

## St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church

1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246

*"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"*

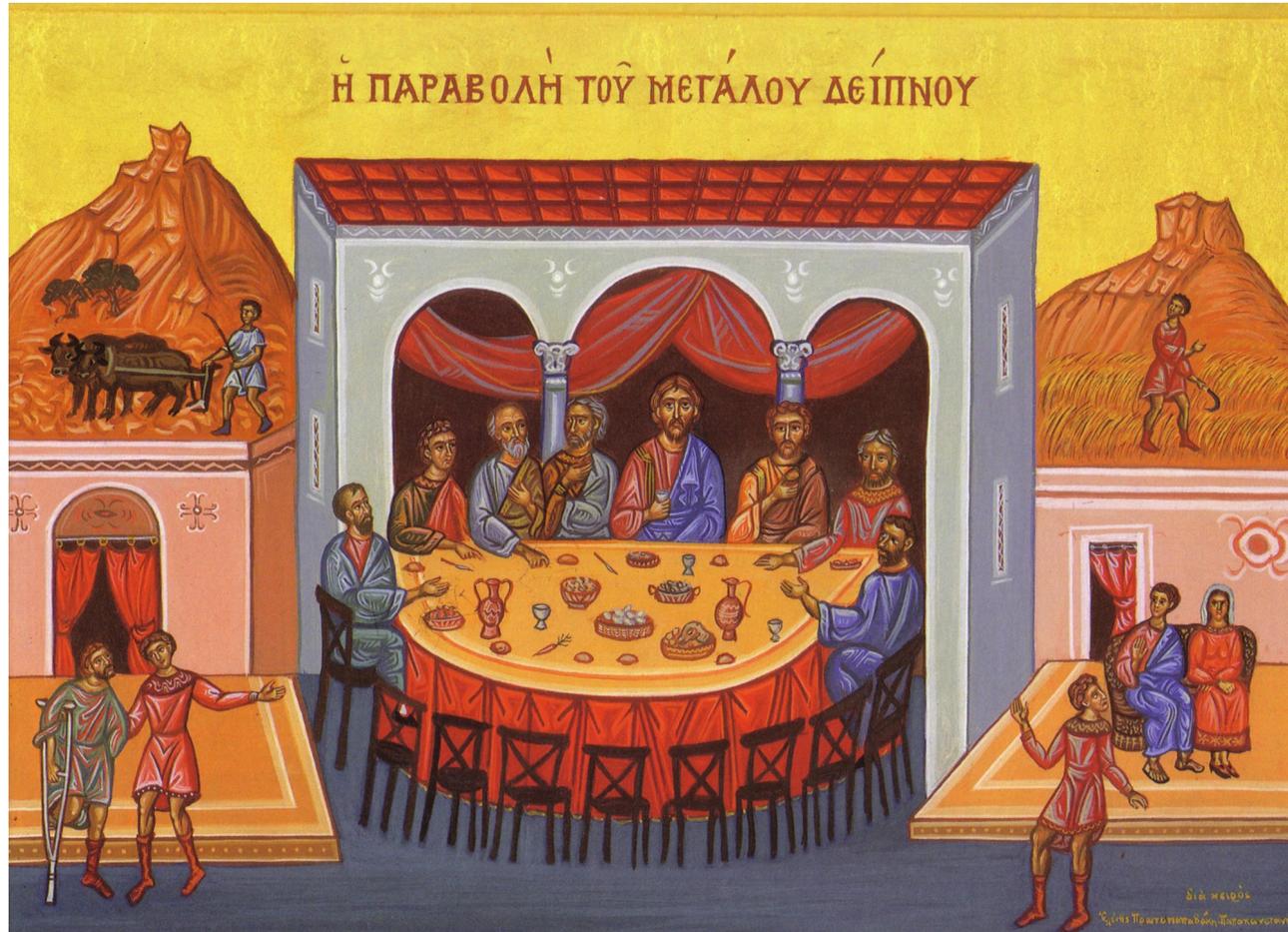
Rectory and Office: (414) 342-1543

The Rt. Rev. Paul G. Frechette, Pastor

Website: [byzantinemilwaukee.com](http://byzantinemilwaukee.com)

Facebook: [fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee](https://www.facebook.com/ByzantineMilwaukee)

***December 13, 2020 — Sunday of the Ancestors of Christ***



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast (Luke 14:16-24)*

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### **Divine Liturgy**

*A recording will be made available sometime on Sunday on the parish's Facebook page: [facebook.-com/pg/ByzantineMilwaukee/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/ByzantineMilwaukee/videos/). An account is not needed.*

**Intention:** Happy and eternal repose of the soul of JOHN Herro (req. by Kathy Tomaz)

#### **Troparia**

1. **Resurrection (Tone 3):** Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad! For the Lord has done a wondrous deed by his arm! He has crushed Death by his death becoming the first to rise from the dead. He has delivered us from the mouth of Hades and bestowed great mercy upon the world.
2. **Of the Fathers:** Through faith, You have justified Your Ancestors, O Christ our God, and through them You have espoused in advance the Church set apart from the Gentiles. The saints rejoice in glory because, from the seed of these Ancestors, has come forth the glorious fruit, who gave You birth without seed. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls
4. **St. George:** O Great among the saints and glorious martyr, George, since you are a deliverer of captives, a doctor for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, intercede for us to Christ God, that he may save our souls!
5. **Kontakion of the Preparation of the Nativity:** Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word who is, in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded: with the angles and the shepherds, glorify Him who chose to be seen as a new-born Babe, while remaining God in all eternity.

