



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

St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church

1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246
"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

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

June 28, 2026 — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

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Divine Liturgy

Intention: Happy and eternal repose of the soul of GEORGE Allam (40-day memorial today)

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 4): The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the Angels the joyful news of the resurrection, and casting away the ancestral sentence, they announced with pride to the Apostles: Death is vanquished, Christ God is risen! And has bestowed great mercy upon the world.

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: O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

Prokimenon: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

Stichon: God is renowned in Judah; in Israel, great is his name.

Apostolic Reading: Rom 10:1-10

Gospel: Healing of the Gerasene Demoniacs, Mt 8:28-34

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), Ken Schmitt (brother-in-law of Brian Harden), Geri Spankowski and Kathy Tomaz. For those who have died: George Allam. For the people of the Middle East.

Extreme Heat

A long-duration heatwave is expected this upcoming week, with very little overnight relief expected. Take precautions to stay cool, stay hydrated, and limit outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day. Check on older



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adults, young children, and others who may be more vulnerable to heat-related illness. Learn more: readywisconsin.wi.gov/extreme-heat/

Schedule for this Week

Monday *Apostles Peter and Paul*
Wednesday: *Wonderworkers Comos and Damian*
Thursday: *Deposition of the Mantle of the Mother of God at Blachernae*
Sunday *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Apostles Peter and Paul

Troparion (Tone 4): O princess of the apostles and Teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of All that he may give peace to the world and great mercy for our souls.

Kontakion: (Tone 2): O Lord, You have taken up to their eternal rest and to the en-

joyment of your good things the two infallible preachers of divine truths and leaders of the apostles, for You have accepted their struggles and their death as being better than any holocaust, O You who alone know the secrets of hearts!

Stewardship

Last Sunday: candles=\$5.00; ordinary collections=\$215.00.
Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated May 3, 2026): \$67,287.19.

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.

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Asking Jesus to Leave

Of all the miracle stories of Jesus, the one recorded in today's Gospel reading stands out as unique. In most other occasions when Jesus healed or cured, the result was that more people came and asked to be cured. However, in the case of Jesus expelling demons from the man in the Gadarene territory, the result was that the whole village came out and asked Jesus to leave that area! (Matthew 8:34)

Ingratitude is certainly not the reaction we would expect the townsfolk to have since a member of their community restored to his right mind by the command of Jesus. Previously, he was prone to fits of madness and the source of his madness was understood to be demonic possession. Jesus commanded the demons to leave the man and restored the man to his right mind. Had this been the end of the story, perhaps the people would have been filled with gratitude. However, Jesus sent the

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demons into a herd of swine, which then jumped over a cliff and drowned.

Why did Jesus send the demons into the swine? According to Jewish law, pork is considered to be an unclean product. Jews were to have no contact with pork. Because of this, the Jews of that town were breaking their own religious law.

By expelling the demons into the swine, Jesus not only healed a man, but also reestablished a forgotten value system in a town. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were not ready to receive this lesson. It is no surprise, then, why they met Jesus with such ingratitude and asked Him to leave their district.

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