



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

June 16, 2024 — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Icon of Healing the Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5-13)

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 3):
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad! For the Lord has done a wondrous deed by his arm! He has crushed Death by his death becoming the first to rise from the dead. He has delivered us from the mouth of Hades and bestowed great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of St. George: O Great among the saints and glorious martyr, George, since you are a deliverer of captives, a doc-

Prokimenon: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Stichon: All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

Apostolic Reading: Romans 6:18-23

Brethren, now that you have been freed from sin, you have come to serve justification. I speak in a human way because of the weakness of your flesh. For as you yielded your members as slaves to uncleanness and iniquity, so now yield your members as slaves of justification so as to be sanctified. For while you were the slaves of sin, you had nothing to do with

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.

justification. But what fruit did you gather then of those deeds of which you are now ashamed? For the end of such things is death. But now, set free from sin and become slaves to God, you have your fruit resulting in sanctification, and as your end, life everlasting. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life everlasting in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia: In you, O Lord, I have hoped: let me never be put to shame. In your goodness, save me and deliver me; lend your ear and hasten my deliverance.

Stichon: Be for me a protecting God, a sheltering house to save me.

Gospel: The Centurion's Son, Matthew 8:5-13

At that time when Jesus had entered Capharnaum, there came to Him a centurion who entreated Him, saying, "Lord,

my servant is lying sick in the house, paralyzed, and is grievously afflicted." Jesus said to him, "I will come and cure him."

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But in answer the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, and have soldiers subject to me; and I say to one, 'Go', and he goes; and to another, 'Come', and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this', and he does it." And when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following Him, "Amen I say to you, I have

not found such great faith in Israel. And I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west, and will feast with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be put forth into the darkness outside; there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; as you have believed, so be it done to you." And the servant was healed in that hour.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$650.00; ordinary collections=\$275.00. 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. 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.

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

Wednesday: *Start of the Apostles' Fast (Melkite Usage)*

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

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Cynthia Peterson Harden (6/21). May God grant you many years!

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 29th. But that is only part of the story. This fast be-

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gins 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.

Coming Up

June 29th: Apostles Peter and Paul

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

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Homily by St. John Chrysostom on Matthew 8

But nevertheless, though having such great faith, he still accounted himself to be unworthy. Christ however, signifying that he was worthy to have Him enter into his house, did much greater things, marveling at him, and proclaiming him, and giving more than he had asked. For he came indeed seeking for his servant health of body, but went away, having received a kingdom. Do you see how the saying had been already fulfilled, "Seek the kingdom of heaven, and all these things shall be added unto you." For, because he evinced great faith, and lowliness of mind, He both gave him heaven, and added unto him health.

And not by this alone did He honor him, but also by signifying upon whose casting out he is brought in. For now from this time forth He proceeds to make known to all, that salvation is by faith, not by works of the law. And this is why not to Jews only, but to Gentiles also the gift so given shall be proffered, and to the latter rather than to the former. For "think not," says He, by any means, that so it has come to pass in

regard of this man alone; nay, so it shall be in regard of the whole world. And this He said, prophesying of the Gentiles, and suggesting to them good hopes. For in fact there were some following Him from Galilee of the Gentiles. And this He said, on the one hand, not letting the Gentiles despair, on the other, putting down the proud spirits of the Jews.

But that His saying might not affront the hearers, nor afford them any handle; He neither brings forward prominently what He has to say of the Gentiles, but upon occasion taken from the centurion; nor does He use nakedly the term, Gentiles: not saying, "many of the Gentiles," but, "many from east and west:" Matthew 8:11 which was the language of one pointing out the Gentiles, but did not so much affront the hearers, because His meaning was under a shadow.

Neither in this way only does He soften the apparent novelty of His doctrine, but also by speaking of "Abraham's bosom" instead of "the kingdom."

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PO Box 3909 – Fairfax, VA 22038-3909

www.ecbulletin.com – Ph: 703-691-8862 – Fax: 703-691-0513