

# 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

# August 6, 2023 — Feast of the Transfiguration



Icon of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

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**After Liturgy Today:** Blessing of Grapes

## **Divine Liturgy**

### Hymns

**Troparion:** You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God showing your disciples as much of your glory as they could hold. Let your eternal light shine also upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Giver of light, glory to You.

**Kontakion:** On the Mountain, You were transfigured, O Christ God; and Your disciples saw as much of Your glory as they could hold, so that when they should see You crucified they would know that You

suffered willingly and would proclaim to the world that You are verily the Splendor of the Father.

**Hirmos:** You gave birth without stain, for it was God incarnate in the flesh who came forth from your womb. He was seen on earth and conversed with men. Wherefore, O Mother of God, we all exalt you.

**Kinonikon:** Lord, we shall walk in the light of the glory of your Countenance forever. Alleluia!

**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:** II Peter 1:10-19

BRETHREN, strive more ardently by good works to make your calling and election certain. For if you do this, you will not fall into sin at any time. Indeed, in this way the entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be amply provided for you.

Therefore, I shall begin to remind you always of these things — although indeed you know them and are well established in the present truth. As long as I am in this tabernacle, I think it right to arouse you by a reminder, knowing as I do that the tak-

ing away of my tabernacle is at hand, just as the Lord Jesus Christ signified to me. Moreover, I will endeavor that even after my death you may often have occasion to recall these things to mind.

For we were not following fictitious tales when we made known to you the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but had been eyewitnesses of his grandeur. For he received from God the Father honor and glory when, coming down from the magnificent glory, a voice spoke to him in these words: "This is my

beloved Son in whom I am well pleased (Mt.17:5)." And this voice we ourselves heard borne from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

And we have the word of prophecy surer still, to which you do well to attend, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

**Alleluia:** Yours are the heavens and yours is the earth; the world and its fullness you

have founded.

Stichon: Blessed is the people whose God is the Lord!

**Gospel:** Matthew 17:1–9

At that time Jesus took Peter, James and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves, and was transfigured before them. And his face shone as the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking together with him. Then Peter addressed Jesus, saying, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you will, let us set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" As he was still speaking, behold, a bright

cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased hear him." And on hearing it the disciples fell on their faces and were terrified. And Jesus came near and touched them, and said to them, "Arise, and do not be afraid." But lifting up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus cautioned them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one, till the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

## Stewardship

Last Sunday: bookstore=\$20.00; candles=\$6.00; ordinary collections=\$520.00; donations=\$97.20; stole offerings=\$20.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated April 23, 2023): \$37,386.

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: <u>byzantinemil-waukee.com/donate</u>. 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: <u>info@byzantinemilwaukee.com</u>.

# **Prayer List**

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), Joe Radanovich, the Rebholz family, Eva Saseen (Theresa and Janelle Herro's niece), Dan Sylvester (neighbor of Benjamin Neumann), Jan Taylor, Kathy Tomaz, Espe Villasensor, John Zambo and Kathy Zambo. For those we have been asked to pray for: Justin & Krysten Hager (Jan Taylor).

#### Schedule for This Week

**Sunday:** Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:30am Divine Liturgy

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday** to Jane Ecks (8/8) and Joseph Makhlouf (8/10). May God grant you many years!

#### 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 (<u>city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax</u>). 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: <a href="mailto:city.milwaukee.gov/coron-avirus">city.milwaukee.gov/coron-avirus</a>

# It is good for us to be here

Upon Mount Tabor, Jesus revealed to his disciples a heavenly mystery. While living among them he had spoke of the kingdom and of his second coming in glory, but to banish from their hearts any possible doubt concerning the kingdom and to confirm their faith in what lay in the future by its prefiguration in the present, he gave them on Mount Tabor a wonderful vision of his glory, a foreshadowing of the kingdom of heaven.

These are the divine wonders we celebrate today; this is the saving revelation given us upon the mountain; this is the festival of Christ that has drawn us here. Let us listen, then, to the sacred voice of God so compellingly calling us from high, from the summit of the mountain, so that with the Lord's chosen disciples we may penetrate the deep meaning of these holy mysteries, so far beyond our capacity to express. Jesus goes before us to show us the way, both up the mountain and into heaven, and — speak boldly — it is for us now to follow him with all speed, yearning for the heavenly vision that will give us a share in his radiance, renew our spiritual nature and transform us into his own likeness, making us for ever sharers in his

Godhead and raising us to heights as yet undreamed of.

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Sermon of St. Anastasius of Sinat

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