

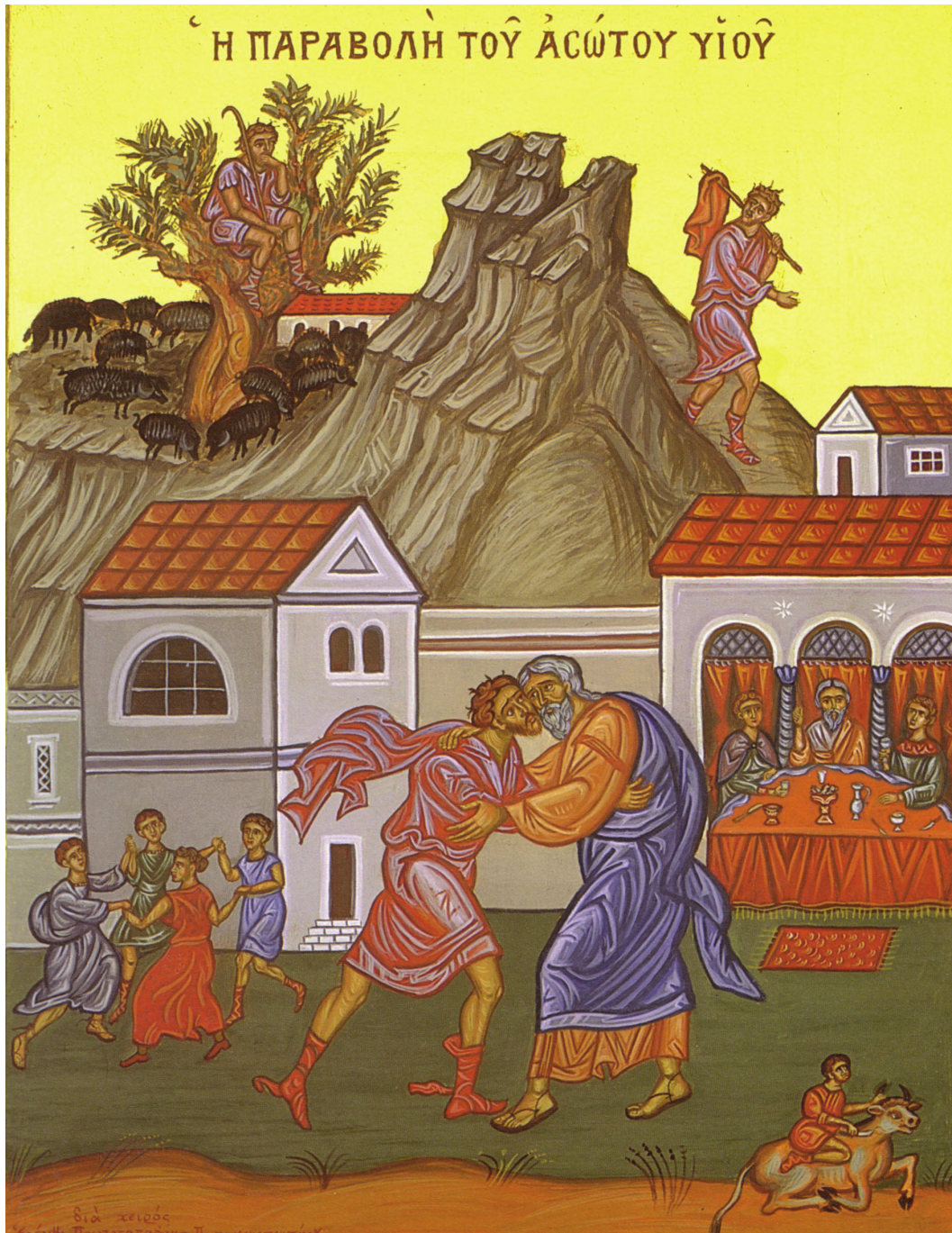


St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246
"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

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

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

February 1, 2026 — Preparation for the Encounter of Our Lord; Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Icon of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 1): While the stone was sealed by the Jews and soldiers were watching your sacred body, You rose, O Savior, on the third day, giving life to the world. Wherefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried out: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom, glory to your Plan of redemption, O You who alone are the Lover of mankind.

Troparion of the Preparation for the Encounter: The Host of angels look down from the balconies of heaven to behold upon earth the First-fruits of all creation carried to the temple—a suckling babe in the arms of a Mother all-pure. Together with us, they sing with joy a hymn in preparation for the feast.

Prokimenon: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.
Stichon: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Apostolic Reading: 1 Cor 6:12-20

Gospel: The Prodigal Son, Lk 15:11-32

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=\$200.00; candles=\$23.00; ordinary collections=\$375.00. 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

Please contact Benjamin with any questions about annual donation letters for tax purposes.

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 (god-mother 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	<i>ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD</i>
Friday	<i>Leave-taking of the Encounter</i>
Saturday	<i>Saturday of the Dead</i>
Sunday	<i>Meatfare Sunday</i> 10:30am Divine Liturgy

The Encounter

Troparion: Hail, O Woman full of grace, Virgin and Mother of God: from you has arisen the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who stand in darkness, In You too, O just Elder Simeon, rejoice, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, our Resurrection..

Saturday of the Dead

Troparion: Unique Creator, Lord, who in the depth of your wisdom and love for mankind direct us all, giving to each one what is good for salvation grant rest to the soul of your servants, for they have put their trust in you, our creator, maker and God.

Kontakion: O Christ God, with the saints grant rest to the soul of your servants, in a place where there is no pain, no grief, no sighing, but ever lasting life.

Coming Up

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 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.

Mercy and Forgiveness

All that God looks for from us is the slightest opening and He forgives a multitude of sins. ... There were two brothers: they divided their father's goods between them and one stayed home, while the other went away to a foreign country, wasted all he had been given, and then could not bear the shame of his poverty. The son who went away represents those who fall after baptism. 'This is clear from the fact that he is called a son, since no one is called a son unless he is baptized. Also, he lived in his father's house and took a share of all his father's goods. Before baptism no one receives the Father's goods or enters upon the inheritance. We can therefore take all this as signifying the state of believers.

What does he say after falling into the depths of evil? I will return to my father. 'The reason the father let him go and did not prevent his departure for a foreign land was so that he might learn well by experience what good things are enjoyed by

the one who stays at home. For when words would not convince us God often leaves us to learn from the things that happen to us. When the dissolute returned after going to a foreign country and finding out by experience what a great sin it is to leave the father's house, the father did not remember past injuries but welcomed him with open arms. Why? Because he was a father and not a judge. And there were dances and festivities and banquets and the whole house was full of joy and gladness.

Are you asking: "Is this what he gets for his wickedness?" Not for his wickedness, but for his return home; not for sin, but for repentance; not for evil, but for being converted. What is more, when the elder son was angry at this the father gently won him over, saying: You were always with me, but he was lost and has been found; he was dead and has come back to life. "When someone who was lost has to be saved," says the father, "it is not the time

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for passing judgment or making minute inquiries, but only for mercy and forgiveness.”

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