

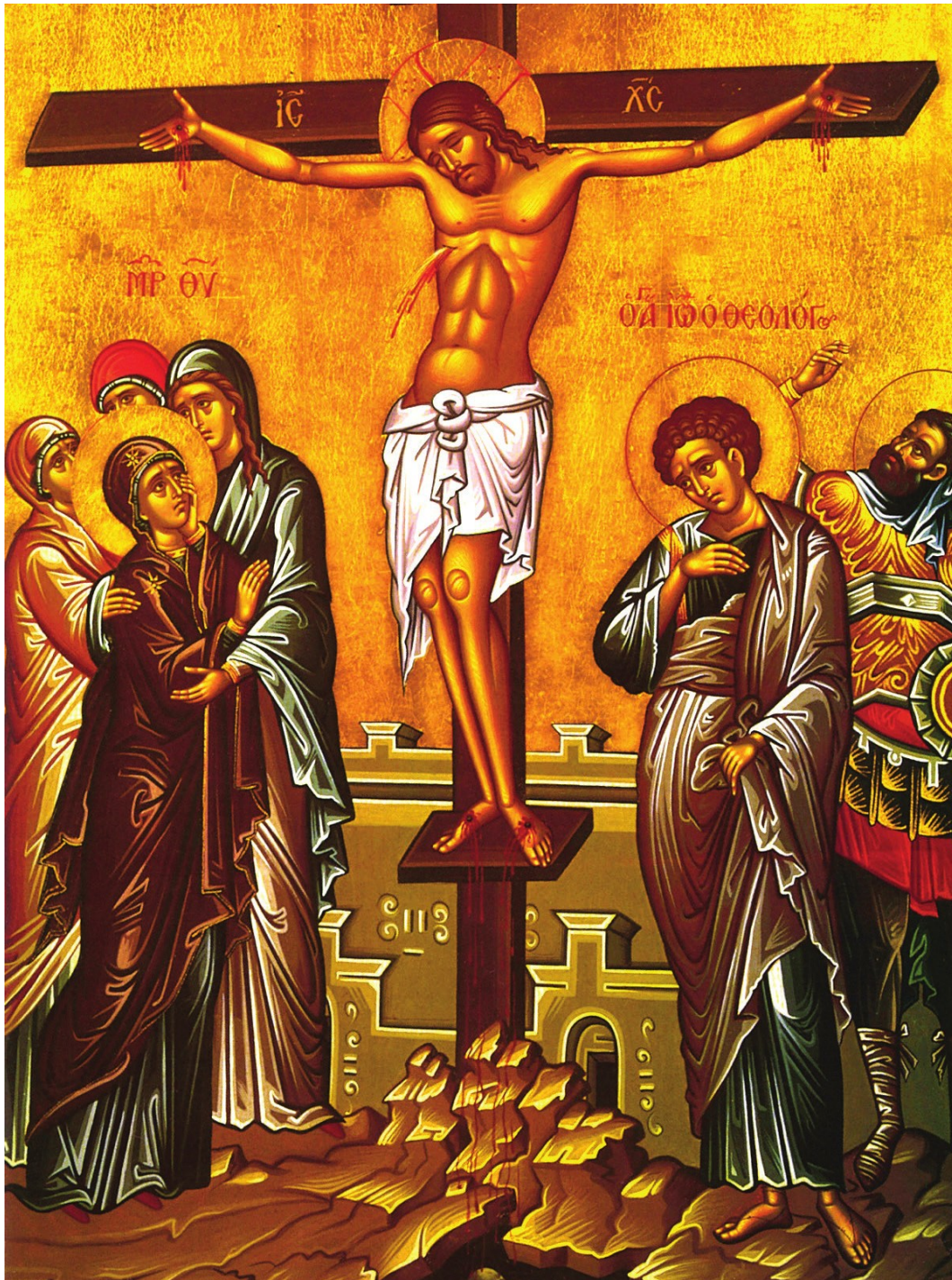


**St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church**  
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246  
*"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"*

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

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

**September 17, 2023 — Sunday after the Holy Cross**



*Icon of the Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross*

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### Divine Liturgy

#### Hymns

**Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 7):** Through your Cross You destroyed death, You opened Paradise to the thief, and turned into joy the mourning of the ointment bearing women, and You ordered your Apostles to proclaim that You rose, O Christ God, Bestowing great mercy upon the world.

**Troparion of the Holy Cross:** O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Strengthen our public authorities in every good deed and protect Your people by the power of Your Cross.

