

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY

ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST



[Web](#) | [Email](#) | [Donate](#)

WEEKLY BULLETIN 3/22/2026

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Saint John Climacus ([learn more](#))

Regular Schedule

- ◇ **Fr. Peter's Office Hours:** Tue-Thur 10-3 (parish office) or by appointment
- ◇ **Saturdays:** Great Vespers 5pm followed by confession
- ◇ **Sundays:** Hours & Divine Liturgy 9:30am followed by fellowship at the parish center. All are welcome.
- ◇ **Book study** every Tuesday 7pm (online only)

Announcements, Etc.

- **Special Collection** for OCMC March 15 & 22
- **Pan Orthodox Vespers March 22 6:30pm:** Saint Thomas Romanian Orthodox Church. Light refreshments to follow.
- **Monday March 23 6pm:** Matins with the Canon of Saint Andrew and the reading of the life of Saint Mary of Egypt
- **Tuesday March 24 6pm:** Feast of the Annunciation Vigil
- **Wednesday March 25 10am:** Feast of the Annunciation Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
- **Saturday March 28 11am:** Parish Council Meeting (in-person)
- The sisterhood will be providing red dyed eggs this year again for Pascha. **Please collect all of your yellow onion skins and bring them to church by Palm Sunday.** See Elizabeth Sweet for details.
- **Save the date:** Matushka and Fr. Peter invite all of you to their home in Alton following Agape Vespers on Pascha.
- Click [here](#) to sign up to volunteer to help serve a FOCUS breakfast to the needy on Wednesdays.
- 2026 coffee hour sign up sheet in parish hall.

[John 20:11-18](#)

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

[Hebrews 6:13-20](#)

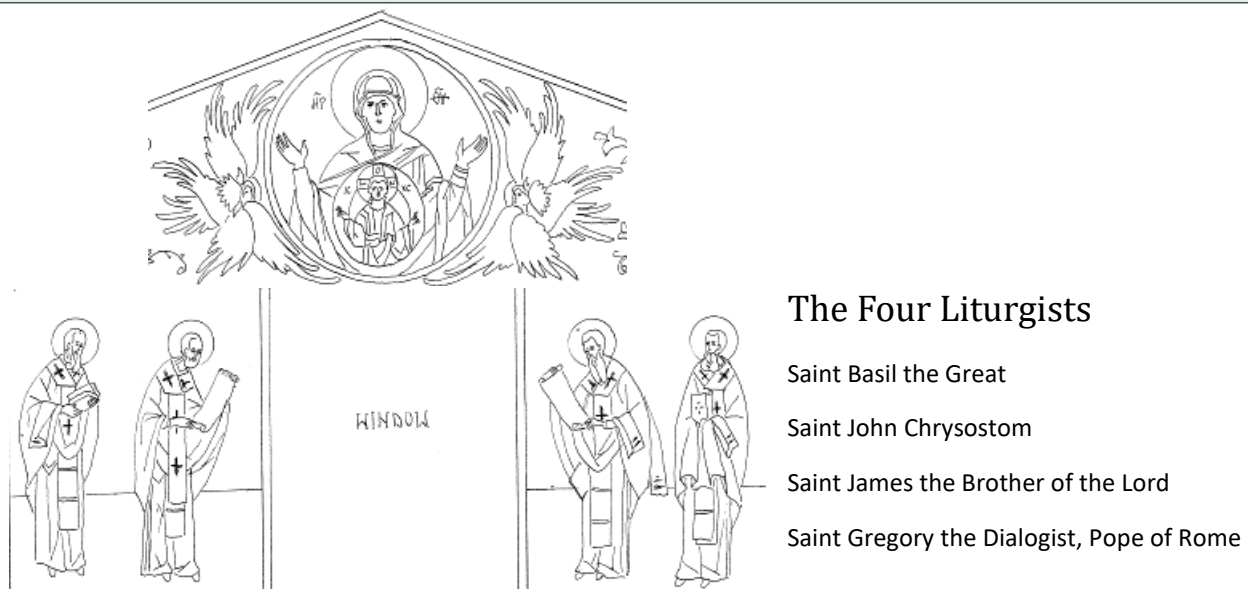
For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the great-

er, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise 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.

[Mark 9:17-31](#)

Then 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.”



Glory to God for all things! We are excited to announce that the iconography fundraiser has been so successful that we almost have enough funds to extend phase 1 to include icons of the four liturgists shown above. These are the holy hierarchs whose liturgies are celebrated in the Orthodox Church.

We celebrate Saint John Chrysostom’s Liturgy throughout most of the year. Saint Basil’s Liturgy is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Lent and on his feast day. The Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is celebrated on the eve’s of the Nativity and Theophany, as well as on Holy Saturday. Saint Gregory the Dialogist is the author of the Presanctified Liturgy celebrated during Great Lent. The Liturgy of Saint James is the oldest of the four. It is also known as the Western Rite. Thus, we honor these hierarchs because through them, God has revealed the means to worship Him and receive the Holy Mysteries.

Please consider supporting the completion of Phase 1. It will add tremendous beauty and prayerfulness to the temple.