

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, March 24, 6:00 PM Great Vespers (The Annunciation)
Monday, March 25, 9:10 Hours, 9:30 Divine Liturgy (The Annunciation)
Wednesday, March 27, 6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, March 30, 5:00 PM Great Vespers
Sunday, March 31, 8:30 Matins, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Gregory Palamas Sunday)
Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 PM Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, April 6, 9:10 Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (at Transfiguration Chapel, Sister Bay)
Saturday, April 6, 5:00 PM Great Vespers
Sunday, April 7, 8:30 Matins, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Veneration of the Cross)
Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 PM Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, April 13, 8:45 Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Memorial Service (Lenten Retreat)
Saturday, April 13, 3:00 PM Great Vespers (Lenten Retreat)
Saturday, April 13, 6:00 PM Great Vespers (at St. Macrina Chapel, Waupaca)
Sunday, April 14, 8:30 Matins, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (John Climacus)
Sunday, April 14, 9:30 Hours, 9:50 Typika (at St. Macrina Chapel, Waupaca)
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)
Wednesday, April 24, 6:00 PM Presanctified Gifts
Friday, April 26, 6:00 PM Great Vespers (Lazarus Saturday)
Lazarus Saturday, April 27, 9:00 AM Reception of Converts, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Palm Saturday, April 27, 5:00 PM Great Vespers
Palm Sunday, April 28, 8:30 Matins, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Holy Monday, April 29, 6:00 PM Matins (Bridegroom Service)
Holy Tuesday, April 30, 6:00 PM Matins (Bridegroom Service)
Holy Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 PM Matins (The Last Supper)
Holy Thursday, May 2, 9:30 AM Vespereal Liturgy (The Last Supper)
Holy Thursday, May 2, 6:00 PM Matins (The 12 Passion Gospels)
Holy Friday, May 3, 3:30 PM Vespers (The Removal from the Cross)
Holy Friday, May 3, 6:00 PM Matins (The Burial of Christ)
Holy Saturday, May 4, 9:30 AM Vespereal Divine Liturgy (The Empty Tomb)
Great & Holy Pascha Sunday, May 5, 11:30 PM Nocturnes, Procession, Matins, & Divine Liturgy
Great & Holy Pascha Sunday, May 5, 3:00 PM Vespers (Agape Vespers)

St. Matthew Orthodox Church

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March 24, 2024

Sunday of Orthodoxy and Forefeast of Annunciation
1st Sunday of Great Lent

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 of 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, an 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."

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

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!”

Tone 2 Troparion (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:

“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//

by coming to save the world.”

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast of the Annunciation)

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe!

Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation:

Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin;
he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder:://

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!”

Glory.....

Tone 8 Kontakion (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

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 words and images.

Now and Ever.....

Tone 8 Kontakion (Forefeast of the Annunciation)

Thou art the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin
Mother of God.

For the great Archangel Gabriel, God’s minister, was sent from
heaven to stand before thee to bring thee joy:://

Therefore, we all cry to thee: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

SMOC News and Events Schedule

- **Book Study/Bible Study** will resume meeting on **Tuesday, March 26 at 10:30 am.**
- **Adult Education** meets every Wednesday after Daily Vespers at **6:00 pm.**
- **No Sunday School today, Sunday, March 24** due to the Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession after Liturgy. **The High School Group** meets on Sundays when there is no Typika in Waupaca.
- There is a **sign-up sheet** for the meals after Presanctified services on Wednesdays during Lent.
- **Meal at St. John's Men's Shelter on Friday, March 29:** Our parish will be sponsoring a meal for the 110 guests at St. John's Men's Shelter on Friday, March 29, from 5:15 - 7:15pm. **Volunteers are needed to serve the meal at the shelter** as well as to **prepare the meal** ahead of time. There is a **sign-up sheet** in Herrick Hall for both volunteering opportunities. Please note the costs of the food will be covered by the parish (of course, donations toward this purpose are appreciated).
- **April 7: Final Catechumens' Class:** The final class will be on **Sunday, April 7, from 12:00 - 2:30 pm**, on the topics of the Feasts and Calendar of the Church Year, and on Prayer and Personal Spiritual Practice.
- **Parish Council** will be meeting via Zoom on **Tuesday, April 9 at 6:00 pm.** If you would like to attend as a guest, please let President, Paul Novak, know at **paulnovak11@gmail.com**
- **Annual Lenten Retreat, April 12-13: Please see the Saturday email regarding this year's lenten retreat!** We are excited to welcome Presvytera Rebecca Luft as our speaker!
- **Choir Practice** will be on **Sundays, April 21 and April 28.**And.....there will also be **Choir Practice on Saturday, April 13 from 2:00 to 2:45.**
- 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!



