

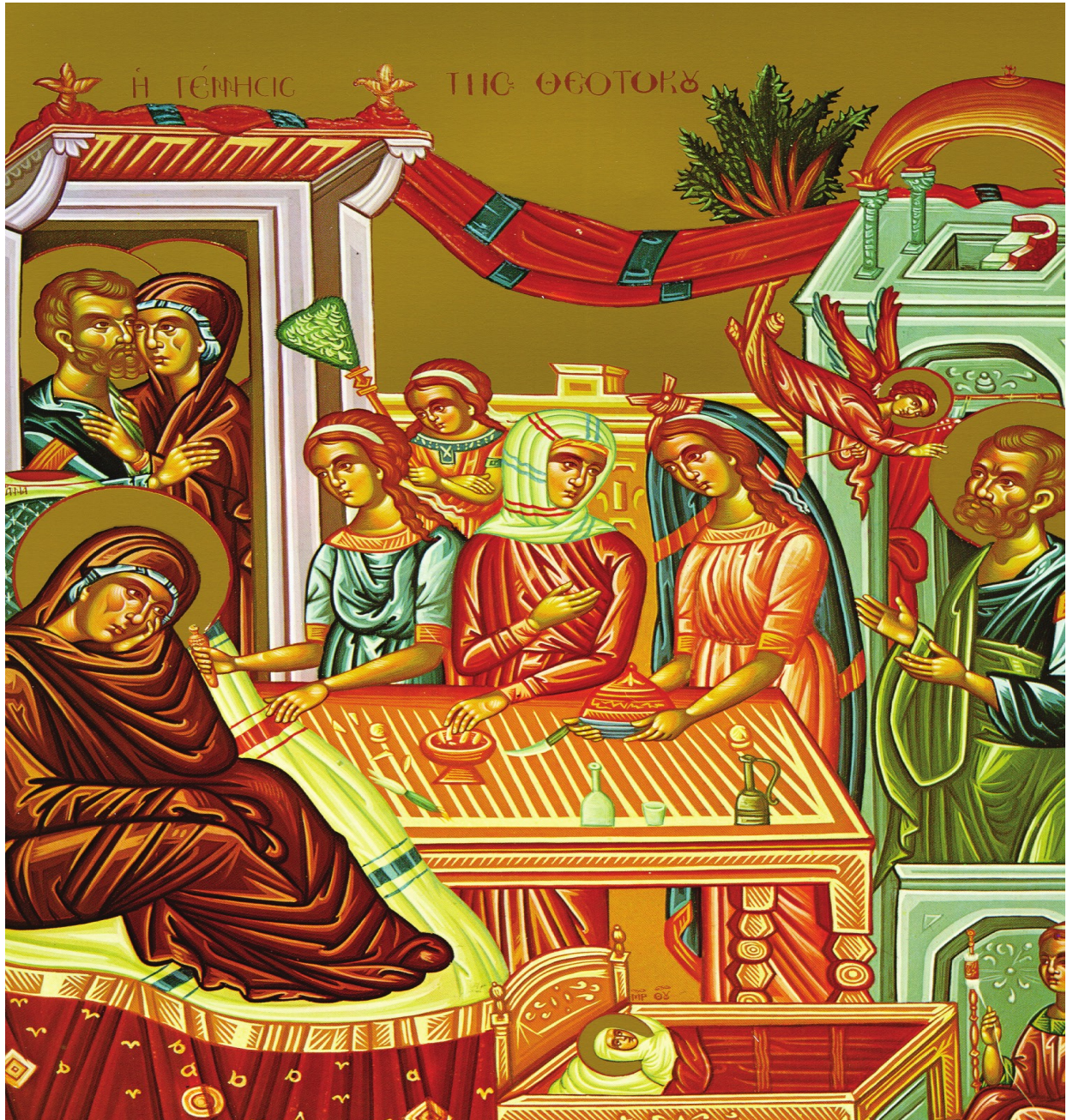


St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246
"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

Rectory and Office: 414-342-1543
The Rt. Rev. Paul G. Frechette, Pastor

Website: byzantinemilwaukee.com
Facebook: fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee

September 7, 2025 — Sunday before the Holy Cross



Icon of the Birth of the Theotokos (September 8th)

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 4):
The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the Angels the joyful news of the resurrection, and casting away the ancestral sentence, they announced with pride to the Apostles: Death is vanquished, Christ God is risen! And has bestowed great mercy upon the world.

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 Nativity: Through your holy birth, O Immaculate One, Joachim and Anne were delivered from the shame of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. Your people, redeemed from the debt of their sins, cry out to you to honor your birth: "the barren one gives birth to the Mother of God the Sustainer of our life!"

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: Gal 6:11-18

Gospel: Jn 3:13-17

Middle Eastern Dinner

September 29th, noon-1:30pm, \$20 standard dinner

Our tempting menu includes: riz bi djaaj (chicken, rice, spices), flat bread with zaatar (oregano, thyme, sesame seeds, olive oil), hummus and middle-eastern salad.

Doors Open Milwaukee

September 27th (10am-5pm) and 28th (12:15pm-5pm)

Help give tour or simply greet visitors for as long as you're able. Even long-time parishioners might learn something by listening in on a tour or by taking a closer look of what is in the church! Contact Benjamin Neumann for more information.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$2.00; ordinary collections=\$363.00. Thanks for your generosity!



September 7, 2025 — Sunday before the Holy Cross

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), Geri Spankowski, Kathy Tomaz and John Zambo. For the people of the Middle East.

Schedule for this Week

Monday: *Nativity of the Mother of God*
Tuesday: *Ancestors of Christ Joachim and Ann*
Saturday: *Leave-taking of the Nativity*
Sunday *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

The Nativity

Troparion: Your Nativity, O Mother of God, heralded joy to the whole universe, for from you rose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. He canceled the curse and poured forth His grace: He vanquished death and granted us eternal life.

Confession, the Forgiveness of Sins

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you. When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. "The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:19-23)

There, the risen Christ gives to His disciples the power of binding and loosing sins a juridical power. This task of binding and

loosing was transmitted from the apostles to their successors, the bishops. In the early church, the administration of penance was something public; it didn't involve the private giving of counsel or advice. It was something exceptional. You hoped, by God's mercy, that you wouldn't have to be involved in penance. Indeed, the penances that were imposed were by our standards extremely severe. It often requires a leap of the imagination on our part to think of how life was in the ancient church. For example, for fornication I mean, sex outside of marriage St. Gregory of Nyssa assigns a penance of nine years without communion. St. Basil is a little more merciful, he says seven years without communion. Finally, in the sixth and

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seventh century, in the canonical legisla- tion of St. John the Faster, it's been re- duced to two years. Even so, by our stan- dard, that may well seem severe.

Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware)

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