

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
Facebook: fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee

December 12, 2021 — Sunday of the Forefathers



Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast

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Divine Liturgy

Livestreams and recordings of services on the parish's Facebook page: facebook.com/pg/ByzantineMilwaukee/videos/. An account is not needed.

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4): The women disciples of the Lord, having learned from the angel the joyful announcement of the resurrection, and having rejected the ancestral sentence, proudly told the apostles: "Death is despoiled. Christ God is risen, bestowing to the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Forefathers: 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.

Prokimenon: Let the Saints triumph in glory and let them sing for joy on their couches.

Stichon: Sing to the Lord and new song: his praise in the assembly of the saints.

Apostolic Reading: Eph. 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light consists in all goodness and justice and truth), make sure of what is well pleasing to God, and have nothing to do with the fruitless works of darkness, but rather expose them; for of the things they do in secret people are ashamed even

Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls

Troparion of 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!

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.

to speak. But everything that is exposed is made manifest by the light: for all that is manifest is light. Hence it is said: "Awake, sleeper, and arise from among the dead, and Christ will enlighten you."

See to it, therefore, brethren, that you walk with care, not as the unwise, but as the

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wise, redeeming the moment, for the days are evil. Be not imprudent, then, but understand what is the Lord's will. And be not drunk with wine, for in such is revelry, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord.

Alleluia: Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with holiness, and your saintly ones shall shout for joy.

Stichon: For the Lord has elected Sion, he has chosen it for his dwelling.

Gospel: Parable of the Great Feast, Lk 14:16-24; Mt.22:14

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 yokes 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."

Stewardship

Last week: ordinary collections=\$901. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated November 14, 2021): \$31,451

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: [byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate](https://www.byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate). Use your bank's **online billpay** (payee information): St. George's Syrian Congregation · 1617 W State St · Milwaukee, WI 53233-1246; phone: (414) 342-1543; email: info@byzantinemilwaukee.com.

Collection for the Women's Center

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.) from November 21st through the Nativity. Donation envelopes, baby bottles to fill with loose change and information are available on the back tables; items may be placed in the marked box by the bishop's throne. Particular items needed include:

- diapers size newborn and 6
- boppy pillows
- wipes
- new bottles

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- car seats
- pack n plays
- sleepers size 0–24 months
- outfits size 0–24 months
- baby wash
- baby lotion

Talk to Jerry Nora with any questions: jerry.nora@gmail.com.

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Alice Herro*, Nick Langenfeld, Barb Moden (sister 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

Coming Up: Services for the Nativity

December 24th, 6pm Vespers and Divine Liturgy

December 25th, 10:30am Divine Liturgy

Practical Suggestions for Fasting

Fasting, like prayer, is something we can grow into. If you are not accustomed to fasting, it can be helpful to begin at one level and deepen your practice as you grow in your life in Christ. The following plan might be helpful.

Beginning level: On Wednesdays and Fridays do not eat any meat and offer a brief prayer several times throughout the day. During the fasting seasons of Great Lent and the Dormition Fast, attend at least one Lenten Service each week. Before the Presanctified Liturgy during Great Lent, do not eat anything for several hours.

A deeper level: In addition to the above, on fast days, do not eat anything before noon and no meat thereafter. Keep additional fast days during the fasting seasons. During Great Lent, in addition to avoiding meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, also avoid dairy products. Attend two Lenten Services weekly and perform some act of charity each day.

A further level: In addition to the above, keep each day in the fasting seasons as a fast day. Attend all the Divine Services during the fasting seasons. Replace entertainments such as TV, movies, shopping, etc. with prayer, spiritual reading and acts of charity.

Winter Weather

Please take care with winter weather. Even if services are not canceled, only come if it is safe for you to travel.

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COVID-19

According to the Milwaukee Health Department, the best way to stop the community spread of COVID-19 is to take preventative action to protect yourself and others:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can (city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax). Vaccines are safe and readily available at walk-in clinics throughout the community for anyone over the age of 12 years old.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others, and stay at least 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and improve ventilation whenever possible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

More information is available from the health department: city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus

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 Sav-

ior 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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