Tone 4Troparion(Resurrection)When the women disciples of the Lordlearned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,they cast away the ancestral curseand elatedly told the apostles:"Death is overthrown!Christ God is risen,//granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 1Troparion(St. John Climacus)O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O 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 granted thee a ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 3 Troparion (St. Matthew)

From the tax desk you eagerly followed the call of Christ the <u>mas</u>ter, Who of His goodness, revealed Himself on earth to <u>man</u>.

You appear as a chosen apostle & eloquent proclaimer of the Gospel to the universe!

Wherefore, we revere your honorable memory, O Divinely speaking <u>Mat</u>thew//

Pray to the merciful God that He will grant remission of sins to our souls.

Glory... Tone 4 Kontakion (*Resurrection*) My Savior and Re<u>deem</u>er as God rose from the tomb and delivered the <u>earth</u>-born from their chains. He has shattered the <u>gates</u> of hell, and as <u>Mas</u>ter,// He has risen on the <u>third</u> day!

Now and Ever... Tone 4 Kontakion (*St. John Climacus*) The Lord truly set thee on the heights of <u>ab</u>stinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the <u>universe</u>,// O our father and <u>teach</u>er John.

Donations for Pascha Flowers

Donations to help offset the cost of flowers that will adorn the Church on Pascha are now being accepted. Please note on your check or giving envelope that your donation is for "Flowers."





St. Matthew Orthodox Church

607 Ravenswood Drive, Green Bay, WI 54302 www.smocgb.com

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the Midwest **Rector: Father John Thetford** <u>frjohnthetford@gmail.com</u> (920) 412-8974 (Cell) <u>Pastor@smocgb.com</u> (920) 455-0744 (Church)

April 14, 2024 4th Sunday of Great Lent: John of the Ladder ("Climacus")

Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)

At that time, one of the crowd answered Jesus 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."

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle)

Brethren, 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 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.

Sign-up Sheet for Reading at the Tomb of Christ

There is a sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the continuous reading of Psalms (before Holy Saturday Liturgy) and the Acts of the Apostles (after Holy Saturday Liturgy) beside the Tomb of Christ on Holy Friday and Holy Saturday. Please sign up for one slot only at first so that others can get a chance to sign up. Also, please be assured that the building will be locked overnight for safety reasons, and that all participating will be given the side door's keypad code. The keypad was recently maintenanced so there should be no issues with the keypad.

Keeping you in the Ministry Team Loop:

Our Ministry focus for the month of April is supporting House of Hope and the A&A Alexandrina Crisis Pregnancy Center. These two programs support homeless moms and mothers who are finding themselves in a crisis pregnancy situation. House of Hope cares for and supports young homeless moms by providing a safe, structured place to live. A&A supports women, men and their children with support in a time of a crisis pregnancy. A&A provides pregnancy testing and free ultra sounds. Both organizations provide counseling, support with material goods and referrals to other local agencies. Help us support them this month by filling the laundry basket with items from their wish lists.

Thank you for your faithful support as we continue to reach out to the vulnerable in our community.

Liturgical Schedule

+ Please see full Liturgical Schedule online at www.smocgb.com

Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 PM Presanctified Gifts Friday, April 19, 6:00 PM Akathist to the Theotokos Saturday, April 20, 5:00 PM Great Vespers Sunday, April 21, 8:30 Matins, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Mary of Egypt)

SMOC News and Events Schedule

- Book Study/Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 10:30 am.
- Sunday School will be April 14 and April 21. The High School Group meets on Sundays when there is no Typika in Waupaca.
- Wednesday Night **Adult Education** is on hiatus until the second week of May due to the Lenten service schedule.
- Choir Practice will be today, Sunday, April 14, and again on Sundays, April 21 and April 28.



Save the Date!!! On Saturday, April 20, we will hold our annual Deep Cleaning of SMOC at 9:00 am. At this annual event, we gather to clean every part of SMOC in preparation for Pascha. We will start at 9:00 am. Please come and work and maybe meet a member of the Church you don't know. Please let Paul Novak know or send him an email at paulnovak11@gmail.com if you plan on coming. Many hands make light work!

• Vacation Church School for children ages 5 - 15 will be July 15, 16 & 17 and July 29 & 30! More info to come in May.

Confession

Lent is the time to come to confession! Ideally, we come to confession three or four times a year, but if not, we should confess at least once a year during Great Lent. We remember that we make confession not because God needs us to admit our sins, but because we need to come to terms with our internal spiritual state, so that we can leave sin behind and grow in our union with God in Christ.