



## 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://fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee)

### January 28, 2024 — Sunday of the Prodigal Son



*Icon of the Prodigal Son*

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### Divine Liturgy

#### Hymns

**Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 2):** When you descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of your Divinity, and when you raised the dead from under the ground, all the Powers of heaven cried out: O Christ our God, the giver of life, glory to you.

**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 Prodigal Son:** When in my wretchedness I ran away from your fa-

**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:** 1 Cor 6:12-20

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are fitting. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of anyone. Food is for the belly, and the belly for food, but God will destroy both the one and the other. Now, the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. For God has raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

therly love, I squandered in wickedness the riches You had given me. And so now, like the Prodigal Son, I cry out to You: "I have sinned in your sight, O Merciful Father: receive me now that I repent and make me as one of your hired servants."

**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.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of a prostitute? By no means! Or do you not know that one who cleaves to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For the two, it is said, shall be one flesh (Gn.2 : 24). But he who cleaves to the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee immorality. Every sin a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against

January 28, 2024 — Sunday of the Prodigal Son

his own body. Or do you not know that your members are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God—and that you are not your own? For you have been bought at a great price. Glorify God therefore in your body and in your soul which both are God's.

**Alleluia:** O God, you granted me retribution and made peoples subject to me and saved me from my raging enemies.

*Stichon:* Therefore, I will proclaim you, O Lord, among the nations, and I will sing praise to your name.

**Gospel:** The Prodigal Son, Lk 15:11-32

The Lord told this parable: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his possessions between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered up all his wealth and traveled to a far country; and there he squandered his fortune in loose living. And after he had spent all, there came a severe famine over that country, and he began to suffer from it. And he went and joined one of the local landowners, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. And he longed to fill himself with the pods the pigs were eating, but no one offered to give them to him. But when he had come to his senses, he said, 'How many hired men in my father's house have bread in abundance, while I am perishing with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' And he got up and went to his father. But while he was yet a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion and ran and fell upon his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the Father said to his servants, 'Fetch quickly the best robe and put it on him, and give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet; and bring out the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; because this my son was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came close to the house, he heard music and dancing. And calling one of the servants he asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has got him back safe.' But he was angered and would not go in. His father, therefore, came out and began to beg him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look, these many years I have been serving you, and have never disobeyed any of your orders; and yet, you have never given me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours comes, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes; you have killed for him the fattened calf!' But he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours; but we were bound to make merry and rejoice, for this your brother was dead, and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

January 28, 2024 — Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### **Stewardship**

Last Sunday: donations=\$300.00; ordinary collections=\$517.00. 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).

### *Donation Acknowledgement Letters*

Donation letters for tax purposes are available for pickup after Liturgy. Those that are not picked up will be mailed. 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**

**Tuesday:** *Fathers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom*  
**Thursday:** *Preparation for the Encounter*  
**Friday:** *THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD (THE PRESENTATION)*

January 28, 2024 — Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**Saturday:** *Saturday of the Dead*

**Sunday:** *Meat-Fare Sunday*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

### Coming Up

Cheesefare: February 11<sup>th</sup>

### 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.

**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 vaccinated and boosted ([city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax](http://city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax)) when you are eligible, wear a mask ([city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus/masks](http://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](http://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus)

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### Who Art in Heaven

These words I think have a very deep meaning. They remind us of the homeland we have abandoned, of the citizenship we have lost. In the parable of the young man who left his father's house, went off the rails and was reduced to living with pigs,

the Word of God shows us human wretchedness. 'That young man did not find his one-time happiness again until he had realized his moral degradation, had looked into his own heart and had pronounced the words of confession. These

January 28, 2024 — Sunday of the Prodigal Son

words almost agree with the Lord's Prayer, because the prodigal son says: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you." [Luke 15:21] He would not confess himself to be a sinner against heaven if he were not convinced that the homeland he had left at the time of his going astray were not in actual fact heaven.

By this confession of his he makes himself worthy once again to stand in the presence

of his father who runs towards him, embraces him, and kisses him. The conclusion is this. 'To return to heaven there is only one route and that is to admit one's sinfulness and seek to avoid it. To make the decision to avoid it is already to be perfecting one's likeness to God.

*St. Gregory of Nyssa  
On the Lord's Prayer*

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