



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

December 21, 2025 — Sunday before the Nativity



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

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 Ancestors of Christ:

Faith can accomplish great things. Through it, the Three Holy Children rejoice in the flames as if they had been in refreshing water, and Daniel in the midst of lions is like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls

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 Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord: Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear this news, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds Him who shall appear as a new Child, being God from all eternity.

Prokimenon: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Stichon: For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

Apostolic Reading: Heb 11:9-10; 32-40

Gospel: Genealogy, Mt 1:1-25

Calendars

The 2026 epachial calendars are here! Pick one up at the back of the church or download it from the eparchy's website: melkite.org/liturgical-resources

Winter Weather

Please take care with winter weather. Even if services are not canceled, only come if it is safe for you to travel.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$1450.00; candles=\$5.00; ordinary collections=\$551.00. 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.

Annual Donation Letters

Donation letters for tax purposes will be sent in January. Please contact Benjamin with any questions.

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), 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

Wednesday: *Paramony of the Nativity*

6pm Vesperral Liturgy of St. Basil for the Nativity

Thursday: *NATIVITY OF OUR LORD*

10:30am Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Nativity

Friday: *Synaxis of the Mother of God*

Saturday: *Saturday after the Nativity of Our Lord*

Sunday *Sunday after the Nativity*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

The Paramony (Christmas Eve)

Troparion: At that time, since Mary was of the house of David, she registered with the venerable Joseph in Bethlehem. She was with child, having conceived virginally. Her time was come and they could find no room in the inn, but the cave seemed like a joyful palace for the Queen. Christ is born to renew the likeness that had been lost of old.

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The Nativity

Troparion: Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it, those who had been star-worshipers learned through a star to worship You, O Sun of Justice, and to recognize in You the One Who rises and Who comes from on high. O Lord glory to You!

Hypacoī: O Little Child lying in a manger, by means of a star, heaven has called and led to You the Magi, the first-fruits of the Gentiles, astounded to behold, not scepters and thrones, but extreme poverty. What, indeed, is lower than a cave? What is humbler than swaddling clothes- and yet the splendor of your divinity shone forth in them resplendently. O Lord, glory to You!

Kontakion: Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent in Essence; and the earth presents a cave to the Inaccessible. The angels with the shepherds sing His glory, and the Wise Men with the Star travel on their way, for to us is born a New Child, who is God from all eternity

Hirmos: O my soul, magnify the One Who is more honorable and glorious than the heavenly powers! Behold a mystery, a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave has become heaven, the Virgin a throne of the Cherubim, and the manger a noble place where Christ our God reposes. Wherefore let us praise and exalt Him!

Coming Up

December 31st: Leave-taking of the Nativity

January 5th: No fast or abstinence from the Nativity to this day

January 6th: 6pm, Service with the Great Blessing of the Water for the Theophany (bring a container if you'd like to bring any home)

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us.

Human beings have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned this God continues to work through the same melange. If it

was a challenge to recognize in the last part of Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to

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give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and

whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence was not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

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