

Troparia

Resurrection

TONE 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

Forefeast of Theophany

TONE 4

Of old, the river Jordan turned back before Elisha's mantle at Elijah's ascension. The waters were parted in two and the waterway became a dry path. This is truly a symbol of baptism by which we pass through this mortal life. Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters!

Kontakia

Resurrection

TONE 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Forefeast of Theophany

TONE 2

O Christ, in Thy compassion and infinite mercy, Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan, in order to take away the many transgressions of us all, clothing me in the garment of ancient glory of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

Prokeimenon

TONE 6: O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

v: To Thee, O Lord will I call, O my God, be not silent to me!

The reading is from Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Timothy 4:5-8

My son Timothy: be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Alleluia

v: O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, shine the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!

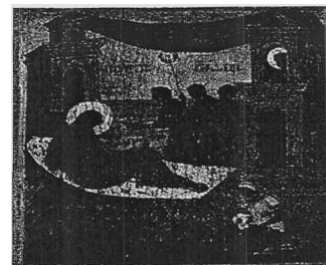
v: That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.

The Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark 1:1-8

Gospel

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets:

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’” John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



Schedule

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Eve of Feast of Theophany

STRICT FAST DAY

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

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

Saturday, February 1, 2025

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple; Annual Parish Meeting

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, January 5, 2025

28th Sunday After Pentecost; Sunday Before Theophany; Eve of Theophany; Hieromartyr Theopemptas and Martyr Theonias

www.nativityofthevirgin.com

"Let us pray to the Lord for the salvation of our souls (From Liturgy)." He who sincerely watches over himself continually notices that our soul is destroyed by various sins, sleeps the deadly sleep of sin, is continually taken captive by the Devil, is bound by the strong fetters of the passions; he notices this and sighs, and prays fervently to the Lord for the salvation of the souls redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. Thus our souls are daily destroyed by malice, envy, harsh judgment, covetousness, love of pleasure, gluttony and drunkenness, fornication, slothfulness and negligence, despondency and murmuring ignorance, impure language, idle speaking, frivolity, free-thought, rebellion, insolence, self-will, and other passions. We pray for "the peace from above, for there is no rest [peace] in our bones because of our sins (Psalm 38:3)." By means of its Divine service, the Orthodox Church educates us for heavenly citizenship, by teaching us every virtue, exemplified by the lives of the Mother of God, and of all the Saints, by purifying, sanctifying, and making us godly through the sacraments, and by giving "unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)." Therefore, it is urgently necessary for us to frequent [attend] intelligently, reverently, and willingly the Divine services"

Prayer Requests

Those in this earthly life

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

"especially on the festivals, and to take part in the sacraments of penitence and Holy Communion. But those who withdraw themselves from the Church and the Divine services become the victims of their passions and are lost. With what maternal, or rather Divine love the Church as though daily carries us in her arms, unceasingly raising to the Lord prayers for us all - in the evening, at midnight, in the morning, and about mid-day. She teaches us, cleanses us, sanctifies us, heals and strengthens us through the sacraments, guides us by every means in the tenderest and gentlest manner to salvation and eternal life. Blessed are those priests and ministers who understand this love and this care of the Church for the salvation of her children, and endeavor to appropriate unto themselves her spirit, to live by this spirit, to breathe by this spirit, both within and without the church, and to offer prayers and praises, and celebrate the Divine services of the Church with heartfelt attention and reverence, remembering that through all this they save both themselves and their flock! What a grand creature is man - what a wonderful creation of God, created after His own image! If even in a fallen state he is capable of accomplishing the many wonderful works which he has produced and still produces, as we constantly see, both in history and in the present time, then of what might he not be capable in a state of holiness and perfection! But that which in him is above all deserving of attention, wonder, reverence, and the most heartfelt gratitude is that he may be likened to the Creator - God; that he is predestined to immortality, to eternal bliss in God, and with God; that he will some day shine forth, like the sun, in the kingdom of his heavenly Father. The Lord, foreseeing this glory of His faithful chosen ones, says: "Then [at the second coming] shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father (St. Matthew 13:43)." My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt

Those in the life to come

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