



## 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)

**June 9, 2024 — Third Sunday after Pentecost**



*Icon of Jesus preaching to His Disciples*

June 9, 2024 — Third Sunday after Pentecost

## 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)

### 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 doc-

**Prokimenon:** My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

*Stichon:* The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death.

**Apostolic Reading:** Romans 5:1-10

Brethren, now that we have been justified by faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have access by faith to that grace in which we stand and exult in the hope of God's glory.

And not only this, but we exult also in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance, and endurance challenge, and challenge hope, and hope does not deceive, for God's love is poured forth in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

tor for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, intercede for us to Christ God, that he may save our souls!

**Kontakion:** O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

For why did Christ die at the appointed time for the wicked while we were still weak? Hardly would someone die for a just man; perhaps someone would have the courage to die for a virtuous man. But God proves His love for us, since Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Much more now that we are made just in His blood, shall we be saved by Him from wrath.

For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled with God through His death, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.

June 9, 2024 — Third Sunday after Pentecost

**Alleluia:** May the Lord answer you in the days of distress; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

*Stichon:* O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

**Gospel:** Eye is Lamp; Two Masters, Mt 6:22-33

The Lord said: The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. Therefore, if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness itself! No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will stand by the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you shall eat and drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall wear. Is not life a greater thing than food, and the body than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you of much more value than they? But which of

you by being anxious about it can add to his stature a single cubit? And as for clothing, why are you anxious? See how the lilies of the field grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. But if God so clothes the wild flower of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more you, O you of little faith! Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or, 'What shall we drink?', or, 'What are we to wear?' (For all these things the Gentiles seek); for your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all the rest shall be given you besides."

### Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$1.00; donations=\$95.24; ordinary collections=\$402.00. 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 Tay-

June 9, 2024 — Third Sunday after Pentecost

lor). For those who have died: Dan Sylvester (neighbor of Benjamin Neumann). For the people of the Middle East.

### Schedule for This Week

**Sunday:** *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*  
10:30am Divine Liturgy

### Coming Up

June 19<sup>th</sup>: Start of the Apostles' Fast (Melkite Usage)

June 29<sup>th</sup>: Apostles Peter and Paul

### *Fasting with the Apostles*

So many times we hear that the summer fast of the Apostles is a preparation for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29<sup>th</sup>. But that is only part of the story. This fast begins on the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints, which is the eighth day of Pentecost. If we look at this fast in relation to the Eighth Day of Pentecost, it adds another dimension to the meaning to this fast: The Eighth Day is the icon of the completion of the Kingdom.

At the time of Christ, pious Jews normally fasted two days a week, hence the words of the Pharisee: I fast twice a week (Luke 18:12). The early Christians did as well and early on the designated days became Wednesday and Friday. This is recorded in a book called "The Didache, the Teaching of the 12 Apostles." The book was written around the year 70. which makes it as old as St Mark's Gospel. "The Didache" also speaks of fasting as an important preparation for baptism, for one who is baptizing and one who is being baptized. Fasting on Wednesday and Friday is the practice of the Eastern Christian churches to this day.

**After the descent of the Holy Spirit, the apostles kept a fast.** As Moses fasted during the Theophanies on Sinai, so this fast is a grateful awe for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Every gift demands gratitude. And gratitude demands response. All God's gifts are given in order to be given. So we might see this fast as a transition from reception of gifts to mission. Gratitude becomes preparation. The apostles embraced the fast to begin their ministry to the world. It is a fast of preparation and inauguration to preach and baptize. Fasting is an important preparation for ministry and service.

**Fasting is a preparation.** Athletes know this. The apostles fasted before they established the churches in Asia (Acts 14:23) and when they chose Paul and Barnabas at Antioch (Acts 13:2).

**Fasting is a precursor of revelation.** While fasting and at prayer, Peter receives the command to receive Cornelius and his household and thus open the Church to the Gentiles (Acts 10). We see that fasting softens our hearts to discern the will of God.

June 9, 2024 — Third Sunday after Pentecost

## 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](https://city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax)) when you are eligible, wear a mask ([city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus/masks](https://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](https://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus)

### Prove Your Faith by Your Trust

“Look at the birds of the air,” says Jesus. What a splendid example for our faith to follow! If God’s providence bestows an unfailing supply of food on the birds of the air who neither sow nor reap, we ought to realize that the reason for people’s supply running short is human greed. ‘the fruits of the earth were given to feed all without distinction and nobody can claim any particular rights. Instead, we have lost the sense of the communion of goods, rushing to turn these goods into private property. The birds do not know famine because they do not claim anything specially for themselves and neither do they have any envy of others. “Consider the lilies of the field: not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these.

If God so clothes the grass which is alive today and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe one of you!”

Listen to these stupendous and uplifting words. With this parable of flowers and grass the Lord urges us to hope that God will also be merciful to us. Nothing is more persuasive than a glance at unthinking creatures who have received such beautiful dress from providence. Surely we should be all the more ready to believe that human beings, if they entrust themselves completely to God and free themselves of all their worries, will not lack anything.

*St. Ambrose of Milan*

Text and cover-icon courtesy of Eastern Christian Bulletin Service  
PO Box 3909 – Fairfax, VA 22038-3909  
[www.ecbulletin.com](http://www.ecbulletin.com) – Ph: 703-691-8862 – Fax: 703-691-0513