



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)

December 10, 2023 — Sunday after the Holy Cross



Icon of the Cure of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:12-19)

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Divine Liturgy

After Liturgy: Potluck for St. Nicholas Day

Intention: Happy and eternal repose of the soul of PETER Y. Taylor, Sr. (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 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 Preparation of the Nativity: Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear this news, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds Him who shall appear as a new Child, being God from all eternity.

Prokimenon: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Stichon: All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

Apostolic Reading: Col 1:12-18

BRETHREN, we thank God the Father who has enabled us to share in the saints in light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have deliverance, the remission of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in Him all

things were created, those in heaven and those on earth, the seen and the unseen, whether Thrones or Dominations or Principalities or Powers: all things were created through Him all things hold together; and He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He may be first in all things.

Alleluia: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

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Stichon: He will say to the Lord, “My wall, my refuge my God in whom I will trust!”

Gospel: “The Crippled Woman”, Luke 13:10–17

And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent over and utterly unable to look upwards. When Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said to her, “Woman, thou art delivered from thy infirmity.” And he laid his hands upon her, and instantly she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, addressed the crowd, saying, “There are six days in which one ought to work; on these therefore come and be cured, and not on the Sabbath.” But the Lord answered him and said, “Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or ass from the manger, and lead it forth to water? And this woman, daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound, lo, for eighteen years, ought not she to be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” And as he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame; and the entire crowd rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$2; ordinary collections=\$1123. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated September 24, 2023): \$31,309.

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 the 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. Donations can also be made online: melkite.org.

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), 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). For those who have died: the Very Rev. Maxim Hancher (father of Krystia Nora). For the people of the Middle East.

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Schedule for This Week

Tuesday: *Father Spiridon the Wonderworker*

Sunday: *Sunday of Ancestors of the Christ*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

Coming Up: Services for the Nativity

Monday, December 25th: 10:30am Divine Liturgy

Other services may be added to the schedule.

Practical Suggestions for Fasting

Fasting, like prayer, is something we can grow into. If you are not accustomed to fasting, it can be helpful to begin at one level and deepen your practice as you grow in your life in Christ. The following plan might be helpful.

Beginning level: On Wednesdays and Fridays do not eat any meat and offer a brief prayer several times throughout the day. During the fasting seasons of Great Lent and the Dormition Fast, attend at least one Lenten Service each week. Before the Presanctified Liturgy during Great Lent, do not eat anything for several hours.

A deeper level: In addition to the above, on fast days, do not eat anything before noon and no meat thereafter. Keep additional fast days during the fasting seasons. During Great Lent, in addition to avoiding meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, also avoid dairy products. Attend two Lenten Services weekly and perform some act of charity each day.

A further level: In addition to the above, keep each day in the fasting seasons as a fast day. Attend all the Divine Services during the fasting seasons. Replace entertainments such as TV, movies, shopping, etc. with prayer, spiritual reading and acts of charity.

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.

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More information is available from the health department: city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus

Faith, Cleansing and Gratitude

Once, as Jesus was passing through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met Him. They stood afar off and cried: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw them and said: "Go, show yourselves to the priest." So in this case He did not touch them. Instead, He tested their faith to see whether they would obey and go to the priests to get a certificate of healing even before they had been healed. They obeyed and were healed.

And one of them returned and with a loud voice glorified God and fell at His feet, giving Him thanks. He was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there

not any found to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And Jesus said to him: "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." 'The Samaritans accepted Christ as the Messiah and became Christians, while the Jews rejected Him.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in this for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

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DIOCESE OF NEWTON
for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America

Office of the Bishop

Bishop François Beyrouti
Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America
3 VFW Pkwy
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my first year as your Bishop, I've been edified and inspired by the joyful solidarity and faith of our Melkite community. I have been on the road this year almost every weekend and have visited many of our over 50 communities. My goal for this year is to visit the remaining communities and to assist our communities to flourish in whatever way I can.

I'm deeply grateful for the hard work of the clergy and lay people in our communities. Christ calls each of us to serve. I have been inspired by the men and women, young and old, who serve with their whole heart. I see your dedication and share in your passion and commitment.

Soon you will receive a letter from me for this year's annual appeal. In this letter, I outline some of the steps I've heard from you that are necessary to foster vocations, strengthen the faith life of our communities, and make use of the many resources available to help us organize our communities.

I ask you to read this letter carefully, and prayerfully consider how God may call you to contribute to the many needs of our Church so our communities can be strong in the years to come.

We face many challenges today, but challenges are nothing new for our Church. Your generosity, service, and love can help strengthen our Melkite Catholic Church in the U.S. for years to come. In addition to the usual means, you can also give to this year's appeal by using the QR Code below or visit us at melkite.org/donate.

I thank you for your prayers, your consideration of this appeal, and for all you are already doing to serve God in your daily life and in the faith life of our communities. May God bless and reward you and your family for your generosity and dedication.

Your Shepherd in Christ,



Most Reverend Bishop François Beyrouti

Eparchial Bishop of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America