



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

October 13, 2024 — Fathers of the Seven Ecumenical Councils



Icon of Christ as the Sower (Luke 8:5-15)

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

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

Stichon: God is renowned in Judah; in Israel, great is his name.

Apostolic Reading: Titus 3:8-15

My son Titus, this saying is true, and in this matter, I want to insist that those who believe in God be careful to excel in good works: these are good and useful to people. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and quarrels, and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and futile.

Avoid a factious man after warning him once or twice, knowing that such a man is

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: 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.

perverted and sins, since he is condemning himself.

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, taking care that they lack nothing. And let our people also learn to excel in good works, in order to help cases of urgent need so that they may not be unfruitful. All my companions greet you.

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Greet those who love us in the faith. The grace of God be with all of you. Amen.

Alleluia: O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds You did in their days, in the days of old.

Stichon: The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

Gospel: Lk 8:5-15

The Lord told this parable: "The Sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside and was trodden underfoot, and the birds of the air ate it up. And other seed fell upon the rock, and as soon as it had sprung up it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. And other seed fell upon good ground, and sprang up and yielded fruit a hundredfold." As He said these things He cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" But His disciples then began to ask Him what this parable meant. He said to them, "To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to the rest in parables, that 'Seeing, they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: the seed is

the word of God. And those by the way-side are they who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved. Now those upon the rock are they who, when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, but believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among the thorns, these are they who have heard, and as they go their way are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not ripen. But that upon good ground, these are they who, with a right and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bear fruit in patience." When He had said this, He cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Middle Eastern Dinner: Sunday, October 27th

Noon–1:30pm, \$15.00 standard dinner

Our tempting menu includes: kafta (beef, parsley, onion, spices), riz bi djaaj (chicken, rice, spices), hummus and middle-eastern salad.

Your tempting sweet treats and savory items are needed for the bakery table! Syrian-Lebanese especially appreciated. Please include a note with a description of donated bakery item and suggested sale price (round dollars only). Just drop off your bakery at the table before Divine Liturgy that Sunday. See for Sarah Brickus or Katie Kasper with questions or if you are able to help.

Stewardship

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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: Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), Sandy Rabuse (godmother of Katerina Lessard), the Rebholz family, Ken Schmidt (brother-in-law of Brian Harden), 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: Monica Zambo and M.J. Harden (sister of Brian Harden). For the people of the Middle East. For the people affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Schedule for This Week

Friday: *Apostle Luke the Evangelist*
Sunday: *Sixth Sunday after the Holy Cross*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

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

Not the Seed at Fault, but Ourselves

The parable of the sower and the seed could also be called the parable of the fate of the word of God in human hearts. It is very simple, clear and easy to understand. 'There is no mistaking its meaning.

There is also no mistaking Jesus' love and concern for His people. It must have been very frustrating and disappointing for Him to go from village to village and bring them grace and salvation only to

find that His words were falling on deaf ears and cold hearts.

It is with this pain and concern for souls that He tells this beautiful parable. 'This is also why He cried out many times at the end of His parables, "He who has ears to hear, let

him hear." Yet He continued on, patiently teaching, sowing the seed of truth and praying that it will take root and bring forth fruit.

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When hearing this parable, do not these thoughts strike us: “How has the seed, the word of God, taken root in our souls? What is the fate of Christ’s teaching in our hearts? What type of soil have we culti-

vated for God’s word? Are our hearts cold, stony, filled with weeds and thorns?”

We cannot blame anyone but ourselves if the teachings of Jesus are not reflected in our lives. It is not the seed which is at fault, only ourselves.

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