**Prokimenon:** Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy praise and glorious forever.

*Stichon:* For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

**Epistle:** Col 3: 4-11

Brethren, when Christ, our life, appears, then you too shall appear in glory. Put to death whatever in your members is of the earth: immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, covetousness, which is a form of idol-worship. Because of these passions, God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience and you yourselves once walked in them when they were your (way of) life. But now, you too put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old man with his deeds and put on the new, one that is being renewed toward perfect knowledge according to his creator's image (Cf. Gn. 1:26). Here there is no Gentile and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no Barbarian and Scythian, no slave and free-man, but Christ is all things, and in all.

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**Alleluia:** Moses and Aaron were among His priests and Samuel among those who called upon His name.

*Stichon:* The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

**Gospel:** The Great Banquet, Lk 14:16-24

The Lord told this parable, "A certain man gave a great supper, and he invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to tell those invited to come, for everything is now ready. And they all with one accord began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have bought a farm, and I must go out and see it; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am on my way to try them; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' And the servant returned, and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant. 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the crippled, and the lame, and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Sir, your order has been carried out, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those who were invited shall taste of my supper.' For many are called but few are chosen."

### **2021 Calendars Available**

Follow along with the readings, and feasts and fasts, of the year. The 2021 eparchial calendars are now available on the back tables. The theme is ministry.

### **Stewardship**

Last week: stole offerings=\$120; donations=\$1370; ordinary collections=\$812. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance): \$14,366.57.

There is a link to donate via PayPal on our website: [byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate](https://byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate).

### *The Bishop's Appeal*

As we travel with the Virgin to Bethlehem where she will give birth to the Only-Begotten Son of God—let us not forget our Melkite Catholic Church by which Christ comes to our families and loved ones. **Please give an end-of-year, tax-deductible gift to the Melkite Church** in America and help our Church in countless ways. Help produce SOPHIA magazine, assist in the faith education of our young people, support the training of new priests and deacons, expand our missions and start new ones, give support to our elderly priests. Please give generously so these vital works can continue and grow. May God bless you for your generosity.

**Remember the Melkite Church in Your Will:** Give a lasting gift for future generations of Melkites and help to ensure that our beautiful Melkite heritage continues to grow and

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flourish for your children's children. Simply add the following statement to your last will and testament: *I hereby bequeath to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton the following sum: \$\_\_\_\_\_.* Contact Bishop NICHOLAS personally to inform him of your generous bequest: 3 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

Donate by responding to the mailing, using an envelope from the back tables or online: <https://melkite.org/products-page/donation/bishops-appeal>

### *Clothing/Diaper Drive and Fundraiser*

There will be a collection for gently used or new baby (newborn–24 months) winter wear for the Women's Center of Milwaukee (2051 W. Wisconsin Ave.) during Nativity Fast until December 21<sup>st</sup>. Cash donations, clothing and diapers will be brought to the Women's Center sometime on or around December 21<sup>st</sup>. Donation envelopes and information are available on the back tables; items may be placed in the marked box by the bishop's throne. Talk to Jerry Nora with any questions [jerry.nora@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.nora@gmail.com).

### **Prayer List**

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Alice Herro\*, Nick Langenfeld, Barb & Bruce Moden (sister- and brother- in-law of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), Bob Peterson, Joe Radanovich, the Rebholz family, Eva Saseen (Theresa and Janelle Herro's niece), Jan Taylor, Kathy Tomaz, John Zambo and Kathy Zambo. For those we have been asked to pray for: Justin & Krysten Hager (Jan Taylor).

\* Please particularly remember Alice Herro who has been having health issues recently.

### **Schedule for This Week**

**Saturday:** *Saturday before the Nativity*

**Sunday:** *Sunday before the Nativity*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Solanus Roxas (12/15). May God grant you many years!

### **Schedule for the Nativity**

The schedule for the Nativity will be made available by next Sunday.. It is still undecided whether there will be services on the eve, the morning or both. If you have a preference, please contact Fr. Paul.

### **City Mask Ordinance**

It is our understanding that the city requires us to require wearing of masks when in the church building by anyone at least three-years old. Please help us by wearing one, taking it off, temporarily, for receiving communion. According to the Milwaukee Health Department, the best way to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 is to avoid being exposed to the virus and to avoid exposing other people. You can find more information about the ordinance in the form of an FAQ from the health department:

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[city.milwaukee.gov/Coronavirus/Prevention](http://city.milwaukee.gov/Coronavirus/Prevention)

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## The Great Feast

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets — the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King — that is God — has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God — will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?

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