

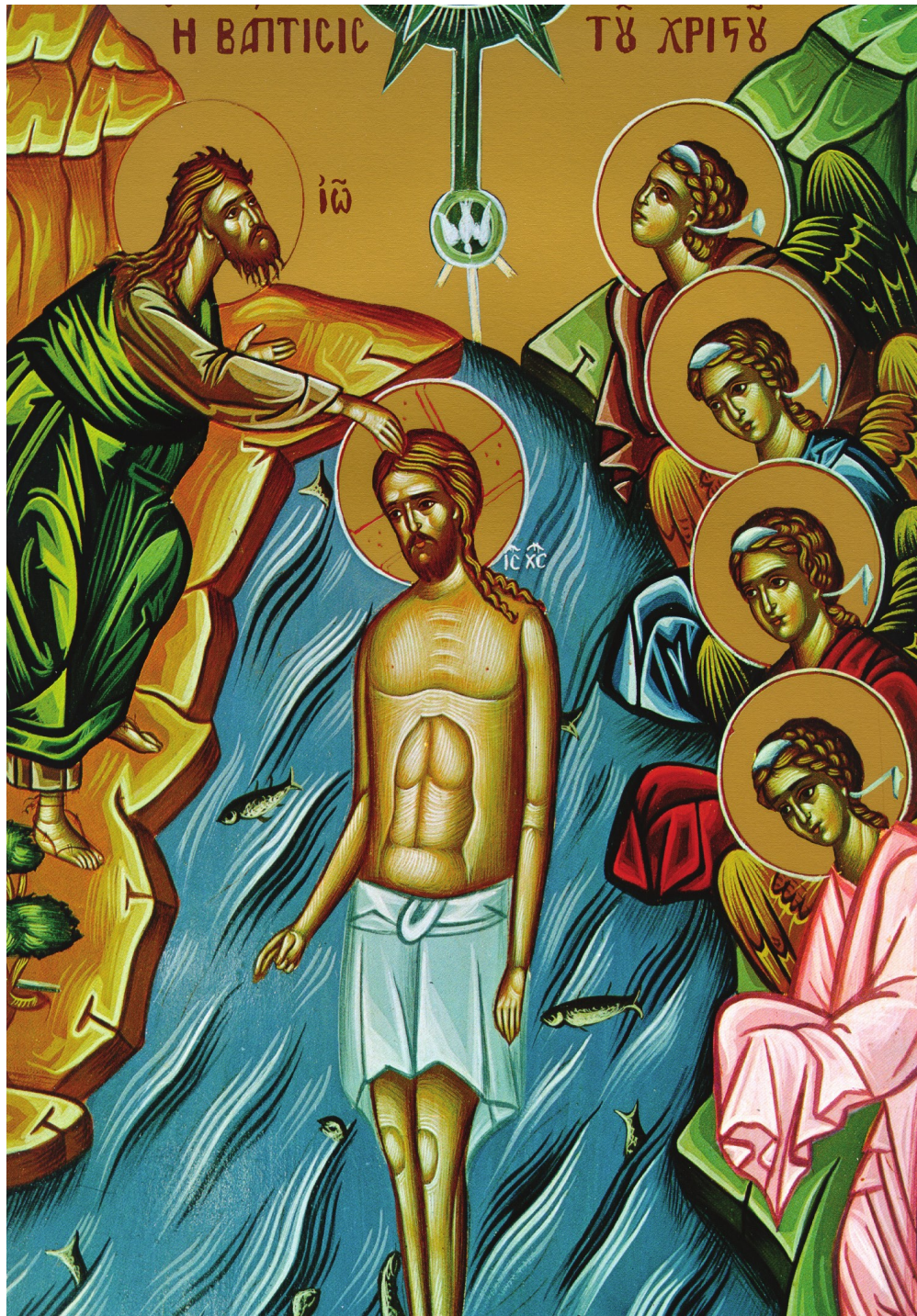


**St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church**  
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246  
*"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"*

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)

**January 5, 2025 — Sunday before the Theophany**



*Icon of the Theophany of Our Lord (January 6th)*

January 5, 2025 — Sunday before the Theophany

## 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)

**After Liturgy:** Great Blessing of Water. Bring containers to take water home; please fill large containers with water and place them next to the table of blessing beforehand.

