



**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://fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee)

**March 27, 2022 — Sunday of our Father John Climacus**



*Icon of Saint John Climacus*

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### **Divine Liturgy**

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

**Intention:** Happy and eternal repose of the soul of BARAKET Herro (req. by Kathy and John Nahas)

### **Hymns**

**Troparion of the 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.

**Troparion of St. John Climacus:** Your abundant tears made the wilderness to sprout and bloom, and your deep sighs of love made your labors fruitful a hundred-fold; you became a shining star showering miracles upon the world. Holy Father John, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

**Troparion of St. George:** 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, <sup>intede</sup> for us to Christ God, that he may save our souls!

**Kontakion of the Annunciation:** Triumphant leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity, we offer you our thanks. We are your people O mother of God! So as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

**Hirmos:** In you, O full of grace, all creation exults, the hierarchy of angels together with the race of men: in you, sanctified Temple, spiritual Paradise, Glory of virgins of whom God took flesh from whom our God who exists before the world, became a child! For He has made your womb his throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. In you, O Woman full of grace, all creation exults: glory to you!

**Prokimenon:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High!

**Stichon:** To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

**Apostolic Reading:** Hebrews 6: 13-20

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Brethren, when God made his promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you, and will surely multiply you Gn.22: 14)." And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained the promise. For men swear by one greater than themselves, and an oath given as a guarantee is the final settlement of all their disagreements. Hence God, meaning to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the

firmness of his will interposed an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to deceive, we may have the strongest comfort — we who have sought refuge in holding fast the hope set before us. This hope we have as a sure and firm anchor of the soul, reaching even behind the veil where our forerunner Jesus has entered for us, as he became a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Alleluia:** The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

*Stichon:* Give to the Lord. You sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.

**Gospel:** "I have brought you my son possessed..." Mk 9:17-31

At that time one of the crowd came to Jesus and bowed to him saying: "Master, I have brought to you my son, who has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." And he, answering him, said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought him to him; and the spirit, when it saw Jesus, immediately threw the boy in convulsions, and he fell down on the ground and rolled about foaming at the mouth. So he asked his father, "How long is it since this has come upon him?" And he said, "From his infancy. Oftentimes, it has thrown him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if you can do anything have compassion on us and help us." But Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the man of faith." At once the father of the boy cried

out and said with tears, "I do believe; help my unbelief." Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, go out of him and enter him no more." And crying out and violently convulsing him, it went out of him, and he became like one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him and he stood up. And when he had come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind can be cast out in no way except by prayer and fasting." And leaving that place, they were passing through Galilee, and he did not wish anyone to know it. For he was teaching his disciples, and saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and having been killed, he will rise again on the third day."

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### Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$400.00; candles=\$10.00; ordinary collections=\$386.00. Donations last month via PayPal: \$420.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated March 12, 2022): \$38,361

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: [byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate](https://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](mailto:info@byzantinemilwaukee.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) and Carl Wallenmeyer (Jan Taylor).

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

### Schedule for This Week

**Wednesday:** 6pm Great Compline

**Thursday:** *Thursday of Repentance*

**Saturday:** *Saturday of the Akathist Hymn*

**Sunday:** *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday** to Monica Zambo (3/27). May God grant you many years!

### Coming Up

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday

Pancake Breakfast

April 17<sup>th</sup>: Holy Resurrection

### 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](https://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.

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- 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](https://www.city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus)

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### The Ladder of Divine Ascent

Saint John Climacus (which means, of the ladder) was a sixth-century saint who entered the Monastery of Saint Catherine at Mount Sinai at age sixteen and dedicated his life to God. Over the course of his years at the monastery he developed a reputation for wisdom, self discipline and an intense desire to grow in holiness.

He lived for seventy years at the monastery and eventually became hegumen (abbot). Although Saint John loved his monastery, he preferred solitude and spent many years in the wilderness living the life of a hermit. Even so, he was sought out by many pilgrims who traveled to Mount Sinai in search of this hermit saint and his wisdom.

Saint John is perhaps best known for his authorship of a book entitled *The Ladder of*

*Divine Ascent*. Even today, this thirty-chapter book is considered to be one of the most significant spiritual writings of Christian literature. Each of the thirty chapters represents one rung on a symbolic spiritual ladder of perfection leading from earth up to heaven. Thus, each chapter presents the reader with another spiritual exercise through which the highest point of earthly perfection may be reached before being consummated in heaven.

When he died, it was said of him that “his body ascended the heights of Mount Sinai, but his soul ascended the heights of heaven.” By his example and through his prayers, may our sights remain high and heavenward as we continue on our Lenten journey.

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