

Another (*St. John*) TONE 7: Let the saints be exalted in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

**The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (6:13-20):**

*Epistle*

*Brethren:* For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promised the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Alleluia*

*v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High!*

*v: To declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth by night.*

*v: They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.*

**The Gospel according to St. Mark (9:17-31):**

*At that time:* One of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”



*Schedule*

**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

*St. John of the Ladder*

5:00 P.M. Vespers at Ss.

Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Swansea, IL

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Saturday, April 5, 2025**

11:00 A.M. Parish Council Meeting

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

*St. Mary of Egypt*

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

6:30 P.M. Vespers at St. Michael

the Archangel Orthodox Church, St. Louis, MO

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Thursday, April 10, 2025**

7:00 P.M. Holy Unction

**Friday, April 11, 2025**

7:00 P.M. Vespers

**Saturday, April 12, 2025**

*Lazarus Saturday*

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

5:00 P.M. Vespers - blessing of palms and willows

**Sunday, April 13, 2025**

*Palm Sunday*

9:15 A.M. Church School

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

416 Ewing Avenue, Madison, IL 62060

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent; St. John Climacus*

<http://www.nativityofthevirgin.com/>

*"Through faith and love, through the prayer of faith and love, I can include both God and men in my heart. How deep and vast is the human heart! How great is man! A true shepherd and father of his flock will live in their grateful memory even after his death. They will extol him, and the less he cares to be extolled here on earth on account of his zealous labors for their salvation, the more his glory shall shine after his death; even when he is dead he will make them speak of him. Such is the glory of those who labor for the common good. You are a being who has fallen of your own free will, corrupted by sins; this ought to be the most powerful incentive for you to prayer. You daily receive the greatest mercies from God; this ought to be a powerful incentive to thank God. You daily contemplate the works of the omnipotence, wisdom, and goodness of God; this ought also to be an incentive to daily praise. On the manifestation of the pride of Satan in man - Pride generally shows itself chiefly in the fact that the man who is infected with it makes himself equal to all, or at any rate to many, who are his superiors in age, power, abilities, and cannot bear to be considered beneath them. If a proud man is a subordinate, he does not respect his chief as he ought, does not like to salute him, does not respect his orders, but fulfills them unwillingly, only out of fear. He makes himself equal to all educated people, and does not acknowledge anyone's superiority over himself, or only acknowledges the superiority of a very, very few indeed. If he is a learned or even an unlearned son, he does not pay due respect to his parents and benefactors, especially those who are simple and rough, considering them equal to our even lower than himself. You must take the utmost care not to compare yourself with others in any respect, but always to put yourself below others, although you may really be better or equal"*

**Prayer Requests**

**Those in this earthly life**

Janet	Gabrielle
Lori	John
John	Gregory
Joann	Archpriest James
Priest Nikolai	Amy
<i>N.I.</i> Gwendolyn	Infant Sage
Sarah	Elizabeth
John	Kristine
Anthony	George
Michelle	Jake
Ioan	Cecelia
Sophia	Gabriella & CTBB
Marie	Shawn
Ben	Reader Simeon
Elyssa	Anna
Kelly	Elizabeth
Brad	Edmund
Lorraine	Reader Stephen
Carl	Priest Andrew
Nicholas	Popadija Joan
<i>N.I.</i> Michael	Eva
Peter	Catechumen Athanasius
Maria	Alex
Evelyn	Julia
Andrew	Martha
Briget	Kendra
Jason	David
John	Adina
Shawn	Catechumen Mary
Selaphiel	Alexandra
Margaret	Mary Magdalene
James	Catechumen David
Macarius	Subdeacon Jason

Justin
Dymphna
Hope
Theodora
Evangeline
Diana
Barbara
Anastasia
Maria
Elaine
Wilma
Michael
April
Joseph
Michael
Leanna
Barb
Barbara
Mark
Angela
Elijah
Sophia
Kathy
Matushka Tanya
Mary
Archpriest John
Matushka Margaret
Matthew
Priest Josef
Archpriest Michael
Reader Peter
Patricia
Matushka Virginia

*"to others in some respects. Everything good in us comes from God and is not our own. "And that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9)." "All these worketh that One and the self same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11)." And how can we be proud of the good that does not belong to us and equal ourselves to those who have been placed by God and general confidence higher than us? "Therefore, sit not down in the highest room, lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden. For everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and He that humbleth himself shall be exalted (St. Luke 14:8; 18:14)." My Life in Christ, by St. John of Kronstadt*

**Troparia**

*Resurrection*

**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.

*Nativity of the Virgin Mary*

**TONE 4**

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Son of Righteousness Christ our God, has shown from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death He has granted us eternal life.

*St. John*

**TONE 1**

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, thou wast shown to be a wonderworker, our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him who gave thee strength. Glory to Him who granted thee a crown. Glory to Him Who, through thee, grants healing to all.

**Kontakia**

*Resurrection*

**TONE 7**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection.

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

*St. John*

**TONE 4**

The Lord truly set thee on the height of abstinence, O our instructor and Father John, as an unerring star, guiding the ends of the earth by thy light.

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

*Nativity of the Virgin Mary*

**TONE 4**

By thy Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life."

**Prokeimenon**

**TONE 7:** The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!  
r: Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

**Those in the life to come**

Helen	Francis
Jane	Jean
<u>Victor</u>	Olga
Matushka Olga	Cheryl
Archpriest Thomas	Nancy
Metropolitan THEODOSIUS	Magdalene
Archpriest Vladimir	John
Archbishop PAUL	
Archimandrite Innocent	
Edward	