



## 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)

**May 12, 2024 — Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council of Nicea**



*Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea*

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### Divine Liturgy

**Intention:** Happy and eternal repose of the soul of GEORGE Baho (req. by Patricia Ebeling)

#### 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 Ascension:** You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through Your blessing they were confirmed in their belief that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

**Troparion of the Fathers:** O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified, for You established our fathers as radiant stars on earth. Through them, You led us to the

**Prokimenon:** Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

*Stichon:* For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

**Apostolic Reading:** Acts 20:16-18, 27-36

In those days Paul decided to sail past Ephesus so as not to waste time in Asia. For he was hurrying as much as he could

in true faith. O Most Merciful One, glory to You!

**Kontakion of the Ascension:** After fulfilling for us Your plan of redemption and joining the things of earth with those of heaven, O Christ our God, You gloriously ascended without abandoning us, but remained with us forever and reassured all who love You by telling them: "Behold, I am with you: no one has power against you."

**Hirmos:** O you who have given birth in time to the One whom no limit of time can hold, You thus have become the Mother of God in a manner beyond understanding and beyond words: we the faithful magnify you in one mind.

**Kinonikon:** God ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid trumpet blasts. Alleluia!

in order to reach Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost. From Miletus, however, he had sent an invitation to Ephesus for the pres-

byters of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them, (20:28) "Be careful about yourselves and the whole flock over which the Holy Spirit has placed you as bishops, to herd the Church of God which He has redeemed through His own blood. For I know this, that after I am gone fierce wolves will get in among you and will not spare the flock. And from among you, some men will rise, speaking perverse doctrines, to draw away the disciples after them.

"Watch, therefore, and remember that for three years, night and day, I did not cease to warn with tears every one of you. And

**Alleluia:** The God of gods, the Lord has spoken and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

*Stichon:* Gather His faithful ones around Him, those who have made a covenant with Him through sacrifices.

**Gospel:** The Prayer of Jesus after Supper, Jn 17:1-13

At that time Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come! Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You, even as You have given Him power over all flesh, in order that to all You have given Him, He may give everlasting life. Now this is everlasting life, that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent, Jesus Christ. I have glorified You on earth; I have accomplished the work You have given Me to do. And now do You, Father, glorify Me with Yourself, with the glory that I had with You before the world existed. I have manifested Your name to the men You have given me out of the world. They were Yours, and You have given them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have learned that whatever You have given Me is from You;

now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, Who is able to edify and to grant you an inheritance among all His blessed ones.

"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You, yourselves, know these hands of mine have provided for my needs and those of my companions. In all things, I have shown you that by working in this way you should help the weak, and remember that the Lord Jesus said in person, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And after saying this, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

because the words that You have given Me, I have given to them. And they have received them, and have known as a fact that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You did send Me. I pray for them; not for the world do I pray, but for those whom You have given Me, because they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep in Your name those You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those You have given Me, I guarded; and not one of them perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. But

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now I am coming to You and these things I speak in the world, in order that they may have My joy made full in themselves.”

### Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$6.00; donations=\$944.26; ordinary collections=\$1,135.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated May 5, 2024): \$18,504.57.

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).

### Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: M.J. Harden and Ken Schmidt (sister and brother-in-law of Brian Harden), 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), Jan Taylor, Kathy Tomaz and John Zambo. For those we have been asked to pray for: Justin & Krysten Hager (Jan Taylor). For those who have died: Dan Sylvester (neighbor of Benjamin Neumann). For the people of the Middle East.

### Schedule for This Week

**Friday:** *Leave-taking of the Ascension*

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

**Sunday:** *Pentecost*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday** to Theresa Nora (5/16). May God grant you many years!

### *Saturday of the Dead*

**Troparion:** In the depth of Your wisdom, You order everything with loving kindness. Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Your servants, for they have put their hope in You, our Creator, our Master and Our God.

**Kontakion:** O Savior, let those who have left us and this passing world find a place in the mansions of the elect. Give them

rest with the saints. If they have sinned on earth during their mortal life, forgive them their sins both deliberate and indeliberate, for You are the Lord, the only One free from any sin. Be pleased to do this through the intercession of the Mother of God who gave You birth so that, in the name of the dead, we may cry out, “Alleluia!”

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## 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)

## Knowledge of the True God Nurtures Us to Eternal Life

Are we saying that knowledge is eternal life? Are we saying that to know the one true and living God will suffice to give us complete security for the future without need of anything else? Then how is “faith apart from works dead?” When we speak of faith, we mean the true knowledge of God and nothing else, since knowledge comes by faith. The prophet Isaiah tells us this: “If you do not believe, neither shall you understand.” But he is not talking about a knowledge that consists in barren speculations, which is entirely worthless. For one of the holy disciples said, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder.” What then shall we say to this? How is it that Christ speaks the truth when He says that eternal life is the knowledge of God the Father, the one true God, and with Him of the Son? I think, indeed, we must answer that the saying of the Savior is completely true. For this knowledge is life, laboring as

it were in birth of the whole meaning of the mystery and granting to us participation in the mystery of the Eucharist, whereby we are joined to the living and life-giving Word. And for this reason, I think, Paul says that the Gentiles are made fellow members of the body and fellow partakers of Christ, inasmuch as they partake in His Blessed Body and Blood. And our members may in this sense be conceived of as being members of Christ. This knowledge, then, which also brings to us the Eucharist by the Spirit, is life. For it dwells in our hearts, reshaping those who receive it into son-ship with Him and molding them into incorruption and piety toward God through life, according to the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ, then, knowing that the knowledge of the one true God brings to us and promotes our union with the blessings of which we have spoken, says that it is eternal life.

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

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