



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 25, 2026 — Sunday of Pharisee and Publican; Father Gregory the Theologian, Patriarch of Constantinople



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14)

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 8): O Merciful One, Who came down from on high and endured burial for three days in order to save us from suffering. O our Life and our Resurrection, glory to you.

Troparion of St. Gregory: The sweet melody of your theological teaching has overcome the noisy blast of orators, for God has granted you the power of penetration spiritual depths and the gift of brilliant literary talent. Gregory of father, intercede with Christ God that he may save our souls.

Prokimenon: My mouth shall speak wisdom; prudence shall be the utterance of my heart.

Stichon: Hear this, all you peoples: hearken, all who dwell in the world.

Apostolic Reading: Heb 7:26-28; 8:1-2

Gospel: Sunday of Pharisee and Publican,, Lk 18:10-14

Prayer Week for Christian Unity (January 18th - 25th)

O Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, on the eve of your redemptive suffering, You fervently asked your heavenly Father that all your followers be one, as You are One with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We implore You, divine Master, To bestow upon all Christian Churches the unity of faith, of hearts and of purpose, so that they become one flock under the leadership of One Shepherd according to your wish. Grant us, Lord, to love one another as You loved us, So that, seeing our unity, the world may believe in You and embrace your message of peace and love.

For You are the Prince of Peace and Lover of mankind and to You we render glory, and to your Eternal Father, and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen

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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: candles=\$5.00; ordinary collections=\$426.00.

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. 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.

Donate with PayPal



Annual Donation Letters

Donation letters for tax purposes will be sent by the end of the month. Please contact Benjamin with any questions.

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Rose Ernst (aunt of Benjamin Neumann), Edin Najera, Natalie Herder, Walter Lourdes Najera Herder (family of Katerina Lessard), Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Nick Lagendfield, 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

Tuesday: *Transfer of the Remains of Father John Chrysostom*

Friday: Fathers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom

Sunday *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

Coming Up

February 8th: Meat-fare

February 15th: Cheese-fare

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

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the Dormition Fast, attend at least one Leneten 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.

Humility is the Mark of a Sinner

In the case of that Pharisee who was praying, the things he said were true. Since he was saying them out of pride and the tax collector was telling his sins with humility, the confession of sins of the last was more pleasing to God than the acknowledgment of the almsgiving of the first. It is more difficult to confess one's sins than one's righteousness. God looks on the one who carries a heavy burden. 'The tax collector therefore appeared to Him to have had more to bear than the Pharisee had. He went down more justified than the Pharisee did, only because of the fact he was humble. If this Pharisee had been sinful, his prayer would have added iniquity to iniquity, but the Lord purified the tax collector of his iniquity. If just by praying, the Pharisee's prayer provoked God's wrath, then as a result of that provocation, the prayer of the tax collector proved all the more potent.

St. Ephrem the Syrian

The stern Pharisee, who in his self pride not only boasted of himself but also discredited the tax collector in the presence of God, made his justice void by being guilty of pride. Instead of the Pharisee, the tax collector went down justified, because he had given glory to God, the Holy One. He did not dare lift his eyes but sought only to plead for mercy. He accused himself by his posture, by striking his breast, and by entertaining no other motive except propitiation. Be on your guard, therefore, and bear in mind this example of severe loss sustained through arrogance. 'The one guilty of insolent behavior suffered the loss of his justice and forfeited his reward by his bold self-reliance. He was judged inferior to a humble man and a sinner because in his self-exaltation he did not await the judgment of God but pronounced it himself. Never place yourself above anyone, not even great sinners. Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many terrible transgressions.

St. Basil the Great

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