



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 14, 2024 — Leave-Taking of the Theophany



Icon of the Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril (January 18)

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Divine Liturgy

Intention: Happy and eternal repose of the soul of JOE Radanovich (req. by Patricia Ebeling)

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 8): O Merciful One, Who came down from on high and endured burial for three days in order to save us from suffering. O our Life and our Resurrection, glory to you.

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.

Kontakion of the Theophany: Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has

Prokimenon: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Stichon: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Apostolic Reading: Eph 4:7-13

Brethren, to each one of us the grace was given according to the measure of Christ's bestowal. Thus it says, Ascending on high, he led away captives; he gave gifts to men (Ps.61:19). Now this ascending, what does it mean but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended, he it is who ascended also

been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

Anti-Trisagion: All of you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, Alleluia.

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 supernatural 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.

above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he himself gave some men as apostles, and some as prophets, and others as pastors and teachers, in order to perfect the saints for a work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the deep knowledge of the Son of God, to

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perfect manhood, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ.

Alleluia: Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

Stichon: For you have said, “My kindness is established forever.” In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Gospel: Beginning of Jesus Ministry, Mt 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been delivered up, he withdrew to Galilee. And leaving the town of Nazareth, he came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Nephtalim; that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: “Land of Zebulon and land of Nephtalim, by the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, a light has arisen”. From that time, Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$21.00; donations=\$1250.00; ordinary collections=\$588.00.

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.

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.

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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.

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

Tuesday: *Veneration of the Chains of the Apostle Peter*
Wednesday: *Father Anthony in the Great*
Thursday: *Fathers Athanasius and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria*
Saturday: *Father Euthymios the Great*
Sunday: *Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Janelle Herro (1/17). May God grant you many years!

Prayer for Christian Unity Week (January 18th to 25th)

O Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, on the eve of your redemptive suffering, You fervently asked your heavenly Father that all your followers be one, as You are One with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We implore You, divine Master, To bestow upon all Christian Churches the unity of faith, of hearts and of purpose, so that they become one flock under the leadership of One Shepherd according to your

wish. Grant us, Lord, to love one another as You loved us, So that, seeing our unity, the world may believe in You and embrace your message of peace and love.

For You are the Prince of Peace and Lover of mankind and to You we render glory, and to your Eternal Father, and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

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:

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- 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.

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

Athanasius and Cyril, Champions and Models

Saint Athanasius (Athanasios) is one of the great figures of Christianity. He is called the “champion of orthodoxy” as he resolutely opposed Arianism. Five times Athanasius was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ’s divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace reading, writing and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted. His dogmatic and historical writings are almost all polemic, directed against every aspect of Arianism. Athanasius suffered many trials while he was bishop of Alexandria. He was given the grace to remain strong against what probably seemed at times to be insurmountable opposition. He defended the true faith for his flock, regardless of the cost to himself. In today’s world we are experiencing this same call to remain true to our faith, no matter what.

Saint Cyril’s importance for theology and Church history lies in his championing the

cause of orthodoxy against the heresy of Nestorius. Nestorianism implied that the humanity of Christ was a mere disguise. At the Council of Ephesus (431), Cyril condemned Nestorianism and proclaimed Mary truly the “God-bearer” “Theotokos” (the mother of the one Person who is truly God and truly human). In the confusion that followed, Cyril was deposed and imprisoned for three months, after which he was welcomed back to Alexandria as a second Athanasius (the champion against Arianism).

Lives of the saints are valuable not only for the virtue they reveal but also for the less admirable qualities that also appear. Holiness is a gift of God to us as human beings. Life is a process. We respond to God’s gift, but sometimes with a lot of zigzagging. If Cyril had been more patient and diplomatic, the Nestorian Church might not have risen and maintained power so long. But even saints must grow out of immaturity, narrowness and selfish-

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ness. It is because they and we do grow, that we are truly saints, persons who live
the life of God.

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