

Okay.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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June 27, 2021 — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

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Divine Liturgy

Livestreams and recordings of services 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 Fr. GRAHAM Golden, O.Praem (req. by Benjamin Neumann; 40-day memorial)

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4): The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the Angels the joyful news of the resurrection and casting away the ancestral sentence, they announced with pride to the Apostles Death is vanquished, Christ God is risen! and has bestowed great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of St. George: O Great among the saints and glorious martyr, George, since you are a deliverer of captives, a doc-

Prokimenon: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Stichon: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

Apostolic Reading: Rom 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God in their behalf is for salvation. For I bear witness to them that they have zeal for God, but a zeal that is not informed. For ignorant of God's holiness and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to the sanctification offered by God. For Christ is the consummation of the Law in terms of justification for everyone who believes.

For Moses has written that the man who brings about that justification which is of the Law shall live by it. (Lv.18: 5) But the justification which is of faith says, Do not

ask in your heart, who shall go up to heaven that is, -- to bring down Christ. Or, Who will descend into the abyss (Dt.30: 12) that is, to bring up Christ from the dead? But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. (Dt.30: 14) that is, the word of faith which we preach. For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For a man believes with the heart and attains justification, but he professes his faith with his mouth and attains salvation.

Kontakion: O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

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Alleluia: String your bow, go forth, reign for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness, and your right hand shall lead you wonderfully.

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Stichon: You loved righteousness and hated iniquity: therefore God, your God, anointed you with the oil of joy above your companions.

Gospel: Healing of 2 Demoniacs, Mt 8:28-9:1

At that time as Jesus reached the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two men who were possessed, coming from the tombs, so exceedingly fierce that no one could pass by that way. And behold, they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with you, Jesus Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now at a distance from them there was a herd of many swine, feeding. And the devils kept begging him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go!" And they came out and entered into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed from the top of the cliff into the sea, and perished in the water. But the swineherds fled, and going away into the town, they reported everything, and what had befallen the men possessed by - demons. And behold, all the town came out to meet Jesus; and on seeing him they insisted that he leave their district. And getting into a boat, he crossed over and came into his own town.

Stewardship

Last week: ordinary collections=\$623. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance): \$24,539.72.

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: 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.

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). For those who have died: Ann Rebholz.

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

Schedule for This Week

Tuesday: *Apostles Peter and Paul*

Wednesday: *Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles*

Thursday: *Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian*

Friday: *Deposition of the Mantle of the Mother of God at Blachernae*

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Sunday: *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

COVID-19

According to the Milwaukee Health Department, the best way to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 is to take preventive actions 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.
- If you are unvaccinated, 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 do not 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

Asking Jesus to Leave

Of all the miracle stories of Jesus, the one recorded in today's Gospel reading stands out as unique. In most other occasions when Jesus healed or cured, the result was that more people came and asked to be cured. However, in the case of Jesus expelling demons from the man in the Gadarene territory, the result was that the whole village came out and asked Jesus to leave that area! (Matthew 8:34)

Ingratitude is certainly not the reaction we would expect the townsfolk to have since a member of their community restored to his right mind by the command of Jesus. Previously, he was prone to fits of madness and the source of his madness was understood to be demonic possession. Je-

sus commanded the demons to leave the man and restored the man to his right mind. Had this been the end

of the story, perhaps the people would have been filled with gratitude. However, Jesus sent the demons into a herd of swine, which then jumped over a cliff and drowned.

Why did Jesus send the demons into the swine? According to Jewish law, pork is considered to be an unclean product. Jews were to have no contact with pork. Because of this, the Jews of that town were breaking their own religious law.

By expelling the demons into the swine, Jesus not only healed a man, but also reestablished a forgotten value system in a

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town. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were such ingratitude and asked Him to leave
not ready to receive this lesson. It is no their district.
surprise, then, why they met Jesus with

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