



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](https://www.facebook.com/ByzantineMilwaukee)

March 23, 2025 — Sunday of the Holy Cross



Icon of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Anti-Trisagion: We bow in worship before Your Cross, O Master, and we give praise to Your Holy Resurrection.

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 the Holy Cross: O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Strengthen our public authorities in every good deed and protect Your people by the power of Your Cross.

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!

Prokimenon: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!

Stichon: To you, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

Apostolic Reading: Heb 4:4-14; 5:1-6

Gospel: "Deny yourself, take cross and follow Me", Mk 8:34-9:1

Stewardship

Last Sunday: fundraising=\$390.00; donations=\$393.02; ordinary collections=\$477.00.
Thanks for your generosity!

Kontakion of the Annunciation: Triumphant leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity, we offer you our thanks. We are your people O mother of God! So as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

Hirmos: In you, O full of grace, all creation exults, the hierarchy of angels together with the race of men: in you, sanctified Temple, spiritual Paradise, Glory of virgins of whom God took flesh from whom our God who exists before the world, became a child! For He has made your womb his throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. In you, O Woman full of grace, all creation exults: glory to you!

Kinonikon: Let the light of your Face shine on us, O Lord. Alleluia!

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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.

Mujaddara Brunch

Thanks to everyone's generosity, and in spite of the snowstorm and the power outage, we made \$390. Thank you for everyone who helped make last Sunday's Mujaddara Brunch a success!

Collection for the Women's Center

There will be a collection for gently used or new baby (newborn–24 months) winter wear for the Women's Center of Milwaukee (2051 W. Wisconsin Ave.) from about Bright Week. Donation envelopes, baby bottles to fill with loose change and information are available on the back tables; items may be placed in the marked box. Particular items needed include:

- diapers size newborn and 6
- wipes
- boppy pillows
- new bottles
- car seats
- pack n plays
- sleepers size 0–24 months
- outfits size 0–24 months
- baby wash
- baby lotion

Talk to Jerry Nora with any questions: jerry.nora@gmail.com.

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Susan Peterson (sister of Cynthia Peterson), Sandy Rabuse (godmother of Katerina Lessard), the Rebholz family, Eva Saseen (Theresa and Janelle Herro's niece), Kathy Tomaz and John Zambo. For those who have died: Jan Taylor. For the people of the Middle East.

Schedule for This Week

Tuesday: 6pm Divine Liturgy
The Annunciation

Friday: 6pm Little Compline and Akathist

Sunday: *Sunday of St. John Climacus*
10:30am Divine Liturgy
Noon Falafel Lunch

The Annunciation

Troparion: Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery that was planned from all eternity: the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin and Gabriel announces this grace. Let us join him in crying out to the Mother of God: Hail, O full of grace! The Lord is with you.

Hirmos: O Earth, proclaim the glad tidings of great joy! And you heavens, sing a hymn of praise to the glory of our God. Let no unclean hand touch God's living

tabernacle: let the lips of the faithful sing without ceasing to the Mother of God the words of the angel and repeat to her with joy: "Pure Virgin, you are indeed lifted up above the creatures. Hail! The Lord is with you"

Kinonikon: The Lord has chosen Zion. He has desired it for His dwelling.

Apostolic Reading: Hebrews 2: 11-18

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 24-38

Lenten Services

Wednesday Evenings: Great Compline, alternating with Liturgy of the Presanctified. The only adjustment would be the Feast of Annunciation (March 25), which this year is a Tuesday, so that week we would switch Wednesday Service to Tuesday.

Friday Evenings: Compline with Akathist for five weeks, then Vespers for Lazaros on the final Friday.

The Power of Christ's Blood

If we wish to understand the power of Christ's blood, we should go back to the ancient account of its prefiguration in Egypt. Sacrifice a lamb without blemish, commanded Moses, and sprinkle its blood on your doors. If we were to ask him what he meant, and how the blood of an irrational beast could possibly save men endowed with reason, his answer would be that the saving power lies not in the blood itself, but in the fact that it is a sign of the Lord's blood. In those days, when the destroying angel saw the blood on the doors he did not dare to enter, so how much less will the devil approach now when he sees, not that figurative blood on the doors, but the true blood on the lips of believers, the doors of the temple of Christ.

If you desire further proof of the power of this blood, remember where it came from, how it ran down from the cross, flowing from the Master's side. The gospel records that when Christ was dead, but

still hung on the cross, a soldier came and pierced His side with a lance and immediately there poured out water and blood. Now the water was a symbol of Baptism and the blood, of the Holy Eucharist. The soldier pierced the Lord's side, he breached the wall of the sacred temple, and I have found the treasure and made it my own. So also with the lamb: the Jews sacrificed the victim and I have been saved by it.

There flowed from His side water and blood. Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought, it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. From these two sacraments the Church is born: from Baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the Holy Eucharist. Since the symbols of Baptism and the Eucharist flowed from His side, it was from

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His side that Christ fashioned the Church,
as He had fashioned Eve from the side of
Adam.

St. John Chrysostom

Text and cover-icon courtesy of Eastern Christian Bulletin Service

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