

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 5:** Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us / from this generation forever!

*v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.*

**Another (St. Gregory) TONE 1:** My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

### **Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews 1:10 – 2:3**

*Brethren, God says to the Son:* “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they shall be changed. But you are the same, and Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed by those who heard Him?

*Alleluia*

*v: May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee!*

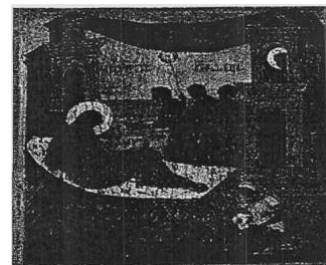
*v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call upon Thee!*

*v: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment.*

### **Mark 2:1-12**

*Gospel*

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, and took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”



### **Schedule**

#### **Sunday, March 31, 2024**

*St. Gregory Palamas*

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

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 Ss. Cyril and

Methody Bulgarian Orthodox

Church (OCA), Granite City, IL

#### **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

#### **Saturday, April 13, 2024**

3:30 P.M. Inquirer’s Encounter

5:00 P.M. Vespers

#### **Sunday, April 14, 2024**

*St. John of the Ladder*

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 St. Michael

the Archangel Orthodox Church,

St. Louis, MO

#### **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

**Orthodox Church**

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

**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent; St. Gregory Palamas*

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

*“Christian! Remember that Christ, the Founder of your faith, was crucified on the cross, and left you the cross. Why, then, do you live in luxury, in spaciousness, in indulgence, in idleness? He suffered dishonor, and commanded you not to shun dishonor for His name; but you seek honor. Gaze more often upon the Crucified and learn your duties. “And they that are Christ’s have crucified their flesh with the affections and lusts (Galatians 5:24).” “There shall not a hair of your head perish (St. Luke 21:18);” that is, not a single holy thought of your intellect shall be lost, not only for God, but also for men. For we see that the holy thoughts and feelings of God’s saints have been preserved to us in their entirety, having been written on parchment. In Whom is the cause of everything visible and invisible? In God. And God is invisible. Therefore, reverence the invisible God. Yearn after the invisible God. God is an eternal, All Holy, Most Gracious, Omniscient, Almighty, All righteous, Omnipresent, Unchangeable, All Satisfied, Most Blessed Spirit. And you are the image of God. Therefore, be spiritual, despising the flesh, which is only your temporal home; be holy, kind, wise, just, watchful, and courageous, unchangeable in good, and satisfied with everything. He who has built himself a house, he, by every right, ought to live in it. We are the houses of our Creator; He has created us for”*

## Prayer Requests

### Those in this earthly life

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

### Those in the life to come

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

"Himself, for He "has done all things for His own sake;" and it is He Who should dwell in us, and not the Devil - this murderer, thief, ravisher, this deceiver.

"Come and make Thine abode in us (From the Prayer to the Holy Spirit)." "We will come unto him, and make our abode with him (St. John 15:23)." "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you (1 Corinthians 3:16). Reverence every word, every thought of the Word of God, of the writings of the Holy Fathers, and, amongst them, the various prayers and hymns which we hear in church, or which we read at home, because they are all the breathing and words of the Holy Ghost. It is, so to say, the "Holy Ghost Himself," Who "maketh intercession" for us, and through us, "with groanings which cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26)."" *My Life in Christ - St. John of Kronstadt*

### TROPARIA

*Resurrection*

#### **TONE 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

*Nativity of the Virgin Mary*

#### **TONE 4**

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

*St. Gregory*

#### **TONE 8**

O luminary of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, O wonderworker Gregory, boast of Thessalonika and herald of grace, always intercede for all of us that our souls may be saved.

### KONTAKIA

*Resurrection*

#### **TONE 2**

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! And the world, O my Savior praises Thee forever.

*Triodion*

#### **TONE 4**

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: "Our sins are more numerous than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of All, so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns."

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

*St. Gregory*

#### **TONE 8**

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, radiant and harmonious trumpet of theology, we praise thee in song, O divinely-speaking Gregory. As a mind standing before the Primal Mind, guide our minds to Him, Father, so that we may cry aloud to thee: "Rejoice, herald of grace."