

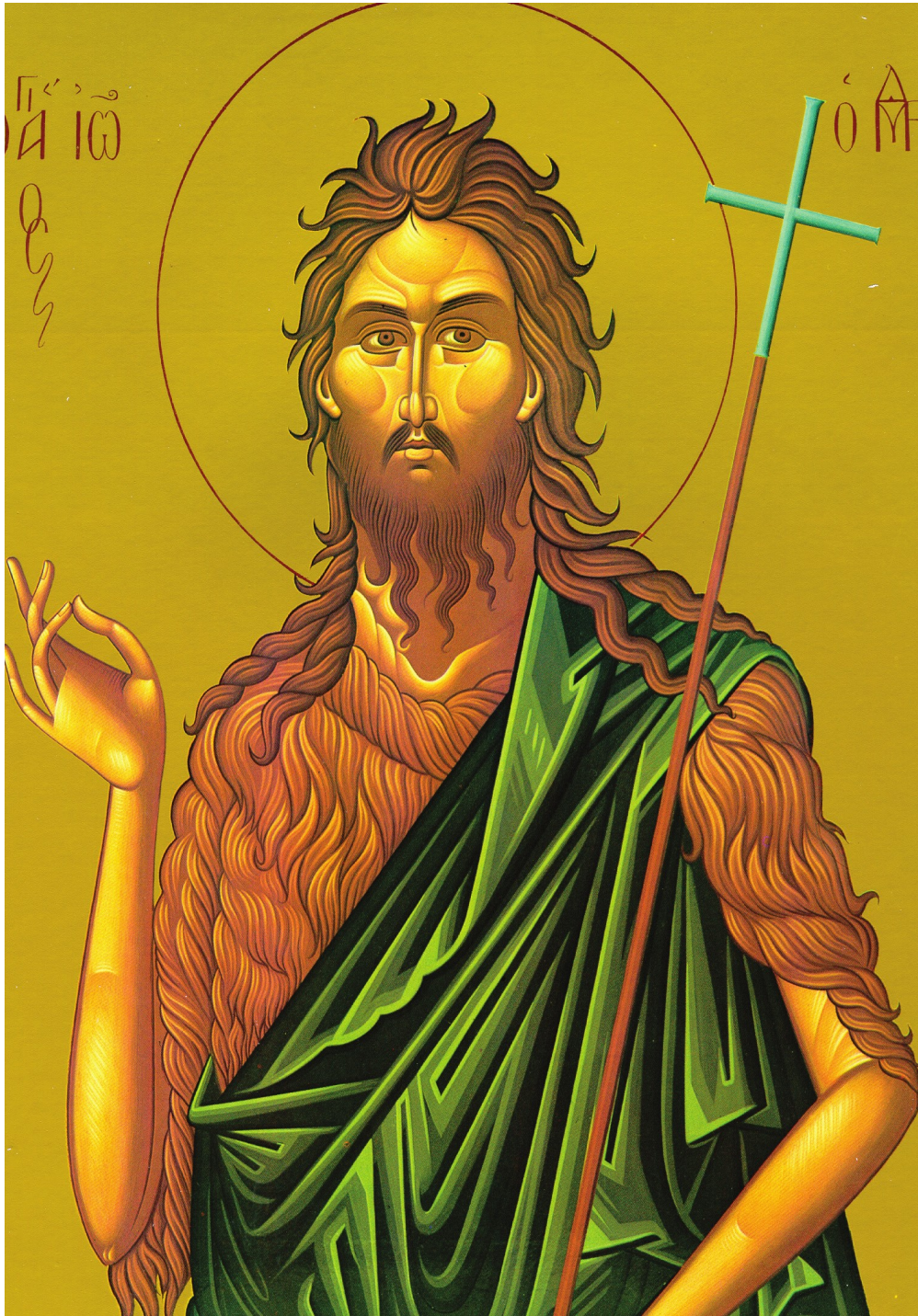


**St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church**  
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246  
*"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"*

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 12, 2025 — Sunday after the Theophany**



*Icon of Saint John the Baptist*

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### **Divine Liturgy**

**Intention:** Health, peace and salvation for the Dan and Danielle Flaherty family (req. by Albert Johary)

### **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 the Theophany:** 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.

**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 Theophany:** 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.

**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 4:7-13

Brethren, to each one of us the grace was given according to the measure of Christ's bestowal. Thus it says, Ascending on high, he led away captives; he gave gifts to men (Ps.61:19). Now this ascending, what does it mean but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended, he it is who ascended also above all the heavens, that he might fill all

things. And he himself gave some men as apostles, and some as prophets, and others as pastors and teachers, in order to perfect the saints for a work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the deep knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect manhood, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ.

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**Alleluia:** Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

*Stichon:* For you have said, "My kindness is established forever."

**Gospel:** Jesus Begins his Ministry, Mt 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been delivered up, he withdrew to Galilee. And leaving the town of Nazareth, he came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Nephtalim; that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Land of Zebulon and land of Nephtalim, by the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, a light has arisen." From that time, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### Stewardship

Last Sunday and Christmas Day: donations=\$102.20; candles=\$2.00; ordinary collections=\$397.00. 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 and southern California.

### Schedule for This Week

**Thursday:** *Veneration of the Chains of the Apostle Peter*

**Friday:** *Father Anthony the Great*

**Saturday:** *Fathers Athanasios and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria*

**Sunday:** *Twelfth Sunday after the Holy Cross*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

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**Congratulations and Happy Birthday** to Janelle Herro (1/17). May God grant you many years!

### **John the Baptist and Forerunner**

For the Church, John was a prophetic and tragic figure. He is called the 'Baptist' because he baptized those who came to him; he is called the 'Forerunner' because he went before Christ and prepared His way, making His paths straight, in accordance with the words of the prophet: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness ... make his paths straight (Mark 1:3). In the Old Testament, he is prophesied as "the voice of him that cries in the wilderness, in the passage from Isaiah quoted above. In other texts, he is referred to as 'the voice of the Word', 'the lamp of the Light', 'the friend of the Bridegroom', 'the morning star before the Sun'.

John began his work at the age of 30, in the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius (27 or 29 AD). To begin, he jour-

neyed around the southern part of Judah, near the river Jordan, preaching and prophesying. The central theme of his preaching was repentance: he called upon men to repent and to change their ways of thinking, so that they would be ready to receive the teaching of Christ, their Savior — "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

At the same time, he was severe in his rebuking of evil and sin. Another element of his teaching was that of the practical form — how each of us should love our fellow brothers and sisters.

As we anticipate the coming Great Fast in a few weeks, are we prepared to repent and change our ways, and rebuke evil and sin as Saint John taught?

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