### Divine Liturgy

#### Hymns

**Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 8):** O Merciful One, Who came down from on high and endured burial for three days in order to save us from suffering. O our Life and our Resurrection, glory to you.

**Troparion of the Preparation:** Make ready Zebulon and prepare Naphtali and you Jordan River, stop your flow and receive with a thrill of joy the Master coming to be baptized. Adam, rejoice with the first Mother, Eve, and hide not as you did of old in paradise: for Christ at the sight of your nakedness has come forth to clothe you with the robe of innocence. Indeed,

Christ has come forth to renew the whole creation.

**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:** Today the Lord Christ has appeared in the Jordan's waters, and He has cried out to John: Fear not of baptizing me, for by my own will I have indeed come to save Adam, the first created man.

**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:** 2 Tim 4:5-8

My son Timothy be watchful in all things, bear with tribulation patiently, work as a preacher of the Good News, fulfill your ministry. As for me, I am already being poured out in sacrifice, and the time of my deliverance is at hand. I have fought the

good fight, I have completed the course, I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give to me on that day: yet not to me only, but also to those who love his coming.

**Alleluia:** May God have mercy on us and bless us.

*Stichon:* May he let his face shine upon us and have mercy on us.

January 5, 2025 — Sunday before the Theophany

**Gospel:** The Ministry of St. John, Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, “Behold, I send my messenger before thee, who shall prepare thy way, the voice of one crying in the desert, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight his paths’, there came John in the desert, baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea went out to him, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather girdle about his loins, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “One mightier than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### Stewardship

Last Sunday and Christmas Day: candles=\$20.00; donations=\$200.00; ordinary collections=\$888.00. 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).

### 2024 Tax Letters

Donation acknowledgment letters for tax purposes will be sent by the end of January.

### 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: Dennis Smith (uncle of Benjamin Neumann). For the people of the Middle East.

### Schedule for This Week

**Monday:** *THE THEOPHANY*  
**Tuesday:** *Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner*  
**Saturday:** *Saturday after the Theophany*  
**Sunday:** *Sunday after the Theophany*  
10:30am Divine Liturgy  
12:15pm Brooks Whitten Baptism

January 5, 2025 — Sunday before the Theophany

*The Theophany*

**Troparion:** At your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to you by calling You his Beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, glory to You.

**Kontakion:** Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

**Celebrating Theophany Every Day**

The Feast of Christ's Theophany (or Epiphany) is celebrated with great solemnity in the Byzantine Church. The word *theophany* means a divine manifestation or revealing.

Jesus of Nazareth, a carpenter, was revealed on the banks of the Jordan River to be the Son of God and the long-awaited Messiah the "Christ." A voice came from the heavens that said, "This is My beloved Son, My favor rests on Him." (Matthew 3: 17)

Let us imagine ourselves standing on the banks of the River Jordan. We are witnessing the baptism of Jesus at the hands of Saint John the Baptist and the revelation of Jesus as God in the flesh. What a privilege that would have been!

Yet, God is revealed to us each and every-day. God manifests Himself to us not just on the banks of the River Jordan but at the bus stop, the grocery store, and in the work place. His image is within each of us. He is in our co-workers, our spouses, our children even in our enemies.

The real challenge of Christian discipleship is to endeavor to see the image of Christ in all people and to allow them to see that same Godly image within us. The celebration of the Great Feast of Theophany is not a one-day occasion commemorating an event that took place some two thousand years ago. Rather, it is living, day-to-day, the conviction that God is within each human being, and that each human being ought to be treated as though he or she is the living image of Christ.

Text and cover-icon courtesy of Eastern Christian Bulletin Service  
PO Box 3909 – Fairfax, VA 22038-3909  
www.ecbulletin.com – Ph: 703-691-8862 – Fax: 703-691-0513