



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)

January 4, 2026 — Sunday before the Theophany, Synaxis of the Seventy Disciples



Icon of Theophany

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 5):

Let us O Faithful, praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation.

For He has willed to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

Christ at the sight of your nakedness has come forth to clothe you with the robe of innocence. Indeed, Christ has come forth to renew the whole creation.

Troparion of the Disciples: O holy disciples, intercede with the Merciful God that he may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

Kontakion of the Preparation of the Theophany: Today the Lord Christ has appeared in the Jordan's waters, and He has cried out to John: Fear not of baptizing me, for by my own will I have indeed come to save Adam, the first created man.

Troparion of the Preparation of the Theophany: Make ready Zebulon and prepare Naphtali and you Jordan River, stop your flow and receive with a thrill of joy the Master coming to be baptized. Adam, rejoice with the first Mother, Eve, and hide not as you did of old in paradise: for

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: 2 Tim 4:5-8

Gospel: The Ministry of St. John, Mk 1:1-8

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=\$100.00; ordinary collections=\$350.00.

Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated January 12, 2025): \$25,828.49.

Donate with PayPal



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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 by the end of the month. 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

Monday: *Paramony of the Theophany* (No fast or abstinence from the Nativity to this day)

Tuesday: *THE THEOPHANY*
6pm, Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of the Water for the Theophany (bring a container if you'd like to bring any home)

Wednesday: *Synaxis of the Forerunner John the Baptist*

Saturday: *Sunday after the Theophany*

Sunday *Sunday after the Theophany*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Manal Wahhab (1/8) and Brigid Farley (1/9). May God grant you many years!

The Theophany

Troparion: At your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to you by calling You his Beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God

who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, glory to You.

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Kontakion: Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

Hirmos: O my soul, magnify the Higher in honor and glory than the heavenly powers. All tongues are at a loss to praise you properly, and every intelligence even super natural is rapt in wonder when it comes to honor you, O Mother of God. But in your graciousness accept our faith, knowing our holy longing. Intercessor of Christians, we extol you.

Kinonikon: The grace of God our Savior has appeared to all people. Alleluia.

Coming Up

February 8th: Meat-fare

February 15th: Cheese-fare

The Christ

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. 'The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of "Christification", Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation

as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the "Christification" of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. "And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with men" (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

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