



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Mission Statement of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

To give thanks to God continually, as Byzantine Catholics, through our spirituality, our service, and preaching the Risen Christ through our everyday life.

Bright Week Liturgy Schedule

Pascha Sunday, April 9

8:00a Ge'ez Palm Sunday Liturgy; Social in hall

11:00a Matins of Resurrection; Divine Liturgy;
Blessing of baskets in hall
Intention: For the Faithful

Bright Monday, April 10

6:45p Paschal Hour

7:00p Divine Liturgy

Bright Tuesday, April 11

6:45p Paschal Hour

7:00p Divine Liturgy

Bright Wednesday, April 12

8:45a Paschal Hour

9:00a Divine Liturgy

Bright Thursday, April 13

4:00p Ge'ez Holy Thursday Liturgy

7:00p Paschal Hour

Bright Friday, April 14

12p-5p Ge'ez Good Friday Prayers; Social in hall following

6:45p Paschal Hour

7:00p Divine Liturgy

Bright Saturday, April 15

8:00p Ge'ez Confessions heard

9:00p Ge'ez Easter Liturgy; Social in hall following

St. Thomas Sunday, April 16

9:45a Paschal Hour

10:00a Divine Liturgy; Blessing of the Artos
Intention: For the Faithful

Social in hall-Sharing of the Artos loaf

12:00p Divine Liturgy in Ukrainian

Readings – Bright Week

Pascha Sunday, April 9

Epistle, Acts 1:1-8

Gospel, John 1:1-17

Bright Monday, April 10

Epistle, Acts 1:12-17 & 21-26

Gospel, John 1:18-28

Bright Tuesday, April 11

Epistle, Acts 2:14-21

Gospel, Luke 24:12-35

Bright Wednesday, April 12

Epistle, Acts 2:22-36

Gospel, John 1:35-51

Bright Thursday, April 13

Epistle, Acts 2:38-43

Gospel, John 3:1-15

Bright Friday, April 14

Epistle, Acts 3:1-8

Gospel, John 2:12-22

Bright Saturday, April 15

Epistle, Acts 3:11-16

Gospel, John 3:22-33

St. Thomas Sunday, April 16

Epistle, Acts 5:12-20

Gospel, John 20:19-31

Christ is Risen!

Indeed He is Risen!

christos Voskrese!
Voistinu Voskrese!

Christos Tensiou! Bahake Tensiou!

St. Thomas Week Liturgy Schedule

St. Thomas Sunday, April 16

- 9:45a** Paschal Hour
10:00a Divine Liturgy; Blessing of the Artos
Intention: For the Faithful
Social in hall-Sharing of the Artos loaf
12:00p Divine Liturgy in Ukrainian

Wednesday, April 19

- 9:00a** Divine Liturgy
Intention: For the Health of Maria Mudrak

Thursday, April 20

- 7:00p** Divine Liturgy
Intention: +John DeAndrea

Friday, April 21

- 7:00p** Divine Liturgy
Intention: +John Goode

Saturday, April 22

- 7:00p** Vespers w/OT Readings

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers, April 23

- 9:45a** Paschal Hour
10:00a Divine Liturgy; Blessing of the Artos
Intentions: For the Faithful;
For the Health of Maksym Popadyn
Social and ECF Classes
12:00p Ge'ez Liturgy
Social in hall following Liturgy

Readings – St. Thomas Week

St. Thomas Sunday, April 16

Epistle, Acts 5:12-20
 Gospel, John 20:19-31

Monday, April 17

Epistle, Acts 3:19-26
 Gospel, John 2:1-11

Tuesday, April 18

Epistle, Acts 3:19-26
 Gospel, John 3:16-21

Wednesday, April 19

Epistle, Acts 4:13-22
 Gospel, John 5:17-24

Thursday, April 20

Epistle, Acts 4:23-31
 Gospel, John 5:24-30

Friday, April 21

Epistle, Acts 5:1-11
 Gospel, John 5:30-6:2

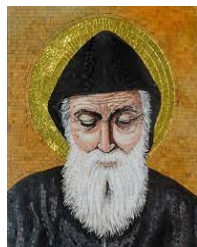
Saturday, April 22

Epistle, Acts 5:21-33
 Gospel, John 6:14-27

Myrrh-Bearers Sunday, April 23

Epistle, Acts 6:1-7 & 12:1-11
 Gospel, Mark 15:43-16:8 &
 John 15:17-16:2

Prayer to Saint Charbel Makhlouf



Lord, infinitely Holy and Glorified in Your Saints, You have inspired Charbel, the saint monk, to lead the perfect life of a hermit. We thank You for granting him the blessing and the strength to detach himself from the world so that the heroism of the monastic virtues of poverty, obedience, and chastity, could triumph in his hermitage.

