



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
Facebook: fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee

February 9, 2025 — Sunday of Pharisee and Publican



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 5):

Let us O Faithful, praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation.

For He has willed to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

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 Pharisee and the Publican:

Let us shun the boastful words of the Pharisee and learn from the Publican humility with sighing; let us cry out to our Savior: "Have mercy on us, O You who alone are merciful!"

Prokimenon: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

Stichon: God is renowned in Judah; is Israel, great is his name.

Apostolic Reading: 2 Tim 3:10-15

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, my behavior, my faith, my long-suffering, my love, my patience, my persecutions, my afflictions – such as befell me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, Such persecutions as I suffered: and out of them all, the Lord delivered me. And all who want to live piously in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But the wicked and impostors

will go from bad to worse, erring and leading into error. As for you, keep on with the things you have learned and which have been entrusted to you, and remember from whom you have learned them. For you have known from infancy the Sacred Scriptures which are able to give you instruction for your salvation by the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us sing joyfully to God our Savior!

Stichon: Let us greet his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Gospel: Lk 18:10-14

The Lord told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and began to pray thus

within himself: 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of men, robbers, dishonest, adulterers, or even like this publican. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all I

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possess.' But the publican, standing far off, would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you; this man went back to his home justified rather than the other; for anyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself shall be exalted.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$8.00; ordinary collections=\$387.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated January 12, 2025): \$25,828.49.

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: 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.

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, 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 the people of the Middle East.

Schedule for This Week

Sunday: *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Coming Up

- Sunday, February 23rd: Meatfare
- Sunday, March 2nd: Cheesefare
- Monday, March 3rd: Start of Great Lent
- March 10th: Start of Daylight Saving Time

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.

Publican and Pharisee: Humility vs Self-Righteousness

'This parable represents to us two chariots on the race course, each with two charioteers in it. In one of the chariots it places righteousness with pride, in the other sin and humility. You see the chariot of sin outstrip that of righteousness, not by its own strength but by the excellence of humility combined with it, but the other is defeated not by righteousness, but by the weight and swelling of pride.

For as humility by its own elasticity rises above the weight of pride, and leaping up reaches to God, so pride by its great weight easily depresses righteousness. Although therefore you are earnest and constant in well doing, yet think you may boast yourself, you are altogether devoid of the fruits of prayer. But you that bears a thousand loads of guilt on your con-

science, and only think this thing of yourself that you are the lowest of all men, shall gain much confidence before God.

And He then goes on to assign the reason of His sentence. For every one who exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted. The word humility has various meanings. There is the humility of virtue, as, a humble and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. There is also a humility arising from sorrows, as, He has humbled my life upon the earth. 'There is a humility derived from sin, and the pride and insatiability of riches. For can anything be more low and debased than those who grovel in riches and power, and count them great things?

Saint John Chrysostom

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