

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Nativity of Christ

TONE 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify Him; The wise men journey with the star, since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

TONE 2: The Lord is my strength and my song, He is become my salvation.

v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over unto death.

Another (Righteous Ones) TONE 4: God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians 1:11 – 19

But I make known to you, *Brethren:* that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Alleluia

v: May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee!

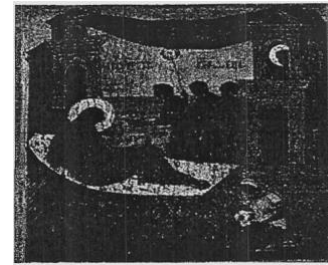
v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call upon Thee!

v: Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness.

The Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew 2:13 - 23

Gospel

Now when the wise men had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*" Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.*" Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."



Schedule

Friday, January 3, 2025

10:00 A.M. Royal Hours

Saturday, January 4, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Eve of Feast of Theophany

STRICT FAST DAY

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

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

1:00 P.M. Vespers *with Great Blessing of Waters*

5:00 P.M. Vigil (*Compline & Matins*)

Monday, January 6, 2025

Theophany

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

1:30 P.M. Blessing of Waters at
Wilmore Park Lake #1, St. Louis,
MO

Saturday, January 11, 2025

11:00 A.M. Parish Council Meeting

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:15 A.M. Church School

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

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 18, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:15 A.M. Church School

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

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 25, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, January 26, 2025

9:15 A.M. Church School

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

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church

416 Ewing Ave, Madison, IL 62060

Sunday, December 22, 2024

*27th Sunday After Pentecost; Sunday After the
Nativity; Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the
Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother
of the Lord*

www.nativityofthevirgin.com

"The celebration of the Divine Liturgy requires an elevated soul, or a man with an elevated soul, not bound by any worldly passions, desires, and attachments to earthly delights; whose heart is wholly embraced by the flame of the Holy Ghost, by ardent love for God and mankind, for every human soul, and above all, for the Christian soul, so that with a sincere heart he may ever rise to God in prayer: "I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled (St. Luke 12:49)?" This fire was sent down from heaven upon the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire. This fire is also necessary for us, for our frozen hearts, in order to warm, soften, to melt them again and again, to continually cleanse them, in order to enlighten and renew them. Where is there to be found such a worthy priest who, like the Seraphim, would burn before the Lord with love, praise, and gratitude for His marvels of mercy and wisdom manifested unto us and within us? I am the greatest of sinners in unworthily celebrating this most heavenly Sacrament, for I have ever an impure heart, bound by desires and attachments to earthly delights. Lord, Thou seest the depths of our hearts; but "Thou shalt purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, Thou shalt"

Prayer Requests

Those in this earthly life

Janet	Teo	Eva
Kristine	Tomas	Catechumen Mary
George	Francisco	Alexandra
Max	Seyun	Mary Magdalene
Nancy	Layla	Diana
Terry	Mary Magdalen	Barbara
Mark	Subdeacon Jason	Elaine
Amy	Katie	Victor
Candice	Mary Ellen	Wilma
Marty	Christopher	Michael
James	Daniel	April
Jonathan	Michaela	Joseph
Jessica	Joseph	Michael
Elizabeth	David <i>Butchko</i>	Barb
Marvin	Reader George	Barbara
Elizabeth	Marie	Mark
Michael	Reader Simeon	Angela
Ann	Anna	Elijah
Joselynn	Elizabeth	Sophia
Theresa	Edmund	Kathy
Jake	Catechumen Athanasius	Matushka Tanya
Cecelia	Alex	Mary
Andrea	Julia	Archpriest John
Subdeacon Paul	Martha	Matushka Margaret
Judith	Kendra	Matthew
Peter	David	Priest Josef
Rebecca	Adina	Archpriest Michael
Gabriella & CTBB	Reader Stephen	Reader Peter
Shawn	Priest Andrew	Patricia
	Popadija Joan	Matushka Virginia

Those in the life to come

Steve	Archpriest Vladimir	Cheryl
Randy	Archbishop PAUL	Nancy
Gebru	Archimandrite Innocent	Magdalene
<u>Christine</u>	Edward	John
Matushka Olga	Francis	
Archpriest Thomas	Jean	
Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Olga	

"wash me and I shall be whither than snow (Psalm 51:7)." "It is not wonderful if Thou hast mercy upon the pure; and it is not a great thing if Thou savest the righteous, but show the wonders of Thy mercy upon me, a sinner (Evening Prayer of St. John of Damascus)!" Lord! I thank Thee with my whole heart for having saved me and innumerable multitude of times from the shamefulness, violence, and cruelty of the passions, and for having quenched in me the fiery arrows of the evil one, and for having guarded my soul with peace, refreshing it with the dew of Thy grace. Glory to Thee, most merciful and Almighty, that by Thy grace I still remain whole and unharmed, in spite of the innumerable wiles of the invisible and most evil enemies endeavoring to devour me! I believe and know that Thou, Lord, wilt deliver and save me from all their snares and calumnies by ways known unto Thee, and wilt grant Thy heavenly kingdom to me, and not to me only, but to all those who live piously and are subjected to the calumnies and the spirits of evil; for to Thee it appertains to be merciful and to save those who desire to be saved, and even those who do not desire to be saved ... "Save me," it is said, "whether I wish or do not wish to be saved (Evening Prayer of St. John Damascene)." *My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt*

Troparia

Resurrection

TONE 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Nativity of Christ

TONE 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Righteous Ones

TONE 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; you saw a Virgin great with child; you gave glory with the shepherds; you worshipped with the Magi; you received the news from the Angel. Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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

Kontakia

Righteous Ones

TONE 3

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise. The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!"