



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

WEEKLY BULLETIN 4/5/2026



Sunday of Palms - The Entrance into Jerusalem ([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.
- ◇ **Last Book study Meeting:** April 14 (online only)

[Matthew 21:1-11, 15-17](#)

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them. All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected

Announcements, Etc.

- **OCMC Donation Coin Boxes:** Please return your boxes to Andrea this weekend. Thank you for your contributions!
- 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.
- **Grave blessings:** Nativity: Thomas Sunday. JB Visitors Center Bright Friday 5pm.

praise?" Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

[Philippians 4:4-9](#)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

[John 12:1-18](#)

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took



a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

2026 Service Schedule April 3 - 12

This Weekend

Friday April 3

6:00 PM: Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday April 4

9:00 AM: Nathanael Wilson and Trent Jilg baptisms

10:00 AM: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy

5:00 PM: Great Vespers with the blessing of the Palms

Sunday April 5

9:30 AM Palm Sunday Hours and Divine Liturgy

Holy Week: April 5-12, 2026

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins

Thursday,

10:00 AM Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

6:00 PM: Holy Friday Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels

Friday

3:00 PM: Burial Vespers

Soup and Bread

6:00 PM - Holy Saturday Matins with Lamentations

Saturday

9:00 AM: Vesperal Liturgy of Holy Saturday

11:30 PM: PASCHAL VIGIL!

Sunday, Great and Holy Pascha

2:00 PM: Agape Vespers

3:00 PM: Open House at Tobias's home

Father's Wishlist

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

Fr. Peter 618-537-5155 | rector@nativityofthevirgin.com