



## 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](http://byzantinemilwaukee.com)  
Facebook: [fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee](https://fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee)

**November 24, 2024 — Thirteenth Sunday after the Holy Cross**



*Icon of the Healing of the Stoopd Woman*

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### Divine Liturgy

#### Hymns

**Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 2):** When you descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of your Divinity, and when you raised the dead from under the ground, all the Powers of heaven cried out: O Christ our God, the giver of life, glory to you.

**Troparion of the Presentation:** Today is the prelude of the benevolence of God, and the announcement of the salvation of men. In the Temple of God the Virgin is seen openly, foretelling to all the coming of Christ. Wherefore let us cry to her in a loud voice, "Hail! O fulfillment of the Creator's plan!"

**Prokimenon:** My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

*Stichon:* The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death.

**Apostolic Reading:** Eph 6:10-17

Brethren, be strengthened in the Lord and in the might of his power. Put on God's armor that you may be able to stand against the devil's wiles. For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness on high. Therefore, take up God's armor that you may be able to resist on the evil day and stand perfect in all things. Stand, there-

**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 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!"

fore, wearing the belt of truth. And the breastplate of holiness and with your feet shod in the readiness of the Good News of peace, and in all things take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to put out all the flaming darts of the most wicked one. And take for yourselves the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word.

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**Alleluia:** The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress; the name of the God of Jacob shall defend you.

*Stichon:* O Lord, save your king and listen to us on whatever day we call upon you.

**Gospel:** The Rich Young Man, Lk 18:18-28

At that time a certain man approached Jesus and asked him, saying, "Good Master, what shall I do to gain eternal life?" But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but only God. You know the commandments; 'You shalt not kill. You shalt not commit adultery. You shalt not steal. You shalt not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept ever since I was a child." But when Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing is still lacking to you; sell everything you own, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When he heard these things, he was much grieved, for he was very rich. But Jesus, seeing him become sad, said, "With what difficulty will the wealthy enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And they who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" He said to them, "Things men cannot do alone, they can do with God's help."

### 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

**Monday:** *Leave-taking of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple*

**Saturday:** *Apostle Andrew, the First-called*

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

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## Coming Up

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>: St. Nicholas Potluck after Liturgy

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: 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.

## Healing a Stooped Woman

Luke 13:10-17 relates the story of Jesus' healing of a deformed woman who had endured a debilitating infirmity for eighteen years. What began as a slightly bent posture developed into a stoop so profound that she could no longer look up. Every year increased her suffering, and after all those years, her situation became extremely severe. In this, we see a parallel with sin. Its effects begin slowly and almost unnoticeably, but with the passing of time, its influence increasingly corrupts the sinner. [he longer the sinner continues in his sin, the more his heart hardens.

While teaching in the synagogue, Jesus sees her in the audience and is immediately moved with compassion and grace to

heal her (Luke 13:10-12). She does not appeal to Him for help, but He takes it upon Himself to help her, expressing His deep compassion. It is inherent in God's character to take special notice of the needy.

What He saw would certainly not have been attractive, but, unlike men, Christ does not aid just the beautiful but those who truly need His help. Sinners sometimes feel they are too repugnant to God to be saved (Psalm 44:24-26), but Christ's healing of this disfigured woman emphasizes that His ability to help is determined, not by the state of the needy person, but by the limitless power of God. Christ's blood is able to wash away even the greatest of sins!

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