

*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.

*Prokeimenon*

**TONE 6 (Leavetaking):** Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; Let it praise Thy name, O Most High!

*v: Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth! Sing of His Name, give to Him glorious praise!*

**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: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!*

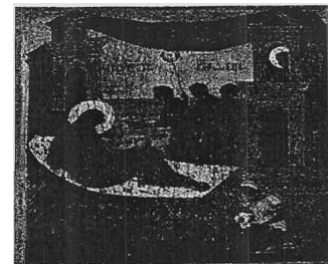
*v: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge!*

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

**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 5, 2024**

6:00 A.M. Matins & 1<sup>st</sup> Hour

8:00 A.M. Royal Hours

1:00 P.M. Vespereal Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great with Great Blessing of Waters

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

**Saturday, January 6, 2024**

*Feast of Theophany*

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

1:30 P.M. Blessing of Waters at Wilmore Park Lake #1

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**

11:00 A.M. Parish Council Meeting

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**

*Hierarchical Visit of His Eminence DANIEL of Chicago and the Midwest*

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy Followed by Luncheon with His Eminence Archbishop DANIEL

**Saturday, January 28, 2024**

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, January 29, 2024**

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

**Orthodox Church**

**416 Ewing Ave, Madison, IL 62060**

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

*30<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost; Sunday After the Nativity of Christ; Holy Righteous Ones – Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord; Venerable Melanie the Younger of Rome*

[www.nativityofthevirgin.com](http://www.nativityofthevirgin.com)

*"To the glory of the most holy name of our Master the Lord Jesus Christ and that of Our Lady, the Mother of God, I have experienced a thousand times in my heart, that after the Communion of the Holy Sacrament or after fervent prayer at home - ordinary prayer or prayer in consequence of some sin, passion, and sorrow or straitness - the Lord, at the prayers of Our Lady, or Our Lady Herself, by the Lord's grace bestowed upon me, as though it were a new spiritual nature, pure, good, great, bright, wise, beneficent, instead of impure, despondent, languid, faint-hearted, dark, dull, and evil. Many times was I thus changed, with a marvelous great change, to mine own wonder and often to that of others. Glory to Thy power, Lord! Glory to Thy mercy, Lord! Glory to Thy bounties, Lord, which Thou hast manifested upon me a sinner! Our life is love - yes, love. And where there is love, there is God; and where God is, there is every good. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be"*

**Prayer Requests**

**Those in this earthly life**

Lainey	Patricia	Mark
David	Alexandra	Angela
Adina	<b>John</b>	Elijah
Ioan	<b>Cyndi</b>	Sophia
Reader Stephen	Diana	Matushka Tanya
Priest Joseph	Barbara	Mary
Presbyteria Irené	Elaine	Archpriest Moses
Ioannis	Victor	Archpriest John
Reader George	Wilma	Matushka Margaret
David	Michael	Matthew
Shawn	April	Priest Joseph
Gabriella	Joseph	Archpriest Michael
Catechumen Rebecca	Michael	Reader Peter
Marie	Barb	Patricia
Michael	Barbara	Matushka Virginia

*"added unto you (St. Matthew 4:33)." And therefore joyfully feed and delight all, joyfully gratify all and trust in the heavenly Father for everything, in the Father of bounties, and the God of every consolation. Offer that which is dear to you as a sacrifice of love for you neighbor. Bring your Isaac, your heart, with the many passions, as a sacrifice to God, stab it of your own free will, crucify the flesh with hits passions and lusts. As you have received everything from God, be ready to give back everything to God, so that, having been faithful in small things you may afterwards be made ruler over many things. "Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things (St. Matthew 25:23)." Look upon all passions as upon illusions, as I have found out a thousand times. Amen. O how wise ought the Christian to be ring his life! He should be like the many-eyed cherubim - all eyes, all intellect, and incessant reflection, excepting in cases where absolute unreflecting faith is required." My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt*

**Troparia**

*Resurrection*

**TONE 5**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His Glorious Resurrection.

*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.*

*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!"

**Those in the life to come**

Vanessa	Archbishop PAUL	Magdalene
Archpriest Michael	Archimandrite Innocent	
<u>Ioannis</u>	Olga	
Matushka Olga	Francis	
Archpriest Thomas	Jean	
Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Edward	
Archpriest Vladimir	Nancy	