



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
Facebook: fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee

December 18, 2022 — Sunday before the Nativity



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

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Divine Liturgy

After Liturgy: St. Nicholas Potluck

Intention: Health, peace and salvation of TOM Schmid (req. by Jan Taylor)

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 3):

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad! For the Lord has done a wondrous deed by his arm! He has crushed Death by his death becoming the first to rise from the dead. He has delivered us from the mouth of Hades and bestowed great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of the Preparation: Bethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all; Ephrata, be alert, for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise wherein the divine Fruit was planted – and if we eat of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is coming forth to bring back to life the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

Prokimenon: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Stichon: For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

Apostolic Reading: Heb 11:9-10; 32-40

Brethren, by faith, Abraham lived in the Land of the Promise as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise, for he was looking for the city with fixed founda-

Troparion of the Ancestors of Christ:

Faith can accomplish great things. Through it, the Three Holy Children rejoice in the flames as if they had been in refreshing water, and Daniel in the midst of lions is like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls

Kontakion of the Preparation: Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word who is, in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded: with the angles and the shepherds, glorify Him who chose to be seen as a new-born Babe, while remaining God in all eternity.

tions, of which city the architect and builder is God. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barac, Samson, Jephthe, David and Samuel and the prophets, who by

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faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies.

Women had their dead restored to them though resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and blows, even

Alleluia: O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds You did in their days, in the days of old.

Stichon: The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

Gospel: The Genealogy, Mt 1:1-25

The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brethren. Judah begot Perez and Zarah whose mother was Tamar. Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram. And Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, Nahshon begot Salma. Salma begot Boaz of Rahab. Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, Abijah begot Asa. And Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Azariah. And Azariah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, Ahaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brethren at the time of deportation to

chains and jailings. They were stoned, cut to pieces, put to the question, killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, distressed, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, mountains, caves and holes in the ground.

And none of these, despite the positive witnessing of faith, received what was promised, for God has something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. And Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, Eliakim begot Azor. And Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus, Who is called Christ. So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations. And from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was like this. When Mary His mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was thinking of putting her

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away privately. But while he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the

Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel;" which is interpreted, "God with us." So, Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called His name Jesus.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$866.24; candles=\$1.00; ordinary collections=\$294.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated October 16, 2022): \$37,586.

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.

Bishop's Appeal

The annual Bishop's Appeal is an important way by which our parish fulfills its duty to our Melkite family throughout the U.S. and to our needy brothers and sisters. By contributing to the Appeal, we can respond to the Lord's call in today's Gospel to be a good Samaritan to our Melkite neighbors around the country. It is a holy obligation for every member of our parish respond to his call. If you have not done so already, please send your gift today. Extra appeal slips are available on the back table. If you donate online, be sure to note "St. George, Milwaukee" so that the parish is credited. melkite.org.

Prayer List

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 we have been asked to pray for: Justin & Krysten Hager (Jan Taylor) and Carl Wallenmeyer (Jan Taylor).

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

Schedule for This Week

Saturday: 5pm Vesperal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Friday: *Paramony of the Nativity (Strict Fast)*

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Saturday: *Saturday before the Nativity*

Sunday: *Nativity of Our Lord*

10:30am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

COVID-19

According to the Milwaukee Health Department, the best way to stop the community spread of COVID-19 is to take preventative action 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 six months old.
- 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 don't 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

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human beings have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure

as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an ide-

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alized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us

that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.

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www.ecbulletin.com – Ph: 703-691-8862 – Fax: 703-691-0513