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Many hands make light work!

Annual Orthodox Christians for Life Baby Shower Drive: In honor of the Feast of the Annunciation, we are participating, for the entire month of March, in purchasing infant items that will be distributed for mothers served by Alexandrina Pregnancy Crisis Center here in Green Bay. Having this kind of material support for mothers available makes it an easier decision for them to enjoy the fulfillment of raising a child. Essentially, any and all infant items are needed... but of course most of all, diapers and wipes!

Please have your items in by Sunday, March 31

Food for Pantries.....Our ministry focus this month is “ Food for Pantries.” As you may know, our local pantry in Green Bay and the pantry in Appleton could use extra help right now in keeping their shelves stocked - **especially with non-perishable proteins such as tuna, chicken, beef soup, hamburger helper, peanut butter, etc..** Let's bless them this month with an abundance of food that will help out our neighbors. Please bring in your non-perishable food items and leave them in Herrick Hall. Don't forget to check the expiration dates! Thank you for your support!



.....**Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time**.....



Our coffee hour/fellowship time is made possible by your donations of food to share every Sunday morning. We can always use help with the clean up after Coffee/fellowship hour is over. Want to help? Stay until the end of coffee hour and we will find a task for you to do.

Church Cleaner.....

McGraw - week of 3/24 for 3/31/24

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)

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 pleasures 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 the 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 stoned, 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.

Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 24: The first Sunday of Lent is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, when we celebrate that we can make iconography of Jesus Christ, who became man for our sake. You can bring a **favorite icon** from home this Sunday as we will make an icon procession. This is also the day that, during the Liturgy, we will make some **new catechumens** who will be received later during Holy Week.

THE SUNDAYS OF GREAT LENT

The Final Sunday before Great Lent: Forgiveness Sunday

The day before Lent begins, we make a long greeting line in the church, and say to one another: “Forgive me, a sinner!”, with the response being: “God forgives, and I forgive!” This act of mutual forgiveness recognizes the truth that our actions hurt others, while it also heals us by changing our perspective toward others to be one of mercy. And this mutual act certainly makes present to all of us the mercy of God!

The 1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy The Sunday of Orthodoxy originally marked the specific event in 843 of the restoration of icons for liturgical use in churches. More generally, it is a celebration of the theology of icons (aka, holy images). We believe it is possible to make icons of Jesus Christ because He truly became a man for our sake!

The 2nd Sunday of Great Lent: Gregory Palamas

Gregory Palamas was a champion of “hesychasm,” which means quietness or stillness. Against those who thought of God as ultimately inaccessible to man, Saint Gregory defended the belief that one can truly come to know God, in a real sense, through prayer and contemplation.

The 3rd Sunday of Great Lent: the Veneration of the Cross

On the middle Sunday of Great Lent, we remember that the journey of Lent is all about denying ourselves, taking up our Cross, and following Christ. Historically, for many Christians, this entailed the veneration of the shards of the True Cross, which were kept in many great cathedrals in big cities around the world (and still are in some places today).

The 4th Sunday of Great Lent: John of the Ladder (“Climacus”)

Saint John was a 7th century Abbot at the monastery on Mount Sinai. He wrote a famous book called “The Ladder”, which walks the reader through the steps of the monastic experience of growth in the struggle against sin.

The 5th Sunday of Great Lent: Remembrance of Mary of Egypt

Mary of Egypt is perhaps the best example of repentance. Being engulfed by sinful living since childhood, she had an encounter with God that brought her to incredible change, revealing to all of us that change is always possible, because God always desires it for us!

