



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)

September 10, 2023 — Sunday before the Holy Cross



Icon of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 6): The angelic powers appeared at your tomb, and the guards became as dead men, and Mary stood by the Sepulcher seeking your spotless Body. You despoiled Hades and yet were not tempted by it, You met the Virgin O Bestower of Life. O Lord who rose from the dead glory to you.

Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos : Your Nativity, O Mother of God, heralded joy to the whole universe, for from you rose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. Taking away the curse, He imparted the blessings. And by abolishing death, He gave us everlasting life.

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, celebrate your birth crying out to you: "the barren one gives birth to the Mother of God the Sustainer of our life!"

Hirmos of the Nativity of the Theotokos: Mothers cannot be virgins, nor virgins mothers; and yet in you, O Mother of God, both virginity and motherhood were planned and fulfilled. Wherefore all the peoples of the earth unceasingly extol you.

Kinonikon: I will take the chalice of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. Alleluia.

Prokimenon: Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days!

Stichon: The Lord is king, in splendor robed, robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

Apostolic Reading: Hebrews 3:1-6

Holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the apostle and high priest of our confession, Jesus, who is faithful to the one who made him. S was

Moses also in all his house. For he was deemed worthy of greater glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house he has built.

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For every house is built by someone—but the one who created all things is God. And Moses indeed was faithful in all his house as a servant. To testify concerning those things that were to be spoken: but Christ is faithful as the Son over his own house. We are that house, if we hold fast our trust and the hope in which we glory until the end.

Alleluia: On the Holy Mountain is his city cherished by the Lord. The Lord prefers the gates of Zion to all Jacob's dwellings.

Stichon: Of you are told glorious things, O City of God!

Gospel: John 3:13–17

The Lord said, “No one has gone up into heaven except the One Who has come down from heaven: the Son of Man Who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting.” For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting. For God did not send His Son into the world in order to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Upcoming Events

September 23rd (10am–5pm) and 24th: (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.

Stewardship

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated August 20, 2023): \$25,903.

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: 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

Tuesday: *Leave-taking of the Nativity of Mary*

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Wednesday: *Dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection*

Thursday: *Exaltation of the Cross*

Saturday: *Saturday after the Holy Cross*

Sunday: *Sunday after the Holy Cross*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Kathy Solis (9/10) and Christopher Warner (9/13). May God grant you many years!

Hymns for the Exaltation of the Cross

Troparion: O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting peace to the world. And preserve Your community by the power of Your Cross.

Kontakion: O Christ God, who chose by Your free volition to be elevated upon the holy cross, grant Your mercies to Your new people who are called by Your name. In Your power gladden the hearts of our public authorities. Strengthen them in every good deed so that Your true alliance may be for them a weapon of peace and a standard of victory.

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 Cross Raised for All the World to See

The cross is raised and appears above the earth, which until recently malice had kept hidden. It is raised, not to receive glory (for with Christ nailed to it what greater

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glory could it have?) but to give glory to God who is worshiped on it and proclaimed by it.

It is not surprising that the church rejoices in the cross of Christ and robes herself in festal clothes, revealing her bridal beauty as she honors this day. Nor is it surprising that this great throng of people has gathered together today to see the cross exposed aloft and to worship Christ whom they see raised upon it. For the cross is exposed in order to be raised and is raised to be exposed.

What cross? 'The cross, which a little while ago was hidden in a place called "The Skull" but now is everywhere adored. 'This is what we rejoice over today; this is what we celebrate; this is the point of the present feast; this is the manifestation of the mystery.

For this hidden and life-giving cross had to be exposed, set on high like a city on a hill or a lamp on a stand, for all the world to see.

Saint Andrew of Crete

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