We beseech You to grant us the grace of loving and serving You, following his example. Almighty God, Who has manifested the power of St. Charbel's intercession through his countless miracles and favours, grant us... (State your intention(s) here...) through his intercession. Amen.

For the sick in our parish families, please remember in your prayers:

Abby	Tim Hill	Carol Osifchin
Hussein Abdi	Esther Imhoff	Beauetta Parks
Adrian	Tad Imhoff	Cathy Pitt
Bob Atha	Dora Johnson	Keith Pope
Paula Balcarcel	Jackson Family	Maria Rakowsky
Louis Bambick	Gordon Kaercher	Terry Rasor
Charles Branham	Susan Kaiser	Nadia Ritchey
Carol	Kathy	Stephanie Salerno
Mary Carroll	James Kester	Trey Shearon
Charyton Intentions	Kathy Krofcheck	Rosemary Steinbauer
Will Culver	Regina Lee	John Sikora
Maria Czynnik	Christine Leon	Dennis Stinich
DeClue Intentions	Jessie Madzia	Josh Taylor
Ron Doctor	Bill Martin	L.T. Tekle
Aimeé Evans	Joe Martin	Ruth Turanchik
Joseph Evans	Judy Martin	Owen Ward
Frye Intentions	Dave Martz	Stelmack Intentions
Elizabeth Gamez	Madelyn Martz	Steve
Weyni Girmay	Melissa	Steven Woryk
Deborah Gordon	Joy Mersch	Dave Zaroka
Charlene Grabner	Angela Merva	Rita Zaroka
Nataly Grace	Rosemary Nyahay	Nicholas Zvansky
John Griffen	Anne O'Halloran	Sandra Zvansky
Hagos	Mic O'Halloran	Intentions of Fr. Robert
Gerri Herald	John Oshinski	Donald Clark
Jeanette Hill	Paula Oshinski	

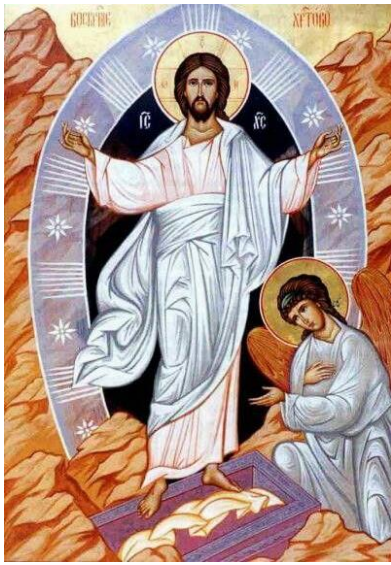


Jennifer Boniface
 Maria Czynnik
 Sofia Jager
 Donovan Koval
 Anna Rich

Rebecca Krofcheck
 Matthew Mnich
 Bohdan Rakowsky
 Maria Rakowsky
 Ruth Turanchik

Stephen & Jennifer Boniface
Celebrating 16 years Crowned in Marriage
 Bill & Margo Hospodar
Celebrating 53 years Crowned in Marriage
 Fr. Robert & Rosalia Jager
Celebrating 21 years Crowned in Marriage

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD: *We thank You, Master and Lover of mankind, King of the ages and giver of all good things, for destroying the dividing wall of enmity and granting peace to those who seek your mercy. We appeal to You to awaken the longing for a peaceful life in all those who are filled with hatred for their neighbors, thinking especially of those at war or preparing for war. Grant peace to your servants. Implant in them the fear of You and confirm in them love one for another. Extinguish every dispute and banish all temptations to disagreement. For You are our peace and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*



I HAVE A DREAM...

I have a dream about our parish. A dream – vision for our community. I have a dream that our community will return to the zeal of the first Christian community, imitating what they were doing...and receiving the same gifts that the Lord gave them.

