

*Cross*  
**TONE 1**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and by virtue of Thy Cross preserve Thy habitation.

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

**Kontakia**  
*Cross*  
**TONE 7**

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has mysteriously been quenched by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Savior, has come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into paradise."

*In the place of the Trisagion (i.e. "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!") We sing:*

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify! (After each – we make a full prostration – head to the ground and stand back up)

**Prokeimenon**

**TONE 6:** O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!  
vs. To Thee, O Lord, will I call, O my God, be not silent to me!

**Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews 4:14 – 5:6**

*Brethren:* Seeing that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

*Alleluia*

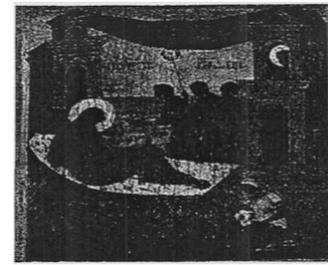
*v: Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.*

*v: God is our King before the ages: He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.*

**Mark 8:34-9:1**

*Gospel*

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste of death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."



**Schedule**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

*Feast of Annunciation*

6:00 P.M. Vespers – *Online*

**Friday, March 27, 2020**

7:00 P.M. Vespers - *Online*

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**

10:00 A.M. Typica – *Online*

**Sunday, March 29, 2020**

*St. John of the Ladder*

10:00 A.M. Typica – *Online*

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

6:00 P.M. Vespers – *Online*

**Friday, April 3, 2020**

7:00 P.M. Vespers – *Online*

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**

10:00 A.M. Typica – *Online*

**Sunday, April 5, 2020**

*Mary of Egypt*

10:00 A.M. Typica – *Online*

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

*TBD*

**Thursday, April 9, 2020**

*TBD*

**Friday, April 10, 2020**

*TBD*

**Saturday, April 11, 2020**

*TBD*

**Sunday, April 12, 2020**

*TBD*

**Monday, April 13, 2020**

*TBD*

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

**Orthodox Church**

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

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

*3rd Sunday of Great Lent; Veneration of the Precious Cross*

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

"The minds of the angels cannot grasp and cannot sufficiently marvel at the wisdom, mercy, and omnipotence which the Lord has manifested to us in His Incarnation from the Most Holy Virgin Mary. "All angelic nature wonders at this great act of Thine Incarnation, beholding the unapproachable God in approachable man (Akathist Kontakion)." Glory to Thy mercy! Glory to Thy bountifulness! Glory to Thy wisdom! Glory to Thy power! Through His Incarnation the Lord has clearly taught us all the mysteries of faith, which were not known, or but little known, in the Old Testament. Through His Incarnation we, accursed sinners, have been deemed worthy of the Communion of His Most Pure Body and Blood, and are thus united to Him in the closest manner; we dwell in Him and He in us. Through His Incarnation the Most Holy Virgin has become our All-Powerful Intercessor and our protection from sins, disasters, and misfortunes, praying for us day and night, our Queen and Lady, Whose power no visible and invisible enemies can withstand, and our very Mother by grace, in accordance with the words of Christ on the Cross to His disciple St. John: "Behold thy Mother!" - and to Her: "Behold Thy son! (St. John 19:26, 27)" Glory to Thy bountifulness, Lord! How we debase our God-like immortal soul by attaching ourselves to the perishable, tarnishable, fleeting glitter of gold and silver, and by averting our gaze from the higher eternal, all-rejoicing light, or by attaching ourselves to corruptible sweetness that soon passes away, and is harmful and weakening both soul and body, and turning away our"

## ***Prayer Requests***

### ***Those in this earthly life***

Tekla	Irene	Matthew
Caroline	Emily & Child to be born of	Protopresbyter Radomir
David	her	Archpriest Joseph
Adina	Michael	Archpriest Moses
Nicu	Jacob	Priest Josef
Gofran	David	Archpriest Vladimir
Subdeacon Andrew	Marie	Matushka Virginia
Nate	Reader George	Archprst Christopher <i>Phillips</i>
Cara	George	Archpriest Gregory
Rupert Austin	Catechumen Kristine	Archpriest Myron
Melissa	Janet	Archpriest Philip
Michael	Victor	Priest Benjamin
Rachel	Wilma	Archpriest Stephen
John	Michael	Deacon Nicholas
Terry	April	Deacon Paul
Mary	Joseph	Deacon Paul
Elizaveta	Michael	Deacon Gregory
Michaela	Barb	Matushka Snezana
Linda	Barbara	Matushka Jillian
Mark	Mark	Helen
Ellis Family	Angela	Theodore
Sandra	Elijah	Paul
Becky	Sophia	Mary
Ruth	Mary	Nicholas
Jason	Matushka Tanya	Anne
Elijah	Archpriest John	Andrew
Xander	Matushka Margaret	Anthony
		Christopher
		Jackie

### ***Those in the life to come***

Anastasia	Linda
Nicu	Elizabeth Ann
Elinor	Archpriest John
Andrew	Archpriest Thomas

"gaze from the eternal, spiritual sweetness; from the sweetness of the intuition of God, or to vain earthly glory, turning away our eyes from the glory of the higher heavenly calling: from the glory of God's children, the heirs of the eternal Kingdom of God. O, earthly vanity! O, attachment to worldly things! Look upwards, Christian! The greatest good of this present and of the future life is God, eternally living, all-perfect, all-good. He who has acquired this good, who has it in his soul, is the happiest of men. Everything else earthly, worldly, and regarded as good is vanity and emptiness. That which is around me or upon me does not constitute myself; even my flesh, with which I am clothed, and of which I consist, as a portion of my earthly being, does not constitute my real self. What is signified by the words: "whose praise is not of men, but of God (Romans 2:29)?" To whom is this praise due? To him who inwardly, in his heart, works for God, who does everything conscientiously, and does not care for the opinion of men or for human glory. But we seek the praise of men, and not that of God, Who is the God of Glory. We seek earthly rewards, crosses and decorations, etc. Why did the Holy Cross appear in the heavens to the Emperor Constantine? In order to show that our Lord Himself, also all the Apostles and all the army of martyrs, entered into glory through the Cross; that the Cross is invincible victory; that as the Devil was vanquished by means of the Cross, so likewise all the enemies of the Cross of Christ or of Christians will be vanquished by the Cross; also that the Devil acts through the persecutors of the Christians, and must be conquered by means of the Cross; and that the persecuted Christians are members of Christ, soldiers of Christ, who are always under the protection of Christ the Lord and His Cross. "Behold, thou art made whole; sin no more (St. John 5:14)." Experience proves that sins and passions destroy the health of the soul and the body, whilst victory over the passions affords heavenly tranquility and health both to the soul and the body. Conquer the many-headed hydra of sin - and you will be made whole. Preserve tranquility of spirit; do not be disturbed do not be irritated by any opposition, offences, negligences, injustices - and then you will always enjoy spiritual and bodily health. Emotions, disturbance, and the fire of various passions produce in us a multitude of maladies both of mind and body. In order to rule others, we must first learn to rule ourselves; in order to teach others, we must acquire knowledge ourselves. If I do not know how to control myself, if there is not in me the spirit of self-command, the spirit of meekness, holiness, love and righteousness, then I am a bad director. If I am the sport of every kind of passion, it is better for me not to undertake to rule others, so as not to do greater harm than good, both to myself and to them." *My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt*

### **TROPARIA**

#### **TONE 7**

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art Risen, granting the world great mercy!