



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
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November 17, 2024 — Ninth Sunday after the Holy Cross



Icon of the Parable of the Rich Fool

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 1): While the stone was sealed by the Jews and soldiers were watching your sacred body, You rose, O Savior, on the third day, giving life to the world. Wherefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried out: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom, glory to your Plan of redemption, O You who alone are the Lover of mankind.

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

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

Kontakion of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin: The most pure Temple of the Savior, and the most precious and bright bridal chamber, the Virgin, sacred treasury of the glory of God, openly appears today into the temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the most Holy Spirit. Wherefore the angels of God are singing: "This is the heavenly tabernacle!"

Prokimenon: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Stichon: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Apostolic Reading: Eph 5:8-19

BRETHREN, walk as children of light (for the fruit of the spirit is in all virtue and holiness and truth), testing what is well pleasing to the Lord, and have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For of the things that are done by people in secret, it is shameful even to speak; but all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light: for all that is made manifest is light. Thus, there is a saying, Awake, sleeper, and arise from among the dead, and

Christ will enlighten you. (Is.26: 19) See to it, therefore, brethren, that you walk with care, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. Do not become foolish, then, but understand what is the Lord's will. And do not be drunk with wine, for in that is wantonness; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your hearts to the Lord.

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Alleluia: O God, You granted me retribution and made peoples subject to me and saved me from my raging enemies.

Stichon: Therefore, I will proclaim You, O Lord, among the nations, and I will sing praise to Your name.

Gospel: The Rich Fool, Lk 12:16-22

The Lord told this parable: “The land of a certain rich man brought forth abundant crops. And he began to consider, saying, ‘What shall I do, for I have no room to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store up all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool, this very night, you must give up your life; and the things you have provided, whose will they be?’ So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich as regards God.” After He had said this, He cried out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Stewardship

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated May 5, 2024): \$18,504.57.

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Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), 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: Ken Gotz (uncle of Benjamin Neumann).

Schedule for This Week

Wednesday: *Preparation of the Feast of the Entrance*

Thursday: *Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple*

Sunday: *Thirteenth Sunday after the Holy Cross*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Coming Up

Tuesday, December 10th: Beginning of the Nativity Fast (Melkite Usage)

Practical Suggestions for Fasting

Fasting, like prayer, is something we can grow into. If you are not accustomed to fasting, it can be helpful to begin at one level and deepen your practice as you grow in your life in Christ. The following plan might be helpful.

Beginning level: On Wednesdays and Fridays do not eat any meat and offer a brief prayer several times throughout the day. During the fasting seasons of Great Lent and the Dormition Fast, attend at least one Lenten Service each week. Before the Presanctified Liturgy during Great Lent, do not eat anything for several hours.

A deeper level: In addition to the above, on fast days, do not eat anything before noon and no meat thereafter. Keep additional fast days during the fasting seasons. During Great Lent, in addition to avoiding meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, also avoid dairy products. Attend two Lenten Services weekly and preform some act of charity each day.

A further level: In addition to the above, keep each day in the fasting seasons as a fast day. Attend all the Divine Services during the fasting seasons. Replace entertainments such as TV, movies, shopping, etc. with prayer, spiritual reading and acts of charity.

Commentary on Riches

The land of a rich man produced abundant harvests, and he thought to himself, "What am to do? I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones." Now why did that land bear so well, when it belonged to a man who would make no good use of its fertility? It was to show more clearly the forbearance of God, whose kindness extends even to such people as this. He sends rain on both the just and the unjust, and makes the sun rise on the wicked and good alike. But what do we find in this man? A bitter disposition, hatred of other people, unwillingness to give. "This is the return he made to his Benefactor. He forgot that we all share the same nature; he felt no obligation to distribute his surplus to the needy. His barns were full to bursting point, but still his miserly heart was not satisfied. Year by year he increased his wealth, always adding new crops to the old. The result was a hopeless impasse: greed would not

permit him to part with anything he possessed, and yet because he had so much there was no place to store his latest harvest. And so he was incapable of making a decision and could find no escape from his anxiety. What am I to do?

You who have wealth, recognize who has given you the gifts you have received. Consider yourself, who you are, what has been committed to your charge, from whom you have received it, why you have been preferred to most other people. You are the servant of the good God, a steward on behalf of your fellow servants. Do not imagine that everything has been provided for your own stomach. Make decisions regarding your property as though it belonged to another. Possessions give you pleasure for a short time, but then they will slip through your fingers and be gone, and you will be required to give an exact account of them.

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St. Basil the Great

Text and cover-icon courtesy of Eastern Christian Bulletin Service

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