



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

August 18, 2024 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Icon of the Wicked Tenant Farmers (Matthew 21:33-42)

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 4): The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the Angels the joyful news of the resurrection, and casting away the ancestral sentence, they announced with pride to the Apostles: Death is vanquished, Christ God is risen! And has bestowed great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of the Dormition: In giving birth you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life being the Mother of Life.

Prokimenon: How great are your works, O Lord! in wisdom you have wrought them all.

Stichon: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

Apostolic Reading: 1 Cor 16:13-24

BRETHREN, watch, stand fast in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let everything you do be done out of love.

Now, I beg you, brethren: you know that the members of Stephanas' family are the first-fruits of Achaia and have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. To such as these, you too be come subject, and to every helper and worker. I rejoice at the presence of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because what was lacking on your part they have supplied—for they

Through your intercession, save our souls from death

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 Dormition: Neither death nor the tomb could hold the Mother of God, our watchful Protectress and our unfailing hope. Since she is the Mother of Life. Christ who dwelt in her ever-virginal womb lifted her up to the eternal life.

have refreshed both my spirit and yours. To such as these, therefore, give recognition.

The churches of Asia greet you. Acquila and Priscilla with the church at their house greet you heartily in the Lord. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

I, Paul, greet you with my own hand. If any man does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. The grace of

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our Lord Jesus be with you. My love is with all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

Stichon: You loved righteousness and hated iniquity: therefore God, your God, anointed you with the oil of joy above your companions.

Gospel: The Wicked Tenants, Mt 21:33-42

The Lord told this parable: "There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard, and put a hedge around it, and dug a wine vat in it, and built a tower; then he leased it to the vine-dressers, and went abroad. But when the fruit season drew near, he sent his servants to the vine-dressers to receive his fruits. And the vine-dressers seized his servants, and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent another party of servants more numerous than the first; and they did the same to these. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But the vine-dressers, on seeing the son,

said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and we shall have his inheritance.' So, they seized him, cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When, therefore, the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-dressers?" They said to him, "He will utterly destroy those evil men, and will lease the vineyard to other vine-dressers, who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The Stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone; by the Lord this has been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes'".

Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$298.22; candles=\$3.00; ordinary collections=\$518.00. 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 the people of the Middle East.

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Schedule for This Week

Friday: *Leave-taking of the Dormition*
Sunday: *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Doors Open Milwaukee

September 28th (10am–5pm) and 29th (12:15pm–5pm): Doors Open Milwaukee

Help give tour or simply greet visitors for as long as you're able. Even long-time parishioners might learn something by listening in on a tour or by taking a closer look of what is in the church! Contact Benjamin Neumann for more information.

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 when you are eligible, wear a mask in public spaces, wash your hands often and practice physical distancing.

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

He Who is not With Me is Against Me

When our Lord spoke in parables, He often used allegory familiar to His listeners. In today's Gospel reading, the vineyard represents Israel; the vineyard owner represents God; and, the managers (the tenants) of the vineyard represent the political and religious leaders of the time. Just as the responsibility of the vineyard managers was to produce a profit for the vineyard owner, so was it the responsibility of the religious leaders in the time of Jesus to bring God's people to fruitfulness in knowing, loving and serving God. But, they failed in this, just as the vineyard managers in the parable failed to bring a profit to the vineyard owner.

In response to this, the vineyard owner sent his servants to the vineyard, just as God sent the prophets into the world. However, like the prophets, the servants in

the parable were rejected, mistreated, ignored, even killed. Finally, the vineyard owner sent his son to reason with the managers, but they killed him out of jealousy. Jesus, too, was rejected and ultimately crucified at the hands of devious and jealous men.

Are we, at times, like the managers of the vineyard who rejected the Son? How often do we knowingly distance ourselves from God and His commandments? "There is a pride in the human heart that urges us to take control of our own lives even if it means disobedience to all that we know to be right and true. Our Lord tells us that "he who is not for Me is against Me." (Matthew 12:30) When we act in such a way we really are no different from the tenant farmers in the parable.

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