



**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)

**April 27, 2025 — Sunday of St. Thomas**



*Icon of Saint Thomas and Christ*

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### Divine Liturgy

#### Hymns

**Troparion of St. Thomas:** While the tomb was sealed You shone forth from it, O Christ our Life, and while the doors remained closed, You stood among your Disciples, O Resurrection of all, and through them You restored a new spirit in us according to your great Mercy.

**Paschal Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead and by His death He has trampled upon death; and has given life to those who were in the tomb.

Christos anesti ek nekron thanato thanaton patissas; kai tis en tis mnimassis zoin charisamenos. (Greek)

Al Meseehu qam im bainil amwat wa wati al mawt a bil mawat; Wa wahhab el hayat li ladeena fil kubur. (Arabic)

**Kontakion:** Though You went down in the tomb, O immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades and rose victorious, O Christ God. You greeted the ointment bearing women, saying "Rejoice!" You gave peace to Your apostles, and to those who had Fallen resurrection.

**Hirmos:** O shining light, Mother of God, honorable without compare; you are higher in dignity than any other human being. We magnify you with hymns.

**Kinonikon:** Exalt the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, Zion! Alleluia!

**Prokimenon:** Great is our Lord, and great is his power, and to his wisdom there is no limit.

*Stichon:* Praise the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

**Apostolic Reading:** Acts 5:12-20

**Gospel:** Jn 20:19-31

### Paschal Greeting

The Paschal greeting is a custom among Eastern Christians, consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, one is to greet another person with "Christ is risen!" The response is "He is truly risen!" This greeting is used during liturgical services and informally at other times, starting with the feast of Pascha and lasting until Ascension, the period known as Paschaltide:

English	Christ is risen! He is truly risen!
Greek	Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
Arabic	Al-Maseehu Qam! Haqqan Qam!

April 27, 2025 — Sunday of St. Thomas

Church Slavonic     Hristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!

### Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$94.13; second collections (Holy Land)=\$110.00; candles=\$24.00; ordinary collections=\$976.00. 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](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).

### 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](mailto:jerry.nora@gmail.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), Kathy Tomaz and John Zambo. For those who have died: Jan Taylor and Susan Peterson (sister of Cynthia Peterson). For the people of the Middle East.

### Schedule for This Week

**Wednesday:** *Apostle James, Brother of John the Evangelist*

**Friday:** *Transfer of the Remains of Athanasios the Great*

**Saturday:** *Leave-taking of St. Thomas*

**Sunday:** *Sunday of the Ointment Bearing Women*  
10:30am Divine Liturgy

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday** to Giorgio Roxas and Krystia Nora (today), Ana-Cecilia Roxas (4/30) and Francisco Roxas (5/3). May God grant you many years!

April 27, 2025 — Sunday of St. Thomas

## 2025 MAYA Retreat

The national Melkite Association of Young Adults invites all youth ages 18-30 to join us for the annual summer retreat from **June 13<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>**, held at Our Lady of Redemption Melkite Catholic Church in Warren, MI. The retreat is \$200 including meals and MAYA dues.

**Retreat Registration link:** [MAYA Retreat Registration](#)

**Accommodations:** There are a group of rooms blocked at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Warren for the retreat at a nightly group rate of \$129 (not including taxes/fees). You can call the hotel directly at 586-573-7600 and make the reservation with one of their front desk associates. Please make sure to mention your affiliation with Melkite Association of Young Adults Church Retreat June 2025. Or, you can book online using this link: [MAYA Retreat Hotel](#)

For information, please contact our board members:

Peter Sabak  
[petersabak1@gmail.com](mailto:petersabak1@gmail.com)  
248-504-7859

Samia Shaheen  
[samiashaheen97@gmail.com](mailto:samiashaheen97@gmail.com)  
216-317-5150

Retreat information website: [MAYA Retreat Website](#)

## Our Exodus, Our Passover

We have been released not from physical but from spiritual bondage. We have been freed not from earthly labor but from worldly defilement. Our flight has not been from Egyptian taskmasters, nor from a godless and savage tyrant who is nonetheless a human being like ourselves, but from wicked and unclean demons who urge us to sin and from their commander, who is Satan himself.

We have passed through the sea of this present life with its pleasures and idle distractions. We have eaten spiritual manna, the bread from heaven which gives life to the world. We have drunk water from the rock, for we have found our delight in the spiritual stream flowing from Christ. By the grace of holy baptism we have crossed the Jordan and entered the land promised to the saints and worthy of them, the land

the Savior himself spoke of when He said: "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the land." Therefore, in honor of a new happening a new hymn should be sung by the Lord's kingdom, that is, by those subject to Him and governed by Him. A hymn should be sung, worthy praise should be given, not only in the land of the Jews but from one end of the earth to the other; in other words, everywhere in the world. Of old God was known in Judaea and His name was great only in Israel, but now that we have been called by Christ to the knowledge of the truth and His glory fills all heaven and earth, fulfilling the prophecy of the Psalmist: "The whole earth shall be full of his glory."

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

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