



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 31, 2023 — Sunday before the Theophany



Sunday of King David, Joseph and James

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Divine Liturgy

Intention: Happy and eternal repose of the soul of KATHY Zambo (req. by Jan Taylor)

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: Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it, those who had been star-worshippers learned through a star to worship You, O Sun of Justice, and to recognize in You the One who rises from on high. O Lord glory to You!

Prokimenon: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Stichon: To you, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

Apostolic Reading: Timothy: 4: 5-8

My son Timothy be watchful in all things, bear with tribulation patiently, work as a preacher of the Good News, fulfill your ministry. As for me, I am already being poured out in sacrifice, and the time of my deliverance is at hand. I have fought the

Troparion of Holy Joseph: O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of Christ our God, the great miracles you have witnessed: you have seen the Virgin with child, given praise with the shepherds, adored with the wise men, and an angel of the Lord has appeared to you. Intercede with Christ God that He may save our Souls.

Kontakion of the Nativity: Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent in Essence and the earth presents a cave to the Inaccessible. The angels with the shepherds sing His glory, and the Wise Men with the Star travel on their way: for to us is born a New Child, Who is God from all eternity

good fight, I have completed the course, I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give to me on that day: yet not to me only, but also to those who love his coming.

Alleluia: May God have mercy on us and bless us.

Stichon: May he let his face shine upon us and have mercy on us.

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Gospel: Ministry of John the Baptist, Mark 1:1–8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, “Behold, I send my messenger before you, who shall prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the desert, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight his paths,’” there came John in the desert, baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea went out to him, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and

all were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “One mightier than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$5; donations=\$770; stole offerings=\$40; ordinary collections=\$15265. 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.

Donation Acknowledgement Letters

Donation letters for tax purposes will be sent in January. Please contact Benjamin Neumann with any questions.

2024 Eparchial Calendars

The 2024 eparchial calendars are here! Pick one up at the back of the church.

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),

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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.

Schedule for This Week

Monday: *The Circumcision of Jesus and Commemoration of St. Basil*
Friday: 6pm Divine Liturgy
Saturday: *THE THEOPHANY*
Sunday: *Second Day of Theophany*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

The Theophany

Entrance hymn: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us. O Son of God, Who were baptized by John in the Jordan River, save us...

Troparion: At your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to you by calling You his Beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, glory to You.

Hypacoi: When You enlightened all things at the time of your manifestation, the sea of unbelief ebbed away and the Jordan River reversed its course, flowing uphill and carrying us to heaven. Through the prayers of your Mother, O Christ God,

Prokimenon: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and he has appeared to us.

Stichon: Sing to the lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever

Apostolic Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

My son Titus, the grace of God our Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us, in order that, rejecting ungodliness and

keep us in the loftiness of your divine commands and save us.

Kontakion: Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

Hirmos: O my soul, magnify the Higher in honor and glory than the heavenly powers. All tongues are at a loss to praise you properly, and every intelligence even super natural is rapt in wonder when it comes to honor you, O Mother of God. But in your graciousness accept our faith, knowing our holy longing. Intercessor of Christians, we extol you.

Kinonikon: The grace of God our Savior has appeared to all people. Alleluia.

worldly lusts, we may live temperately and justly and piously in this world; looking for the blessed hope and glorious com-

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ing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and cleanse for himself an acceptable people, pursuing good works. But when the goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared, then not by reason of good works

that we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the path of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he has abundantly poured upon us though Jesus Christ our Savior, in order that, justified by his grace, we may be heirs in the hope of life everlasting.

Alleluia: Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord Glory and praise.

Stichon: The Lord's voice is over the waters; the God of glory has thundered, the Lord, over the vast waters.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to John, at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. But John was reluctant, and said, "It is I who ought to be baptized by you, and you come to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Let it be so now, for this is how what is right must be fulfilled." Then he let him do it. And when Jesus had been

baptized, he immediately came up from the water. And behold, the heavens were opened to him. And he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming upon him. And behold, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

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

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Celebrate and Be Glad

Let us strive to comprehend the mystery. The reason God is in the flesh is to kill the death that lurks there. As diseases are cured by medicines and assimilated by the body, and as darkness in a house is dispelled by the coming of light, so death, which held sway over human nature, is done away with by the coming of God. And as ice formed on water covers its surface as long as night and darkness last but melts under the warmth of the sun, so death reigned until the coming of Christ; but when the grace of God our Savior appeared and the Sun of Justice rose, death was swallowed up in victory, unable to bear the presence of true life. How great is God's goodness, how deep his love for us!

Let us join the shepherds in giving glory to God, let us dance with the angels and sing: Today a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us, not as God, which would have been terrifying for our weakness, but as a slave so as to free those who live in slavery. Who could be so lacking in sensibility and so ungrateful as not to join all here present in our gladness, exultation, and radiant joy? This feast belongs to the whole of creation. Let everyone join in and be grateful. Let our voices too ring out in songs of jubilation!

St. Basil the Great

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