



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

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

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

November 23, 2025 — Ninth Sunday after the Holy Cross



Icon of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 7): Through your Cross You destroyed death, You opened Paradise to the thief, and turned into joy the mourning of the ointment bearing women, and You ordered your Apostles to proclaim that You rose, O Christ God, Bestowing great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of the Presentation of our Lady to the Temple: Today is the prelude of the benevolence of God, and the announcement of the salvation of men. In the Temple of God the Virgin is seen openly, foretelling to all the coming of Christ. Wherefore let us cry to her in a loud voice, "Hail! O fulfillment of the Creator's plan!"

Troparion of St. George: O Great among the saints and glorious martyr, George, since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor, 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 Presentation: The most pure Temple of our Holy Savior, and the most precious and bright bridal chamber, the Virgin, sacred treasury of the glory of God, openly appears today into the temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the most Holy Spirit. Wherefore the angels of God are singing: "This is the heavenly tabernacle!"

Prokimenon: The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Stichon: To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

Apostolic Reading: Eph 2:14-22

Gospel: Calling of St. Matthew, Lk 12:16-22

Winter Weather

Please take care with winter weather. Even if services are not canceled, only come if it is safe for you to travel. We are still making arrangements to find a new snow-removal service, so please be attentive and cautious.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$12.00; ordinary collections=\$383.00; bookstore=\$60.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Donate with PayPal



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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.

Pastoral Appeal (Formerly the Bishop's Appeal)

The annual Pastoral Appeal helps fund the vital works of the Melkites in the United States, such as: publishing SOPHIA magazine; supporting our seminarians for the Priesthood and Diaconate; providing for our elderly priests; teaching the Faith to our children and young adults; establishing/supporting new missions and outreaches.

Additional information is available on the tables in the back. Donations can also be made online: Melkite.org/Appeal

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Edin Najera, Natalie Herder, Walter Lourdes Najera Herder (family of Katerina Lessard), Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Abbot Nicholas (Holy Resurrection Monastery), 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 those who have died: Dennis Newman (uncle of Benjamin Neumann). For the people of the Middle East.

Schedule for this Week

Tuesday: *Leavetaking of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple*

Sunday *Thirteenth Sunday after the Holy Cross*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

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.

Christ and the Law

When Christ says to him, “if you would enter life, keep the commandments,” the man expects him to add immediately, “My commandments.” “Which ones?” he asks. He was quite deceived in his expectation. For Christ did not answer him as he expected, but simply pointed him to the law.

This is not because the law is perfection, for “no one is justified by the law,” as it is written, but because the life lived according to the law is a kind of introduction to the eternal life, briefly acquainting trainees to the things above. “For the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ?”

The law is the starting point for social justice. Christ is the perfection. For the beginning of good is to act justly, He says. Just action then is shown by the law, but goodness is shown by Christ. The law taught us to repay those who wish to harm us, as in “eye for eye, tooth for tooth”

But Christ taught us to let go such balanced vengeance, with the view to the greater good, teaching that “if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well.”

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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