

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 31, 2021 — Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Icon of the Prodigal Son

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Divine Liturgy

WINTER STORM: Fr. Paul will evaluate conditions around 7am. Please check email and the parish Facebook page to see whether Liturgy is on or off.

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 Stevener (req. by Fr. Philaret)

Troparia

1. **Resurrection (Tone 2):** When you descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of your Divinity, and when you raised the dead from under the ground, all the Powers of heaven cried out: O Christ our God, the giver of life, glory to you.
2. **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!
3. **Kontakion of the Prodigal Son:** When in my wretchedness I ran away from your fatherly love, I squandered in wickedness the riches You had given me. And so now, like the Prodigal Son, I cry out to You: "I have sinned in your sight, O Merciful Father: receive me now that I repent and make me as one of your hired servants."

Prokimenon: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Stichon: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Epistle: Cor 6:12-20

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are fitting. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of anyone. Food is for the belly, and the belly for food, but God will destroy both the one and the other. Now, the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. For God has raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of a prostitute? By no means! Or

do you not know that one who cleaves to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For the two, it is said, shall be one flesh (Gn.2: 24). But he who cleaves to the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee immorality. Every sin a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your members are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and that you are not your own? For you have been bought at a great price. Glorify God therefore in your body and in your soul which both are God's.

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Alleluia: O God, you granted me retribution and make peoples subject to me and saved me from my raging enemies.

Stichon: Therefore, I will proclaim you, O Lord, among the nations, and I will sing praise to your name.

Gospel: Luke 15:11- 32

The Lord told this parable: "A man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his possessions between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered up all his wealth and traveled to a far country; and there he squandered his fortune in loose living. And after he had spent all, there came a severe famine over that country, and he began to suffer from it. And he went and joined one of the local landowners, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. And he longed to fill himself with the pods the pigs were eating, but no one offered to give them to him. But when he had come to his senses, he said, 'How many hired men in my father's house have bread in abundance, while I am perishing with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" And he got up and went to his father. But while he was yet a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion and ran and fell upon his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, I am no longer worthy to be called your

son.' But the Father said to his servants, 'Fetch quickly the best robe and put it on him, and give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet; and bring out the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; because this my son was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came close to the house, he heard music and dancing. And calling one of the servants he asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has got him back safe.' But he was angered and would not go in. His father, therefore, came out and began to beg him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look, these many years I have been serving you, and have never disobeyed any of your orders; and yet, you have never given me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours comes, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes; you have killed for him the fattened calf!' But he said to him, 'Son you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours; but we were bound to make merry and rejoice, for this your brother was dead, and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

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.

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Stewardship

Last week: candles=\$7; ordinary collections=\$124
Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance): \$16,796.08.

There is a link to donate via PayPal on our website: byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate.

Tax Statements

Tax statements for 2020 donations were mailed out this last week. Please contact Benjamin Neumann if you have any questions or if you would prefer to receive a copy via email.

Bishop's Appeal

As of December 31, 2020, \$2,950 had been received against the parish's \$6,000 goal for the Bishop's Appeal, helping to provide financial support to the Melkite Church in the United States. Last year, \$4,200 was collected by the parish. Donate by responding to the mailing, using an envelope from the back tables or online <https://melkite.org/products-page/donation/bishops-appeal>; the appeal will close on January 31, 2021.

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

Monday: *Preparation for the Encounter*
Tuesday: *Encounter of Our Lord in the Temple*
Friday: *Leave-taking of the Encounter*
Saturday: *Saturday of the Dead*
Sunday: *Meatfare Sunday*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to George Baho (2/3). May God grant you many years!

Coming Up

Meatfare:	February 7 th	Palm Sunday:	March 28 th
Cheesefare:	February 14 th	Holy Resurrection:	April 4 th

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Winter Weather

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

THIS SUNDAY: Fr. Paul will evaluate conditions around 7am. Please check email and the parish Facebook page to see whether Liturgy is on or off.

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

Despite His Sin, the Spirit Was Still with the Son

It was the same with the younger son who squandered his property and wasted his father's property living among prostitutes. Despite all this, he did not lose his honorable title of son. In the land of captivity, having rejected his father, he rather remembered, "How many hired servants are at this moment in my father's house who have more than enough bread, but here am I perishing from hunger."

He was still a sinner. He had sinned to such an extent that he had thrown to the winds with his misdeeds the entire inheritance he had received from his father. He still called God his father. This indicates that the grace of the Spirit, which authorizes him to call God Father, did not depart from him.

We are unable to employ this term of address and call God Father, except through the authority of the Holy Spirit who is within us. It is well known that those who have not yet become God's children by the holy rebirth of baptism are not authorized to use this term. "They are not permitted to say, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." "The apparent reason for this is that the Holy Spirit is not yet within them to give them this authorization. It is well known to all that, when they approach the holy mysteries, the newly baptized all repeat this prayer with confidence in accordance with the tradition handed down by our Lord, and then they proceed to the holy mysteries.

Philoxenus of Hterapolis

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