

St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church

1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246

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

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December 27, 2020 — Sunday after the Nativity



Icon of the Flight into Egypt—Matthew 2:13-23

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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: Health, peace and salvation of CARL and SUE Wallenmeyer (req. by Jan Taylor)

Troparia

1. **Resurrection (Tone 5):** Let us O Faithful, praise and worship the Word co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He has willed to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.
2. **Of the Nativity:** Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it, those who had been star-worshippers learned through a star to worship You, O Sun of Justice, and to recognize in You the One who rises and who comes from on high. O Lord glory to You!
3. **Joseph:** O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of Christ our God, the great miracles you have witnessed: you have seen the Virgin with child, given praise with the shepherds, adored with the wise men, and an angel of the Lord has appeared to you. Intercede with Christ God that He may save our Souls
4. **Kontakion of the Nativity:** Today the Virgin gives birth to the One who surpasses all essences, and the earth offers a cave to God, the Inaccessible One. Angels sing his glory together with the shepherd: for to us is born a Child, God in all eternity.

Prokimenon: You make spirits your messengers and flaming fire your attendants.

Stichon: Bless the Lord, O my Soul! May all that is in me bless his holy name.

Epistle: Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5; 47-60

In those days Stephen, full of grace and power, was working great wonders and miracles among the people. But some of the members from the synagogue called "of the Freedmen" and from that of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and from that of Cilicia and Asia rose up to challenge Stephen, and they were unable to withstand the wisdom of the Spirit that was speaking.

Then they bribed men to say, "We have heard him make blasphemous statements against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the

scribes, and throwing themselves upon him, they seized him and brought him before the Sanhedrin. And they produced false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases uttering blasphemous things against this holy place and against the Law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the tradition Moses handed down to us." And all who were seated in the Sanhedrin stared at him, and saw his face as if it were that of an angel. (7:) And the chief priest asked, "is this true?" Then he said, "Brethren and fa-

thers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran, and said to him, 'Leave your country and your family, and come to the land I will show you.' (Gn. 12:1) Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father's death, he [God] moved him to this land where you now live, and he gave him no property in it, nor even a place to set his foot. (7:47) "But Solomon built him a house. Yet, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, according to the prophet's saying, 'The heaven is my throne, and what earth a footstool for my feet. What house will you build me, says the Lord, or what shall be the place of my repose? Did not my hand make all this?' (Is. 66: 1)

"Hard-headed and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted? And they killed those

Alleluia: Give praise to the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights.

Stichon: Praise him, all you his angels, praise him, all you his powers.

Gospel: Flight to Egypt, Mt 2:13-23

When the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph, saying, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell thee. For Herod will seek the child to destroy him." So he arose, and took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod; that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Then Herod, see-

who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you have now become the betrayers and the murderers, you who received the Law as angelic commands—and did not keep it!"

On Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and gnashed their teeth at him. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looking up to heaven and had a vision of God's Glory and Jesus standing at God's right hand, and he said, "Look, I see the heavens opening and the Son of Man standing at God's right hand." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed upon him all together, and throwing him out of the city, they stoned him. And the witnesses left their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. And while they were stoning Stephen, he prayed aloud and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" And falling on his knees, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin!" And as he said these words, he fell asleep.

ing that he had been tricked by the Magi, was exceedingly angry; and he sent and slew all the boys in Bethlehem and all its neighborhood who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had carefully ascertained from the Magi. Then was fulfilled what was spoken through Jeremias the prophet, "A voice was heard in Rama, weeping and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be comforted, because they are no more." But when Herod was dead, be-

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hold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, and take the child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” So he arose and took the child and his mother, and went into the land of Israel. But hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Judea

in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there; and being warned in a dream he withdrew into the region of Galilee. And he went and settled in a town called Nazareth; that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

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: donations=\$375; candles=\$2; ordinary collections=\$359. 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://www.byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate).

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

- Thursday:** *Leavetaking of the Nativity*
- Friday:** *Circumcision of Our Lord*
- Saturday:** *Saturday before the Theophany*
- Sunday:** *Sunday before the Theophany*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Maya Audi (12/30) and Shelley Olson Makhlouf (12/31). May God grant you many years!

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

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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:

city.milwaukee.gov/Coronavirus/Prevention

The Flight into Egypt of the Holy Family

Egypt is situated to the southwest of Judea, and is distant from Bethlehem perhaps about 60 miles. It was at this time a Roman province. There were many Jews there, who had a temple and synagogues (see the notes at Isaiah 19:18), and Joseph, therefore, would be among his own countrymen, and yet beyond the reach of Herod.

The jurisdiction of Herod extended only to the River Sihon, or “river of Egypt,” and, of course, beyond that Joseph was safe from his designs. For a description

of Egypt, see the notes at Isaiah 19. It is remarkable that this is the only time in which our Saviour was out of Palestine, and that this was in the land where the children of Israel had suffered so much and so long under the oppression of the Egyptian kings. The very land which was the land of bondage and groaning for the Jews, became now the land of refuge and safety for the new-born King of Judea.

God can overturn nations and kingdoms, so that those whom he loves shall be safe anywhere.

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