

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

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January 3, 2021 — Sunday before the Theophany



Icon of the Theophany of Our Lord--January 6th

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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 BARB and BRUCE Moden (req. by Jan Taylor)

Troparia

- 1. Resurrection (Tone 6):** The angelic powers appeared at your tomb, and the guards became as dead men, and Mary stood by the Sepulcher seeking your spotless Body. You despoiled Hades and yet were not tempted by it, You met the Virgin O Bestower of Life. O Lord who rose from the dead glory to you.
- 2. Of the Preparation:** Make ready Zebulon and prepare Naphtali and you Jordan River, stop your flow and receive with a thrill of joy the Master coming to be baptized. Adam, rejoice with the first Mother, Eve, and hide not as you did of old in paradise: for Christ at the sight of your nakedness has come forth to clothe you with the robe of innocence. Indeed, Christ has come forth to renew the whole creation.
- 3. 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!
- 4. Kontakion of the Preparation:** Today the Lord has appeared in the waters of the Jordan River. He has cried out to John, saying: "Be not dismayed at having to baptize Me: for I have indeed come to save Adam, the first to be created."

Prokimenon: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Stichon: To you, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

Epistle: 2 Tim 4:5-8

My son Timothy be watchful in all things, bear with tribulation patiently, work as a preacher of the Good News, fulfill your ministry. As for me, I am already being poured out in sacrifice, and the time of my deliverance is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have completed the course, I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give to me on that day: yet not to me only, but also to those who love his coming.

Alleluia: May God have mercy on us and bless us.

Stichon: May he let his face shine upon us and have mercy on us.

Gospel: The Ministry of John, Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send my messenger before thee, who shall prepare thy way, the voice of one crying in the desert, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight his paths', there came John in the desert, baptizing and preaching a baptism

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of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea went out to him, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather girdle about his loins, and he ate locusts

and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "One mightier than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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.

Tax Statements

Tax statements for 2020 donations will be sent by the end of the month. Please contact Benjamin Neumann if you have any questions or if you would prefer to receive it by email.

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

Tuesday: *Paramony of the Theophany (Strict Fast)*

Wednesday: *THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD*

6pm Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water

(Remember to bring a water container and to check the weather forecast.

Liturgy intention: Happy and eternal repose of the soul of EDWARD

Batayias, req. by Jan Taylor)

Thursday: *Synaxis of the Forerunner John the Baptist*

Saturday: *Saturday after the Theophany*

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Sunday: *Sunday after the Theophany*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Winter Weather

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

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:

city.milwaukee.gov/Coronavirus/Prevention

Theophany of the Lord

Troparia

- 1 Of the Feast:** At your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to you by calling You his Beloved Son, and the spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, glory to You.
- 2 Hypacoi of the Feast:** When You enlightened all things at the time of your manifestation, the sea of unbelief ebbed away and the Jordan River reversed its course, flowing uphill and carrying us to heaven. Through the prayers of your Mother, O Christ God, keep us in the loftiness of your divine commands and save us.
- 3 Kontakion of the Feast:** Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

Prokimenon: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and he has appeared to us.

Stichon: Sing to the lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

My son Titus, the grace of God our Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us, in order that, rejecting ungodliness and worldly lust, we may live temperately and justly and piously in this world; looking for the blessed hope and glorious coming of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and cleanse for himself an acceptable people, pursuing good works. But when the goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared,

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then not by reason of good works that we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the path of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he has abundantly poured upon us though Jesus Christ our Savior, in order that, justified by his grace, we may be heirs in the hope of life everlasting.

Alleluia: Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.

Stichon: The Lord's voice is over the waters; the God of glory has thundered, the Lord, over the vast waters.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to John, at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. But John was reluctant, and said, "It is I who ought to be baptized by you, and you come to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Let it be so now, for this is how what is right must be fulfilled." Then he let him do it. And when Jesus had been baptized, he immediately came up from the water. And behold, the heavens were opened to him. And he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming upon him. And behold, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Celebrating Theophany Every Day

'The Feast of Christ's Theophany (or Epiphany) is celebrated with great solemnity in the Byzantine Church. The word *theophany* means a divine manifestation or revealing.

Jesus of Nazareth—a carpenter—was revealed on the banks of the Jordan River to be the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah the "Christ." A voice came from the heavens that said, "This is My beloved Son, My favor rests on Him." (Matthew 3: 17)

Let us imagine ourselves standing on the banks of the River Jordan. We are witnessing the baptism of Jesus at the hands of Saint John the Baptist and the revelation of Jesus as God in the flesh. What a privilege that would have been!

Yet, God is revealed to us each and every day. God manifests Himself to us not just on the banks of the River Jordan but at the bus stop, the grocery store, and in the work place. His image is within each of us. He is in our co-workers, our spouses, our children even in our enemies.

The real challenge of Christian discipleship is to endeavor to see the image of Christ in all people and to allow them to see that same Godly image within us. The celebration of the Great Feast of Theophany is not a one-day occasion commemorating an event that took place some two thousand years ago. Rather, it is living, day-to-day, the conviction that God is within each human being, and that each human being ought to be treated as though he or she is the living image of Christ.

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