42 And they **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching** and the **fellowship**, to **the breaking of bread and the prayers**. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common [...] **46** **Every day, attending the temple together and breaking bread** in their homes, they received their food with glad and **generous hearts**, **47 praising God** and having favor with all the people. (Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47)

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of **one heart and soul**, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. **33** And **with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus, and **great grace was upon them all**. **34** There was not a needy person among them (Acts 4:32-34)

Key words from this short passage are *every day + one heart and soul + devoted + attending together prayer, breaking the bread, fellowship*. The miracles of the first community – great grace upon them, no one is needy and alone, the community grows, they enjoy life with the Lord with glad hearts – can be repeated only if we change the culture in our community.

Changing structures, ministries, abandoning what did not really work, setting up new commissions and activities, will not change anything, unless the culture is changed. Culture in the sense of our priorities, thinking, ways of doing things, attitudes, engagement, openness and welcoming... Culture can change when our hearts are changed!

When James and John, seizing the opportunity, asked Jesus to be seated on his right and left in his glory (Mk 10:35-45), they simply wanted to become someone important, admired; someone who rules... as a result the rest of the disciples were angry and there was division among them. What did Jesus respond? *"You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions use their authority over them. But it is not this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all. For even **the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**"*

Jesus is very clear. If you want to rule, be first, become someone important, then you must become a slave servant. Jesus is using this image to point out that the most important thing for the slave is to fulfill his master's will and the common good of the household, not his pleasures, desires and presumptuous wishes. This leads us all to recognize **the servant heart** and the **focus on the common good of the community**. It is far away from the clique mentality, from 'my way or highway' attitude... Jesus wants them to change their hearts first.

How do I know my heart changed? When others offer their talents, time, energy and willingness to serve, you rejoice instead of feeling bitterness or resentment! If you are open to accept the stranger, the visitor, and accompany them from entering the church, through helping them navigate through the liturgy, and bringing them to our fellowship in the hall... up to not leaving behind anyone.

There is a great potential in our community that we have already experienced on many occasions (project days, beautification projects, Christmas plays, caroling, fundraising etc.) My dream is that we use the potential even better. But we put first things first! The relationship with the Lord and among us, following the pattern given in the Scriptures. Whenever the Christians returned to this pattern there was a renewal. Whenever they went 'my way', there was decline! Each of us must pay attention to indifference and avoid it at any cost! Avoid indifference toward God, the Scriptures, the Church and our fellows! Instead take seriously the Lord, his word and all he has done for and in the Church!

I invite and encourage you to pray and reflect during this Easter season focusing on your heart. What is there? What are your priorities? Is there a space for the Lord? For our community? What do you think of this community? What do you dream about this community? Are you willing to restart following the model of the Acts of the Apostles?

On Holy Monday we read from Exodus about the hardships of the Hebrews, their enslavement and suffering in Egypt (Exodus 1:8-14). What are those things that enslave and oppress you? That does not allow you to live fully in peace?

Let us do this kind of reflection, praying and bringing honest answers to the Lord, so the one who suffers with you, in your inner, hidden struggles, may lead you out to his resurrection! Wishing you all a blessed time of Pascha!!!

Fr. Robert Jager

Pope Francis on Conversion (Catechesis on 03/29/2023)

In our journey of catechesis on apostolic zeal, let us start today to look at some figures who, in different ways and times, bore exemplary witness to what passion for the Gospel means. And the first witness is naturally the Apostle Paul. I would like to devote two catechesis to him.

The story of Paul of Tarsus is emblematic in this regard. In the first chapter of the Letter to the Galatians, as in the narration of the Acts of the Apostles, we can see that his zeal for the Gospel appears after his conversion, and takes the place of his previous zeal for Judaism. He was a man who was zealous about the law of Moses for Judaism, and after his conversion, this zeal continued, but to proclaim, to preach Jesus Christ. Paul loved Jesus. Saul — Paul's first name — was already zealous, but Christ converts his zeal: from the Law to the Gospel. His zeal first wanted to destroy the Church, whereas after, it builds it up. We might ask ourselves: what happened, that passed from destruction to construction? What changed in Paul? In what way was his zeal, his enthusiasm for the glory of God, transformed?

Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that passion, from the moral point of view, is neither good nor evil: its virtuous use makes it morally good, sin makes it bad (Quaestio "*De veritate*" 24, 7). In Paul's case, what changed him is not a simple idea or a conviction: it was the encounter with the risen Lord. Do not forget this: it is the encounter with the Lord that changes a life. It was Saul's encounter with the risen Lord that transformed his entire being. Paul's humanity, his passion for God and his glory was not annihilated, but transformed, "converted" by the Holy Spirit. The only one who can change our hearts is the Holy Spirit. And it was so for every aspect of his life. Just as occurs in the Eucharist: the bread and wine do not disappear, but become the Body and Blood of Christ. Paul's zeal remains, but it becomes the zeal of Christ. It changes direction, but the zeal is the same. The Lord is served with our humanity, with our prerogatives and our characteristics, but what changes everything is not an idea, but rather life itself, as Paul himself says: "if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). The encounter with Jesus Christ changes you from within, it makes you another person. If one is in Christ, he or she is a new creation, this is the meaning of being a new creation. To become Christian is not to apply make-up that changes your face, no! If you are Christian, your heart changes, but if you are Christian [only] in appearance, this will not do ... made-up Christians will not do. True change is of the heart. And this happened to Paul.

Passion for the Gospel is not a matter of comprehension or studies, which are helpful but which do not inspire it. Rather, it means going through the same experience of "fall and resurrection" that Saul/Paul lived and which is at the origin of the transfiguration of his apostolic zeal. You can study all the theology you want, you can study the Bible and all that, and become atheist or worldly, it is not a question of studies; in history there have been many atheist theologians! Studies are useful but they do not generate the new life of grace. Indeed, as Saint Ignatius of Loyola says: "For it is not knowing much, but realizing and relishing things interiorly, that contents and satisfies" (*Spiritual Exercises*, Annotations, 2, 4). It is about things that change you within, that let you know something else, savour something else. May each of us reflect: "Am I a religious person?" — "Fine" — "Do I pray?" — "Yes" — "Do I try to obey the commandments?" — "Yes" — "But where is Jesus in your life?" — "Ah, no, I do the things the Church commands". But where is Jesus? Have you encountered Jesus, have you spoken with Jesus? Do you pick up the Gospel or talk with Jesus, do you remember who Jesus is? And this is something that we very often lack. When Jesus enters your life, like he entered Paul's life, Jesus enters and changes everything. Many times, we have heard comments about people: "But look at him, he was a wretch and now he is a good man, she is a good woman... who changed them?". Jesus, they found Jesus. Has your Christian life changed? "No, more or less, yes...". If Jesus did not enter your life, it did not change. "You can be Christian only on the outside". No, Jesus has to enter and this changes you, and this is what happened to Paul. We have to find Jesus, and this is why Paul said that Christ's love drives us, it is what takes you forward. The same change happened to all the saints, who went forward when they found Jesus.

We can reflect further on the change that takes place in Paul, who from a persecutor became an apostle of Christ. We note that there is a sort of paradox in him: indeed, as long as he feels he is righteous before God, he feels authorized to persecute, to arrest, even to kill, as in the case of Stephen; but when, enlightened by the Risen Lord, he discovers he was a "blasphemer and persecutor" (cf. 1 Tim 1:13) — this is what he says of himself, "I formerly blasphemed and persecuted" — then he starts to be truly capable of loving. And this is the way. If one of us says, "Ah, thank you Lord, because I am a good person, I do good things, I do not commit major sins...", this is not a good path, this is the path of self-sufficiency, it is a path that does not justify you, it makes you an elegant Catholic, but an elegant Catholic is not a holy Catholic, he is elegant. The true Catholic, the true Christian, is one who receives Jesus within, that changes your heart. This is the question I ask you all today: what does Jesus mean for me? Have I let him enter my heart, or do I keep him within reach but so that he does not really enter within? Have I let myself be changed by him? Or is Jesus just an idea, a theology that goes ahead... And this is zeal: when one finds Jesus and feels the fire, like Paul, they must preach Jesus, they must talk about Jesus, they must help people, they must do good things. When one finds the idea of Jesus, he or she remains an ideologue of Christianity, and this does not save, only Jesus saves us, if you have encountered him and opened the door to your heart to him. The idea of Jesus does not save you! May the Lord help us find Jesus, encounter Jesus, and may this Jesus change our life from within and help us to help others.

NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND

Helping Christians in the Holy Land

Franciscan priests and brothers are the custodians of the Christian sites in the Holy Land and they are counting on our financial help to assist them in providing presence, care and service on that holy ground. These dedicated servants of God work tirelessly to preserve the sanctuaries and shrines from the life of Jesus and the prophets. Funds collected last year on Good Friday helped to preserve 74 Christian sites and supported over 100 men preparing to be priests or brothers. Your contribution to the Good Friday collection this year will help this most worthy cause. Can we count on you? **Please mark your donations "Church in the Holy Land"**

ECF CLASS SCHEDULE

04/09 – No Classes **04/30** – ECF
04/16 – No Classes **05/07** – ECF
04/23 - ECF

- Children and students of ECF **must be in the hall by 11:30pm for the snack; otherwise, no snack and they go directly to classes!**
- We ask parents to supply **pre-packaged** snacks and water. Please, see Lisa Sulich or Emma Ricketts.
- Parent volunteers are needed for clean-up in the classrooms and hall after classes.

ADULT EDUCATION

Wednesday mornings after the Third Hour, we start a Book Study Group reading *Worshiping with the Church Fathers* by Christopher Hall. This group focuses on the sacraments. We start at 9am with prayer in the church and study from 9.30 – 10.30am in the Hall. This group will meet every other Wednesday.

04/12 04/19

Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 8pm we meet to continue the reading of Christopher Hall's, *Worshiping with the Church Fathers*, focusing on the section on prayer! We gather in the Hall. This group will meet every Wednesday evening beginning February 22nd.

04/12

SLAVIC CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 6th, we will hold a fundraising dance. We thank all of you who have volunteered to work the dance. There will be more details to follow in subsequent bulletins.

PARKING LOT RENOVATION

Thank you for all your help in raising money for this greatly needed repair. We have currently raised \$165,682.00.

Parish Activities

Sun. April 9

Ge'ez Social following 8:00a Liturgy
Baskets blessed in hall following 11:00a
Liturgy

Mon. April 10 OFFICE CLOSED

Wed. April 12

9:45a Book Study in hall following Liturgy
7:00p Book Study in hall

Fri. April 14

2:00p Ge'ez Social following Good Friday Prayers

Sat. April 15

11:00p Ge'ez social following Easter Liturgy

Sun. April 16

Social – Sharing of the Artos bread

Wed. April 19

9:45a Book study in hall following Liturgy

Fri April 21

5:30p Ge'ez Choir rehearsal in hall

Sat. April 22

8:00a Hall and back yard in use

Sun. April 23

11:15a Social & ECF classes following Liturgy
2:00p Ge'ez Social following Ge'ez Liturgy

FROM THE EPARCHY OF PARMA
2022-2023 Annual Stewardship Appeal
St. John Chrysostom's Goal is \$9,500

\$9,105 has been pledged; \$9,055 has been received by Parma. We are at 95% of our goal! Remember: Any amount over our goal is returned to the parish

As we move closer to the great Feast of Pascha, we continue in our process to identify the gifts given to us by God and ponder the ways in which we can respond to His generosity. Please remember the annual Stewardship Appeal as you prepare for the upcoming Feast of Pascha.

Visit parma.org for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

Pre-Cana Weekend
Preparation for marriage according to the Byzantine Rite

Saturday and Sunday, April 29th & 30th, 2023

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church
36125 Aurora Rd.; Solon OH 44139

Ways to register:

Online: tabor-life.org

Call Catherine: 708-653-8344

Email: taborlife@earthlink.net

Registration fee: \$150 per couple

Sponsored by the Marriage and Family Life ministry of the Ruthenian Eparchy of Parma in cooperation with the Tabor Life Institute

Please speak with your pastor regarding this and for registration form.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLICS FOR LIFE-COLUMBUS

Our Third Friday event is April 21, 2023 from 7:00am-12:00pm.

Our next Torchbearers event is Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 9:30am-4:00pm.

For more information or to RSVP please email: Gabriel Vance at gabriel@catholicsforlife.us or call/text him at 740-972-2570.