

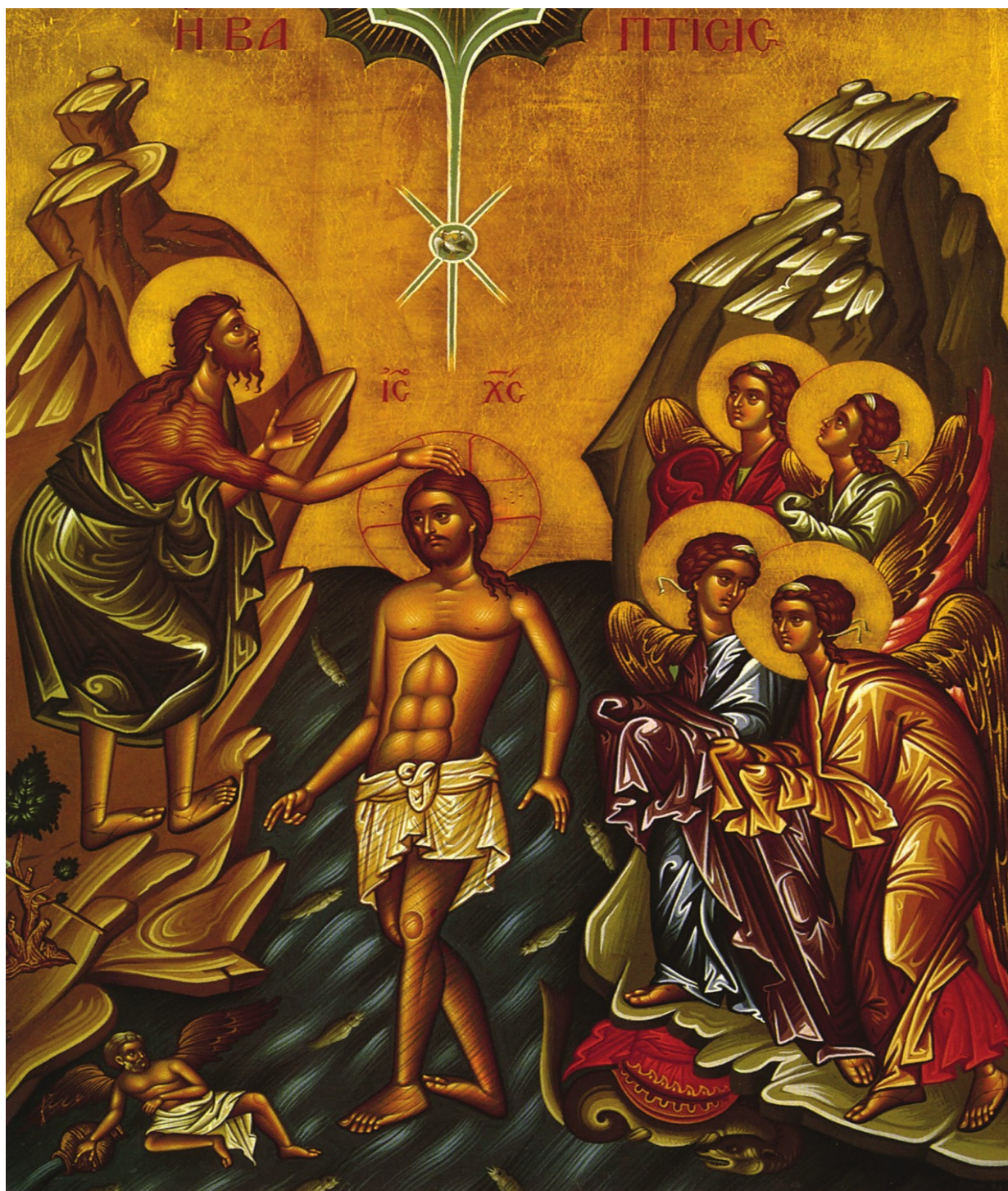


St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246
"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

Rectory and Office: 414-342-1543
The Rt. Rev. Paul G. Frechette, Pastor

Website: byzantinemilwaukee.com
Facebook: [fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee](https://www.facebook.com/ByzantineMilwaukee)

January 1, 2023 — Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Icon of Theophany

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Divine Liturgy

Intention: Happy and eternal repose of the soul of ROGER Roxas (req. by Jan Taylor)

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 5):

Let us O Faithful, praise and worship the Word coeternal 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 Circumcision: O Merciful Lord, who being God, assumed our human nature without undergoing change, You fulfilled the Law by accepting to be circumcised in the flesh, so as to put an end to prefigurations and remove the veil of our passions. Glory to Your goodness, O Word! Glory to Your compassion! Glory to Your ineffable condescension! Wherefore let us praise and exalt Him!

Troparion of St. Basil the Great: Your voice has sounded all over the earth, that accepted your preaching. You gave a divine explanation of doctrine, and made clear the nature of creatures, and set a rule

of life for men. Holy Father, kindly Priest, intercede with Christ God to grant us great mercy.

Kontakion of the Circumcision: Today, the Lord of All endures Circumcision, circumcising the sins of all mortal men, for He is good and merciful. And He grants salvation to the world, while Basil, the High Priest of the Creator, Christ's mystic and shining star, rejoices now in heaven.

Hirmos: In you, O full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the human race as well. O sanctified Temple, spiritual Paradise and glory of virgins from whom our God who exists before all eternity, took flesh and became a little Child. He has taken your womb as his throne making it more spacious than the heavens. Therefore O full of grace, in you all creation rejoices. Glory to you!

Kinonikon: The grace of God our Savior has appeared to all people. Alleluia.

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

Apostolic Reading:

Brethren, see to it that no one deceives you by philosophy and vain deceit, according to human traditions, according to the elements of the world, and not according to

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Christ. For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and in him who is the head of every Principality and Power you have received of that fullness. In him, too, you have been circumcised with a circumcision not wrought by hand, but through

putting off the body of the flesh, a circumcision which is of Christ. For you were buried with him in baptism, and in him also rose again through faith in the working of God who rose him from the dead.

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: Luke 2:20–21, 40–52

At that time the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them. And when eight days were fulfilled for the circumcision of the child, he was called Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong in spirit. He was full of wisdom and the grace of God was upon him. And his parents were accustomed to go every year to Jerusalem at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. And after they had fulfilled the days, when they were returning the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem, and Joseph and his mother did not know it. But thinking he was in the caravan; they had come a day's journey before it occurred to them to look for him among their relatives and acquaintances.

And not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him. And it came to pass after three days, that they found him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who were listening to him were amazed at understanding and his answers. And when they saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done so to us? Behold, your father and I have been seeking you sorrowing." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you now know I must be about my Father's business?" And they did not understand the word he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them; and his mother kept all these things carefully in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$92.08; candles=\$10.00; ordinary collections=\$15,634.00.

Thanks for your generosity!

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

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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.

Tax Statements

Donation letters for tax purposes will be sent in January. Please contact Benjamin Neumann with any questions.

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

Thursday: *Paramony of the Holy Theophany*
6pm Liturgy and Great Blessing
Friday: *Theophany*
Saturday: *Synaxis of John the Forerunner*
Sunday: *Sunday after Theophany*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Hymns for the Theophany

Troparion: 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.

Hypacoi: 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

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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.

Kontakion: 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.

Winter Weather

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

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 Christ

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy

Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. 'The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of "Christification", Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind.

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'The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the "Christification" of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural

and supernatural perfection. "And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with men" (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

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