with an iconographer to begin writing new icons for the altar. Phase 1 will be the icon of the Theotokos with Christ and the Seraphim. This is the same iconographer who wrote the icons hanging on the side walls of the temple. The cost is \$9000.00 plus travel, room and board for the ico-

nographer. A few generous parishioners have already committed to helping with the cost. Any amount is helpful. Please see the list of projects in the narthex for this and other opportunities to beautify the temple and other parts of the property.

## THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS



HAIL! LIFE-GIVING CROSS, UNCONQUERABLE TROPHY OF THE TRUE FAITH, DOOR TO PARADISE, SUCCOUR OF THE FAITHFUL, RAMPART SET ABOUT THE CHURCH. THROUGH THEE THE CURSE IS UTTERLY DESTROYED, THE POWER OF DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP, AND WE ARE RAISED FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN: INVINCIBLE WEAPON, ADVERSARY OF DEMONS, GLORY OF MARTYRS, TRUE ORNAMENT OF HOLY MONKS, HAVEN OF SALVATION BESTOWING ON THE WORLD GREAT MERCY.—VESPERS