**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 Holy Cross:** O Christ God, who chose by Your free volition to be

**Prokimenon:** The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

*Stichon:* Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.

**Apostolic Reading:** 2 Corinthians: 6: 1-10

BRETHREN, yes, working together with him, we beg you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation, I have helped you. (Is.49:8) Look,

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.

**Anti-Trisagion:** We bow in worship before Your Cross, O Master, and we give praise to Your Holy Resurrection.

**Hirmos:** O Mother of God, you became a mystical paradise when without tilling you brought forth Christ our God by whom the life-giving tree of the Cross was planted on earth. Wherefore we deeply bow before this Cross which is exalted today, and we magnify you.

**Kinonikon:** Let the light of Your countenance shine upon us, O Lord. Alleluia.

now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We give no offense to anyone, that our ministry may not be blamed. On the contrary, let us behave in all circumstances as God's ministers, in

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much patience, in tribulations, in hardships, in distress; in stripes, in imprisonments, in riots; in labors, in sleepless nights, in fastings; in innocence, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in unaffected love; in the word of truth, in God's power; with the armor of justification on the right hand and on

the left; in honor and dishonor, in evil report and good report; as deceivers and yet truthful, as unknown and yet well known, as dying, and look, we live; as punished, but not killed, as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet enriching many, as having nothing, yet possessing all things.

**Alleluia:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High!

*Stichon:* To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

**Gospel:** "Deny yourself, take up your Cross and follow me", Mark 8:34–9:1

The lord told this parable: "A man going abroad, called his servants and handed over his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his particular ability, and then he went on his journey. And he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more. In like manner, he who had received the two gained two more. But he who had received the one went away and dug in the earth and hid his master's money. Then after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came and brought five other talents saying, "Master, thou didst hand over to me five talents; behold, I have gained five others in addition." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; because you has been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had received two talents came and said, "Master, you did hand over to me two talents; behold, I have gained two more." His master said to

him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; because you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many; enter into the joy of your master." But he who had received the one talent came and said, "Master, I know that you are a stern man; you reap where you have not winnowed; and as I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the earth; behold, thou hast what is thine." But his master answered and said to him, "Wicked and slothful servant! You did know that I reap where I do not sow, and gather where I have not winnowed. Thou shouldst therefore have entrusted my money to the bankers, and on my return, I should have got back my own with interest. Take away therefore the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him who does not have, even that which he seems shall be taken away. But as for the unprofitable servant, cast him forth into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And who has ears to here let him hear.

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### Stewardship

Last Sunday: stole offerings=\$100.00; candles=\$10.00; donations=\$568.31; ordinary collections=\$540.00. Thanks for your generosity!

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](https://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](mailto: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

**Thursday:** *Leave-taking of the Exaltation of the Cross*

**Saturday:** *Conception of the Forerunner, John*  
10am-5pm Doors Open

**Sunday:** *First Sunday after the Holy Cross*  
10:30am Divine Liturgy  
12:15pm-5pm Doors Open

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday** to Michael McShane (9/17), Bernard Herro (9/20) and Mark Spankowski (9/23). May God grant you many years!

### *Doors Open*

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.

### 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](https://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.



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- 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](https://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus)

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### **Whatever Their Size, Carry Them**

“Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel’s will save it.” One who knew the meaning of Jesus’ words so well was Flannery O’Connor, the distinguished Catholic novelist who died in 1964 at the age of 39. From the age of 25 she lived with the knowledge she had a terminal disease, Lupus, not to mention her sufferings from bone disintegration, shingles, anemia, and a tumor. Yet it was during fourteen years of sickness and suffering that she produced her greatest works of literary art. Her strong faith enabled her to say: “I have never been anywhere but sick. In a sense sickness is a place, more instructive than a long trip to Europe. Sickness before death is a very appropriate thing and [ think those who don't have it miss one of God’s mercies ...”

Those are strong words! How could a young woman call sickness one of God’s

mercies? Yet Jesus’ words in the Gospel are just as strong: “If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in my steps.”

In some way Flannery O’Connor was able to accept the cross of her sickness and follow in the Lord’s footsteps. But she didn’t do it with a nice sweet smile on her face. She did it with strong courage and conviction. She realized that her own sickness was the very thing that helped her to look at life around her with the eyes of faith; and to translate that life into literary pages that would win her international fame as a writer. Each one of us is called upon to carry a cross in our life at some time. For some it may be the cross of emotional or spiritual suffering, rather than physical suffering. Sometimes there are big crosses, sometimes small. Whatever their size, Jesus calls upon us to carry them.

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