



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 21, 2024 — Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican



Icon of the Publican and the Pharisee

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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 1): While the stone was sealed by the Jews and soldiers were watching your sacred body, You rose, O Savior, on the third day, giving life to the world. Wherefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried out: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom, glory to your Plan of redemption, O You who alone are the Lover of mankind.

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!

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

Stichon: God is renowned in Judah; is Israel, great is his name.

Apostolic Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, my behavior, my faith, my long-suffering, my love, my patience, my persecutions, my afflictions – such as befell me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, such persecutions as I suffered: and out of them all, the Lord delivered me. And all who want to live piously in Christ Jesus will suffer

Kontakion of the Pharisee and the Publican: Let us shun the boastful words of the Pharisee and learn from the Publican humility with sighing; let us cry out to our Savior: "Have mercy on us, O You who alone are merciful!"

Kontakion of the Presentation of our Lord to the Temple: O Christ our God, who through your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have blessed the arms of Simeon, You have come today to save us. When wars prevail, keep your people in peace and strengthen our public authorities in every good deed, for you alone are the Lover of Mankind.

persecution. But the wicked and impostors will go from bad to worse, erring and leading into error. As for you, keep on with the things you have learned and which have been entrusted to you, and remember from whom you have learned them. For you have known from infancy the Sacred Scriptures which are able to

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give you instruction for your salvation by the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia: Let us sing joyfully to God our Savior!

Stichon: Let us greet his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Gospel: The Pharisee and Publican, Lk 18:10-14

The Lord told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and began to pray thus within himself: ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of men, robbers, dishonest, adulterers, or even like this publican. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all I possess.’ But the publican, standing far off, would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you; this man went back to his home justified rather than the other; for anyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself shall be exalted.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$291.04; ordinary collections=\$827.00. 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

Thursday: *Father Gregory the Theologian*
Friday: *Transfer of the Remains of Father John Chrysostom*
Saturday: *Saturday of the Prodigal Son*
Sunday: *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Thesesa Zambo (1/25). May God grant you many years!

Coming Up

Meatfare: February 4th
Cheesefare: February 11th

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 vaccinated and boosted (city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax) when you are eligible, wear a mask (city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus/masks) in public spaces, wash your hands often and practice physical distancing.

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

Faults of the Pharisee

Many are the faults of the Pharisee. First of all, he is boastful, and without sense, for he praises himself, even though the Sacred Scriptures cry aloud, "Let a neighbor praise you, and not your own mouth: a stranger and not your own lips" (Prov. 27:2). ... Our virtue, therefore, must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless and free from all that can bring reproach. For what profit

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is there in fasting twice a week, if you so doing serve only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and if it makes you prideful, haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions and make a boast of it; but in another way you provoke God's anger, by condemning men generally on this account and accusing others. And you yourself are puffed up, though not crowned by the divine decree for righteousness, but on the contrary, heap praises upon yourself. For I am not, he says, as the rest of mankind. Moderate yourself, O Pharisee: "Set a guard, O Lord, over your mouth, keep watch over the door of your lips" (Ps. 140:3).

You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. None of those skilled in the practice of wrestling ever crowns himself; nor does any man receive the crown of himself, but awaits the

summons of the arbiter. Lower your pride, for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although, therefore, you fast with puffed up mind, your so doing will not avail you; your labor will be unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with your perfume. Even according to the law of Moses a sacrifice that had a blemish was not capable of being offered to God; for it was said unto him, "Of sheep, and ox, that is offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish therein" (Lev. 22:21). Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God saying, this is not the fast that I have chosen (Cf Isa. 58:5) ... You offer tithes, but you wrong in another way Him Who is honored by you, in that you condemn men generally. 'This is an act foreign to the mind that fears God.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Text and cover-icon courtesy of Eastern Christian Bulletin Service

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