

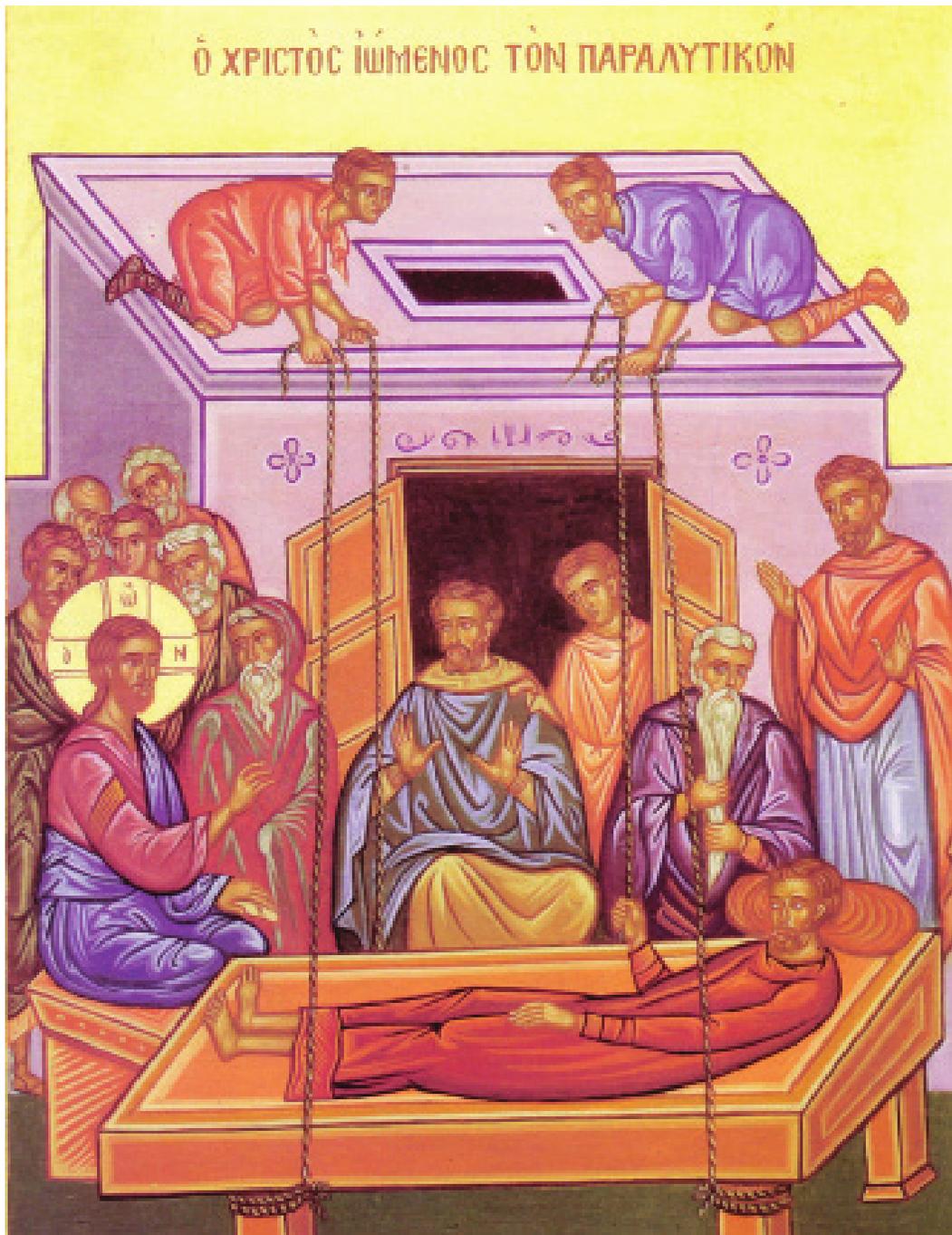


**St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church**  
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246  
*"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"*

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

Website: [byzantinemilwaukee.com](http://byzantinemilwaukee.com)  
Facebook: [fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee](https://fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee)

**March 1, 2026 — Sunday of Gregory Palamas**



*Icon of Healing the Paralytic*

March 1, 2026 — Sunday of Gregory Palamas

## 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](http://byzantinemilwaukee.com)  
Facebook: [fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee](https://fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee)

### 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.

**Troparion of Gregory Palamas:** O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace: pray without ceasing for the salvation of us all.

**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!

**Prokimenon:** You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

*Stichon:* Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

**Apostolic Reading:** Heb 1:10-14; 2:1-3

**Gospel:** Healing of the Paralytic,, Mk 2:1-12

**Kontakion of the Annunciation:** Triumphant leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity, we offer you, our thanks. We are your people O mother of God! So, as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

**Hirmos:** In you, O full of grace, all creation exults, the hierarchy of angels together with the race of men: in you, sanctified Temple, spiritual Paradise, Glory of virgins of whom God took flesh from whom our God who exists before the world, became a child! For He has made your womb his throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. In you, O Woman full of grace, all creation exults: glory to you!

### Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$500.00; candles=\$41.00; ordinary collections=\$519.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Donate with PayPal



March 1, 2026 — Sunday of Gregory Palamas

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](https://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](mailto:info@byzantinemilwaukee.com).

## Prayer List

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

## Schedule for this Week

**Wednesday** 6pm Great Compline  
**Friday** 6pm Compline & Akathist  
**Sunday** *Sunday of the Holy Cross*  
10:30am Divine Liturgy

## Coming Up

March 25<sup>th</sup>: The Annunciation of the Mother of God  
March 28<sup>th</sup>: Lazarus Saturday  
March 29<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday  
April 5<sup>th</sup>: Pascha

## What is the Akathist Hymn?

Q – When is a Lenten service not a Lenten service?

A – When it is the Akathist to the Theotokos.

In our tradition it is customary to serve Compline with the Akathist to the Theotokos on the Friday evenings during the Great Fast. Due to the pressures of the work and school week this is often the only Lenten weekday service many parishioners attend. In fact this is not an actual Lenten service, such as Great Compline (but ask Fr. Paul about that) or the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Rather it is a weekend service, ushering in our Saturday observance.

Saturday and Sunday are generally not fast days. This is why our Churches observe festivals like the Saturday of the Ascetics or the Sunday of Orthodoxy on weekends during the Fast. The Akathist service is connected to one of these feast days called, appropriately enough, the Saturday of the Akathist.

March 1, 2026 — Sunday of Gregory Palamas

On the Fridays of Lent, parts of the Akathist Hymn are sung in anticipation of the Saturday of the Akathist and Great Feast of the Annunciation, which falls on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Since this feast falls during the Great Fast or the Great Week it does not have the extended celebration—sometimes a week or more—which marks the other Great Feasts during the year. The Church “makes up” for this by celebrating the Annunciation in advance on these weekends.



*Summarized and adapted from [melkite.org/faith/sunday-scriptures/the-akathist-to-the-theotokos](http://melkite.org/faith/sunday-scriptures/the-akathist-to-the-theotokos).*

## You are Forgiven and Healed

In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, “Child, your sins are forgiven,” He is as much as saying, “It is God whom you approach.” In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur “he is blaspheming” and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that “the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth” by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiver-healer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus’ power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God’s forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark’s readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, “My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins.”

Text and cover-icon courtesy of Eastern Christian Bulletin Service

PO Box 3909 – Fairfax, VA 22038-3909

www.ecbulletin.com – Ph: 703-691-8862 – Fax: 703-691-0513