



**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)

**December 1, 2024 — Fourteenth Sunday after the Holy Cross**



*Icon of the Rich Young Ruler and Christ (Luke 18:18-27)*

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### Divine Liturgy

#### Hymns

**Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 3):**  
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad! For the Lord has done a wondrous deed by his arm! He has crushed Death by his death becoming the first to rise from the dead. He has delivered us from the mouth of Hades and bestowed great mercy upon the world.

**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 Preparation of the Nativity:** Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear this news, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds Him who shall appear as a newborn Child, being God from all eternity.

**Prokimenon:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!  
*Stichon:* All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

**Apostolic Reading:** Col 1:12-18

BRETHREN, we thank God the Father who has enabled us to share in the saints in light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have deliverance, the remission of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in Him all

things were created, those in heaven and those on earth, the seen and the unseen, whether Thrones or Dominations or Principalities or Powers: all things were created through Him all things hold together; and He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He may be first in all things.

**Alleluia:** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

*Stichon:* He will say to the Lord, "My wall, my refuge my God in whom I will trust!"

**Gospel:** Healing the Blind Man of Jericho, Lk 18:35-43

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At that time when Jesus came close to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the wayside, begging; but hearing a crowd passing by, he inquired what this might be. And they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was going to pass. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who went in front angrily tried to silence him. But he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then Jesus stopped

and commanded that he should be brought to him. And when he came close, he asked him, saying, "What would you have me do for you?" And he said, "Lord, that I may see!" And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight, your faith have saved you." And at once he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people upon seeing it gave praise to God.

### Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$101.08; candles=\$7.00; ordinary collections=\$1039.00. 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](https://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](mailto:info@byzantinemilwaukee.com).

### *Bishop's Appeal*

The annual Bishop's Appeal helps fund the vital works of the Melkites in the United States, such as: publishing SOPHIA magazine; supporting our seminarians for the Priesthood and Diaconate; providing for our elderly priests; teaching the Faith to our children and young adults; establishing/supporting new missions and outreaches.

Additional information is available on the tables in the back. Donations can also be made online: <https://melkiteeparchyofnewton.flocknote.com/give/27546>

### 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:** *Great-martyr Barbara*

**Thursday:** *Father Sabas the Sanctified*

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**Friday:** *Father Nicholas the Wonderworker*

**Sunday:** *Tenth Sunday after the Holy Cross*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

After Liturgy, St. Nicholas Potluck

### **Coming Up**

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Beginning of the Nativity Fast (Melkite Usage)

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 6pm, Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Nativity

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am, Divine Liturgy for the Nativity

### **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.

### **The Danger of Riches**

One day, an Indian boy found a large pearl. It represented the fulfillment of all his hopes and dreams. His days of hardship and toil would be over. He would never have to work again. But, when he tried to sell the pearl, his real problems began. Buyers tried to trick him, bandits tried to attack him, and even his friends tried to manipulate him. Possessing great wealth was nothing like he expected it would be, so he took the pearl and threw it back into sea.

The boy in this story is quite a contrast to the young man of whom Jesus spoke in the Gospel reading for this Sunday. Jesus spoke of a young man who desired to be justified by God. He had faithfully kept all the commandments, but Jesus told him that there

was one thing he still needed to do: sell all he had and give to the poor. With that, the young man went away saddened because he was not able to easily part with all his possessions. Jesus then spoke one of His most enduring statements, "It will be eas-

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ier for a camel to pass through the needles eye, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 21:24)

What type of hold do our possessions have on us? Are we willing to share what we have with others, including our time,

our talents, as well as our treasure? Everything that we have is a gift from God, which must be freely shared with others as a gift. Our Lord Himself tells us, “The gifts you have freely received, now give as a gift.” (Matthew 10:8)

Text and cover-icon courtesy of Eastern Christian Bulletin Service

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