



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



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WEEKLY BULLETIN 3/29/2026

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt ([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** Tuesdays 7pm (online only)

Announcements, Etc.

- **Pan Orthodox Vespers March 29 6:30pm:** Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. Swansea, IL. **Meal (not light refreshments) to follow.**
- **Saturday March 28 11am:** Parish Council Meeting (in-person)
- The sisterhood will be providing red dyed eggs this year again for Pascha. **Please collect all of your yellow onion skins and bring them to church by Palm Sunday.** See Elizabeth Sweet for details.
- **Save the date:** Open house at the Tobias home in Alton following Agape Vespers on Pascha. All are invited.
- 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.

[John 20:19-31](#)

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

[Hebrews 9:11-14](#)

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?

[Mark 10:32-45](#)

Now 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 with 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 many."



The Four Liturgists

Saint Basil the Great

Saint John Chrysostom

Saint James the Brother of the Lord

Saint Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome

Due to the ever increasing generosity of Christ's faithful ones in the parish, we are very close to being able to include the Four Liturgists in phase 1 of the iconography for the altar. These are the holy fathers who wrote the liturgies celebrated throughout the Orthodox Church.

We celebrate Saint John Chrysostom's Liturgy throughout most of the year. Saint Basil's Liturgy is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Lent and on his feast day. The Vespereal Liturgies of Saint Basil the Great are celebrated on the eve's of the Nativity, Theophany and on Holy Saturday. Saint Gregory the Dialogist is the author of the Presanctified Liturgy celebrated during Great. The Liturgy of Saint James is the oldest of the four. It is also known as the Western Rite.

All these services are gifts from God and so we honor His inspired ones by including their images in the altar where the Last Supper is prepared. Please consider supporting the completion of Phase 1. It will add tremendous beauty and prayerfulness to the temple. Glory to God for all things.