

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

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August 29, 2021 — Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John



Icon of the Beheading of John the Baptist

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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: Past and present members of the Lebanese Ladies Club

Hymns

Troparion of the 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.

Troparion of the Forerunner: The Memory of the just is mentioned with praise. As for you, O Forerunner, the Lord's witness is enough: indeed, you were greater than the prophets since you were found worthy to baptize in the waters the One they could but announce. You have fought for the sake of truth and proclaimed to those in Hades that God who appeared in the flesh has taken away the sins of the

world and bestowed his great mercy upon us.

Troparion of 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!

Kontakion: of the Nativity of the Theotokos Through your holy birth, O Immaculate One, Joachim and Anne were delivered from the shame of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. Your people, redeemed from the debt of their sins, cry out to you to honor your birth: "the barren one gives birth to the Mother of God the Sustainer of our life!"

Prokimenon: The just shall rejoice in the Lord and place his hope in him. All those with an upright heart shall be praised.

Stichon: O God, hear my voice when I pray to you; save my life from the dreadful enemy.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 13:25-33

In those days, when John was coming to the end of his career, he would say, "I am not the one you suppose me to be; but see, there comes one after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie. Brethren, children of the race of Abraham, and all among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. For the inhabitants of Jerusalem and its

rulers, not knowing him nor the sayings of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by sentencing him; and though they found no grounds for putting him to death, they asked Pilate's permission to kill him. And when they had carried out all that had been written concerning him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

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But God raised him from the dead; and he was seen during many days by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem; and they were now witnesses for him to the people. So we now bring you the Good News that the promise made to our fathers, God has fulfilled for our children, by raising up Jesus.”

Alleluia: The just shall bloom like the palm tree; he shall grow like the cedar of Lebanon.

Stichon: Those who are planted in the Lord’s house shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Gospel: Parable of the Wedding Feast, Mt. 22:2-14

The Lord told this parable: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who made a marriage feast for his son. And he sent his servants to call in those invited to the marriage feast, but they would not come. Again he sent out other servants saying: ‘Tell those who are invited, behold. I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and fatlings are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it, and went off, one to his own farm and another to his business; and the rest laid hold of his servants treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard of it, he was angry; and he sent his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The marriage feast indeed is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy; go therefore to the crossroads, and invite to the marriage feast whomever you shall find.’ And his servants went out into the roads and gathered all those they found, both good and bad; and the marriage feast was filled with guests. Now the king went in to see the guests, and he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, take hold of him, and throw him out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Stewardship

Last week: candles=\$1; donations=\$350; stole offerings=\$40; ordinary collections=\$520. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance): \$30,230.

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

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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 who have died: Bruce Moden (brother-in-law of Jan Taylor) 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: *Deposition of the Cincture of the Theotokos in Calco-prateia*

Wednesday: *Church New Year; Simeon Stylites*

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



Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Michel Aboul-Zelof (8/26). May God grant you many years!

Upcoming Events

September 25th (10am–5pm) and 26th (12:15pm–5pm) **Doors Open Milwaukee** at St. George, free

Help give tour or simply greet visitors for as long as you're able. Even long-time parishioners might learn something by listening in on a tour or by taking a closer look of what is in the church! Contact Benjamin Neumann for more information.

September 26th, 2019, noon–2:00pm, **Middle Eastern Dinner**, \$15.00 standard dinner

Our tempting menu includes: kafta (beef, parsley, onion, spices) riz bi Djaaj (chicken, rice, spices), foul moudammas (fava beans, parsley, onion, garlic, lemon), hummus and middle-eastern salad.

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.

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- 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

The Prophet and Forerunner

Now although the principle stands that “We all offend in many ways” (James 3:2), which of us dare to say that blessed John sinned in act or word or dress or food, when the gospel history praises the harshness of his clothing and the frugality of his meals; when everything he said either rendered testimony to the truth or refuted those who spoke against him; when even those who did not like him held in veneration his works of justice? What place could there have been in his inmost heart for sin, when the coming of the Holy Spirit consecrated him even before his birth, when not even in comparison with the ordinary way of human life could he be turned aside from the path of virtue, who from his boyhood on led an entirely solitary life?

And yet a man of this sort, one who was so preeminent, reached the end of his

earthly life by shedding his blood after a long period of affliction in chains. He who brought the good news of the freedom of heaven was thrust into chains by wicked people; he who “came to bear testimony to the light” (John 1:8), and who merited to be called “a burning and shining lamp” by the very light which is Christ (John 5:35), was shut up in the darkness of prison; he who was greater than all those born of women (Matt. 11:11; Luke 7:28) was punished by being beheaded at the request of the basest of women; and he to whom it was granted to baptize the world’s Redeemer, to hear the Father’s voice above him, and to see the grace of the Holy Spirit descending upon him, was baptized in his own blood.

Venerable Bede, Homily II.23

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