

*Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

*Forefeast*  
**TONE 8**

O Virgin Theotokos, you are the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth; / for God's servant, the great Archangel Gabriel, was sent from Heaven to stand before you bringing you joy. / Therefore we all cry to you: "Rejoice, unwedded Bride."

**TONE 4** (*The Song of the Fathers*): Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

vs. For thou art just in all that thou hast done for us!

**Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews 11:24 – 26, 32-12:2**

*Brethren:* By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were toned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Alleluia*

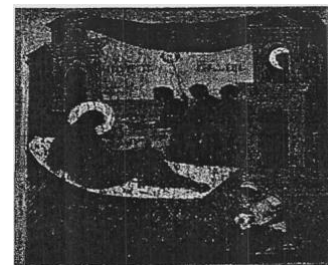
*v: Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel also was among those who called on his name.*

*v: They called to the Lord and He answered them.*

**The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John 1:43-51**

*Gospel*

At that time, Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, and Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these. And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.



*Schedule*

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

*Orthodoxy Sunday*

5:00 P.M. Vespers at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 4976 Forest Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108

**Monday, March 25, 2024**

*Feast of Annunciation*

6:00 P.M. Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 29, 2024**

7:00 P.M. Vespers

**Saturday, March 30, 2024**

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

3:30 P.M. Inquirer's Encounter

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

*St. Gregory Palamas*

9:15 A.M. Church School

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

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

5:00 P.M. Vespers at Nativity of the Virgin, Madison, IL

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, April 5, 2024**

7:00 P.M. Vespers

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

*Soul Saturday*

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

3:30 P.M. Inquirer's Encounter

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

*The Cross*

9:15 A.M. Church School

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

**Orthodox Church**

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

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent; Triumph of Orthodoxy;*

*Forefeast of the Annunciation; Venerable*

*Zachariah the Recluse*

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

*"A Christian ought to love God, and his neighbor, the image of God, so fervidly and deeply that he may always be able to say: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ [and of our neighbor]? Shall tribulation, or distress or money, or the sweetness of food and drink, or a luxurious dwelling, or cares about dress, or various worldly pleasures? But I count all these earthly things as dross, and worldly pleasures as a dream. I ascribe the faults of my neighbor to the corruption of nature, to the action or wiles of evil spirits, to insufficient or bad education, to the unfavorable conditions of life, to the natures of parents and tutors. Knowing my own sinfulness, my own malice, avidity, impurity, my own infirmity. I cannot hate men like unto myself, having the same weakness and vices; for I should love my neighbor as myself, and I love myself, although I know myself to be guilty of innumerable sins; lastly, I ought to love them because we are all one body. Bear in mind that for cleansing your heart from sins you will obtain an infinite reward - you will see God, your most gracious Creator, your Providence. The work of cleansing the heart is difficult, because it is connected with great privations and afflictions; and, therefore, the reward is great. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (St. Matthew 5:8)." People say that God is merciful!"*

## Prayer Requests

### Those in this earthly life

Rosemary	Geraldine	Wilma
Anthony	Delilah	Michael
Julie	Archbishop NATHANIEL	April
Brendan	Maryann	Joseph
Dylan	Subdeacon Andrew	Michael
Julie	Theresa	Barb
Reader George	Lori Ann	Barbara
Romanus	Reader Stephen	Mark
Subdeacon Paul	Shawn	Angela
Judith	Gabriella	Elijah
Peter	Theodore	Sophia
Rebecca	Catechumen Rebecca	Matushka Tanya
Richard	Marie	Mary
Patricia	Michael	Archpriest John
Ava	Catechumen Mary	Matushka Margaret
Antoinette	Alexandra	Matthew
Michael	Mary Magdalene	Priest Josef
Roger	Diana	Archpriest Michael
Marc	Barbara	Reader Peter
Kathryn	Elaine	Patricia
Sandra	Victor	Matushka Virginia

### Those in the life to come

Laverne	Archpriest Thomas	Francis
Florence	Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Jean
Don Schroff	Archpriest Vladimir	Edward
Andrew	Archbishop PAUL	Nancy
Ervin	Archimandrite Innocent	Magdalene
<u>Terry</u>	Olga	John
Matushka Olga		

*"that He will have mercy upon us. Certainly, God is infinitely merciful. But if He is infinitely merciful and bountiful to us, then why do we voluntarily offend Him by our iniquities? The more He loads us with benefits, the more we ought to love Him, to be grateful to Him, and obedient to His holy commandments or orders. But where is this love, this gratitude, this obedience? A malicious, proud man is ready to see only malice and pride in others, and is glad when any of his acquaintances, especially those who live happily and richly, but are not dear to his soul, are badly spoken of by others; and the worse they are spoken of the more he rejoices that others are bad, while he himself is perfection in comparison to them; and he is ready to perceive only evil in them, and to compare them to demons. O malice! O, pride! O, want of love! No, you must seek, even in the malicious man, something good, and rejoice at this good, and speak joyfully of his good qualities. There is nobody in whom there is not some good; cover the evil that is in him with good, and pray to God for him, that God may "make the evil be good in His benevolence (From the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great)." Do not be an abyss of evil yourself." My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt*

### TROPARIA

*Resurrection*

#### **TONE 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy Most Pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

*Triodion*

#### **TONE 2**

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God. Of Thy own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh to deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the enemy. Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to Thee: Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, / by coming to save the world.

*Forefeast*

#### **TONE 4**

Today the beginning of universal joy moves us to sing the prefestal hymn; for Gabriel is coming and will cry to her: "Rejoice, O Virgin full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

### KONTAKIA

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

*Triodion*

#### **TONE 8**

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.