



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

January 7, 2024 — Second Day of the Theophany; Synaxis of the Forerunner John



Icon of Theophany (January 6th)

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Divine Liturgy

Intention: Health, peace and salvation of the Zambo Family (req. by Jan Taylor)

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 Theophany: 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.

Prokimenon: The just shall rejoice in the Lord and place his hope in him. All those with an upright heart shall be praised.

Stichon: O God hear my voice when I pray to you; save my life from the dreadful enemy.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 19: 1-8

In those days it came to pass, while Apollos was in Corinth, that Paul crossed the upper districts and went to Ephesus. He found some of the disciples and asked them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you became believers?" But they an-

Troparion of St. John, the Forerunner:
The memory of the just is mentioned with praise. As for you, O forerunner, the Lord's witness is enough: indeed, you were greater than the prophets since you were found worthy to baptize in the waters the One they could but announce. You have fought for the sake of truth and proclaimed to those in Hades that God who appeared in the flesh has taken away the sins of the world and bestowed his great mercy upon us.

Kontakion of the Theophany: 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.

swered him, "We have not ever heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "How then were you baptized?" They replied, "With John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe

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in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus Christ." Hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they be-

gan to speak in tongues and to speak for God. They were about twelve men in all.

Then for three months he went into the synagogue, speaking confidently, arguing with them and convincing them about God's kingdom.

Alleluia: The just shall bloom like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Stichon: Those who are planted in the Lord's house shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Gospel: Synaxis of John the Baptist, Jn 1:29-34

At that time John saw Jesus coming to him, and he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one of whom I said, 'After me there comes one who has been set above me, because he was before me.' And I did not know him. But that he may be known to Israel, for this reason have I come baptizing with water." And John bore witness,

saying, "I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove from heaven, and it hovered over him. And I did not know him. But the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The man upon whom you will see the Spirit descending and hovering, he it is who baptizes with the Holy Spirit'." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$3.00; ordinary collections=\$771.00; donations=\$200.00. 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. 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.

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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! The theme for this year is fasting. 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), 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.

Winter Weather

Please take care with winter weather. Even if services are not canceled, only come if it is safe for you to travel.

Schedule for This Week

Thursday: *Father Theodosios*

Saturday: *Saturday after the Theophany*

Sunday: *Sunday after the Theophany*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Manal Wahhab (1/8) and Brigid Farley (1/9). May God grant you many years!

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

Let Us Venerate Today the Baptism of Christ... Wash Yourselves and Be Clean

I cannot restrain my joy; my heart is deeply moved and filled with delight. Forgetting my weakness, I long to undertake the mission of the great John the Baptist; though I am not the Forerunner, have indeed come from the desert!

Christ receives the sacrament of enlightenment, or rather He enlightens us with His brilliance. He is baptized; let us go down into the water with Him so that we may also come up with Him. John is baptizing, and Jesus comes to him. Christ certainly sanctifies the man who now baptizes Him, but His purpose is chiefly to bury the old Adam in the waters and, above all, to sanctify the waters of the Jordan by His baptism in them so that just as He was spirit and flesh, those who would later be baptized might be sanctified by the power of the Spirit and by water.

John refuses; Jesus insists. "It is you that should be baptizing me!" says John. "The torch addresses the Sun, the voice speaks to the Word. Jesus comes out of the water, drawing the world with Him, as it were, and raising it up when it had hitherto been sunk in the abyss. He sees the heavens not being rent, but opening of their own accord.

The first Adam had of old closed heaven to himself and us, just as he had seen the earthly paradise being closed to him, with a fiery sword barring access. The Holy Spirit bears witness. Here all is in perfect harmony, for the testimony comes from heaven, just as He to whom the Spirit bears witness has come from heaven.

St. Gregory the Theologian

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