



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 25, 2024 — Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Icon of the Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 5):
Let us O Faithful, praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He has willed to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

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 Nativity of the Theotokos: Through your holy birth, O Immaculate One, Joachim and Anne were delivered from the shame of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. Your people, redeemed from the debt of their sins, cry out to you to honor your birth: "the barren one gives birth to the Mother of God the Sustainer of our life!"

Prokimenon: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Stichon: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

Apostolic Reading: 2 Corinthians 1: 21-2:4

BRETHREN, the one who strengthened you and us in Christ, who anointed us, is God, who also stamped us with his seal and gave us the Spirit as a pledge in our hearts. Now, I call God to witness against my soul that it was to spare you that I did not come again to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith, but rather we are fellow-workers in your joy, for in faith you stand. I made up my mind not to come to you again in sorrow. For if I make you sad,

who can gladden me; save the very one who is grieved by me? And I wrote to you as I did, that when I come, I may not have sorrow upon sorrow from those who ought to give me joy: for I trust in all of you that my joy is a joy to all of you. For I wrote to you in much affliction and anguish of heart, with many tears, not that you might be grieved, but that you might know the great love I have for you.

Alleluia: Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

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Stichon: For you have said, “My kindness is established forever.” In heaven, you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Gospel: The King's Marriage Feast, Mt 22:2-14

The Lord told this parable: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who made a marriage feast for his son. And he sent his servants to call in those invited to the marriage feast, but they would not come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying: ‘Tell those who are invited, behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatlings are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it, and went off, one to his own farm, and another to his business; and the rest laid hold of his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard of it, he was angry; and he sent his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The marriage feast indeed is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy; go therefore to the crossroads, and invite to the marriage feast whomever you shall find.’ And his servants went out into the roads and gathered all those they found, both good and bad; and the marriage feast was filled with guests. Now the king went in to see the guests, and he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, take hold of him, and throw him out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Stewardship

Last Sunday: ordinary collections=\$327.00. 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.

Schedule for This Week

Thursday: *Beheading of the Forerunner*

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Saturday: *Deposition of the Cincture of the Theotokos in Calcoprateia*

Sunday: *Church New Year*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Michel Aboul-Zelof (8/26) and Said Audi (8/29). May God grant you many years!

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](https://www.city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus)

Our Second Invitation

"I'm counting on you," said a man to his best friend. The man had used his own good name and reputation to get a job for his friend who had been out of work. But, on the day the man was supposed to start his new job, he was late. After several days of arriving late, the man got fired from the job he had only one week: the job that his best friend had vouched for.

There are few things more disappointing than when our friends let us down. We see this in today's Gospel reading. A certain king invited his friends to a banquet, but when all was ready his friends declined to attend. More than being disappointed, the king was downright angry! His friends, who had accepted the initial invitation to attend, now made excuses when the ban-

quet was about to begin. In the culture in which Jesus lived declining an invitation after first accepting it was among the gravest of insults.

Our Lord extends a similar invitation to us. He says to each of us personally, "Follow Me." At our Baptism, our godparents accepted this invitation in our behalf. Throughout our life however, we have many opportunities to personally accept this invitation again and again. Each time we face a critical decision, each time we have a choice of good over evil, each occasion of trial or temptation, is an opportunity to accept or decline Christ's invitation to follow Him. Unlike the guests in today's Gospel reading, let us be among those who make right choices, not excuses.

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