



**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)

**December 17, 2023 — Sunday of Ancestors of the Christ**



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast*

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### Divine Liturgy

**Intention:** Happy and eternal repose of the soul of JOE Radanovich (req. by Jan Taylor)

#### Hymns

**Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 4):** The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the Angels the joyful news of the resurrection, and casting away the ancestral sentence, they announced with pride to the Apostles: Death is vanquished, Christ God is risen! And has bestowed great mercy upon the world.

**Troparion of the Forefathers:** Through faith, You have justified Your Ancestors, O Christ our God, and through them You have espoused in advance the Church set apart from the Gentiles. The saints rejoice in glory because, from the seed of these Ancestors, has come forth the glorious fruit, who gave You birth without seed.

**Prokimenon:** Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

*Stichon:* For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

**Apostolic Reading:** Colossians 3:4-11

Put to death whatever in your members is of the earth: immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, covetousness, which is a form of idol-worship. Because of these passions, God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience and you yourselves once

Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

**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.

walked in them when they were your (way of) life. But now, you too put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old man with his deeds and put on the new, one

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that is being renewed toward perfect knowledge according to his creator's image. Here there is no Gentile and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no Barbarian and Scythian, no slave and free-man, but Christ is all things, and in all.

**Alleluia:** Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel among those who called upon His name.

*Stichon:* The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

**Gospel:** "The Great Banquet", Luke 14:16-24

The Lord told this parable, "A certain man gave a great supper, and he invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to tell those invited to come, for everything is now ready. And they all with one accord began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have bought a farm, and I must go out and see it; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yokes of oxen, and I am on my way to try them; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' And the servant returned, and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant. 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the crippled, and the lame, and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Sir, your order has been carried out, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those who were invited shall taste of my supper.' For many are called but few are chosen."

### Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$450.00; ordinary collections=\$579.00. 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](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).

### *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](https://melkite.org).

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### Prayer List

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

### Funeral Arrangements for Kathy Zambo

**Thursday:** 4pm–4:30pm Rosary  
4pm–8pm Visitation  
Prasser-Kleczka Funeral Homes Bay View Chapel

**Friday:** 10am Mass of Christian Burial  
St. Stanislaus Church

Prasser-Kleczka Funeral Homes Bay View Chapel  
3275 South Howell Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

St. Stanislaus Church  
524 West Mitchell Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

### Schedule for This Week

**Friday:** *Paramony of the Nativity*  
**Saturday:** *Saturday before the Nativity*  
**Sunday:** *Sunday before the Nativity*  
10:30am Divine Liturgy

### Coming Up: Services for the Nativity

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:** 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

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**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](http://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](http://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus)

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### The Great Feast

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets—the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King—that is God—has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. 'Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God — will we

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then accept the invitation and choose Him?

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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](http://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