

St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, OH 43231

Pastor: Fr. Robert Jager

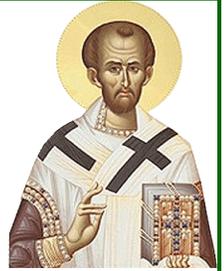
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Mission Statement of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church: To give thanks to God continually, as Byzantine Catholics, through our spirituality, our service, and preaching the Risen Christ through our everyday life.

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

| | | | |
|-----|--------|--|-------------------|
| Sun | Feb 16 | <i>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</i> | |
| | | 9:30am | Third Hour |
| | | 10:00am | Divine Liturgy |
| | | 12:00pm | Ge'ez Liturgy |
| Wed | Feb 19 | 9:00am | Divine Liturgy |
| Thu | Feb 20 | 6:00pm | Divine Liturgy |
| Fri | Feb 21 | 6:00pm | Divine Liturgy |
| Sat | Feb 22 | 6:00pm | Vespers |
| Sun | Feb 23 | 9:30am | Third Hour |
| | | 10:00am | Divine Liturgy |
| | | 12:00pm | Ge'ez Liturgy |
| | | 2:30pm | Ukrainian Liturgy |

Confessions

one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Readings

Epistle

Gospel

| | | | |
|-----|--------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Sun | Feb 16 | 1 Cor 6:12-20 | Luke 15:11-32 |
| Mon | Feb 17 | 1 John 2:18-3:10 | Mark 11:1-11 |
| Tue | Feb 18 | 1 John 3:10-20 | Mark 14:10-42 |
| Wed | Feb 19 | 1 John 3:21-4:6 | Mark 14:43-15:1 |
| Thu | Feb 20 | 1 John 4:20-5:1 | Mark 15:1-15 |
| Fri | Feb 21 | 2 John 1-13 | Mark 15:22, 25 & 33-41 |
| Sat | Feb 22 | 1 Cor 10:23-28 | Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36 |
| Sun | Feb 23 | 1 Cor 8:8-9:2 | Luke 15:11-32 |

Parish Activities

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|-----|--------|---------|--|
| Sun | Feb 16 | 11:15am | Parish social; NO ECF classes |
| | | | World Marriage Day celebration in hall |
| | | 2:00pm | Ge'ez Social |
| Sat | Feb 22 | 4:00pm | Ge'ez Women's Club mtg |
| Sun | Feb 23 | 11:15am | Parish Social; ECF Classes |
| | | 2:00pm | Ge'ez Social |



POPE FRANCIS ON THE PRODIGAL SON

In the parable of the prodigal son, the father says: "let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found" (Lk 15:23-24). With these words the father interrupted the younger son just when he was confessing his guilt: "I am no longer worthy to be called your son..." (v. 19). But this expression is unbearable to the heart of the father, who is quick to restore the signs of dignity to the son: the best robe, the fatted calf, shoes. Jesus does not describe a father who is offended and resentful, a father who would, for example, say to his son: "you will pay for this". On the contrary, the father embraces him, awaits him with love. The only thing that the father has on his mind is that his son stands before him healthy and safe and this makes him happy and he celebrates. The reception of the prodigal son is described in a moving way: "while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him" (v. 20).

What tenderness! He sees him at a distance: what does this mean? That the father had constantly gone to the balcony to look at the road to see if his son would return; that son who had misbehaved in many ways found the father there waiting for him. How beautiful is the father's tenderness! The father's mercy is overflowing, unconditional, and shows itself even before the son speaks. Certainly, the son knows he erred and acknowledges it: "I have sinned... treat me as one of your hired servants" (vv. 18-19). These words crumble before the father's forgiveness. The embrace and the kiss of his father makes him understand that he was always considered a son, in spite of everything. This teaching of Jesus is very important: our condition as children of God is the fruit of the love of the Father's heart; it does not depend on our merits or on our actions, and thus no one can take it away, not even the devil! No one can take this dignity away. Jesus' words encourage us never to despair.

(Pope Francis, General Audience, 05/11/2016)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 6:00PM 1ST ALL SOULS SATURDAY LITURGY CELEBRATED – The first All Souls Saturday is February 22nd. We will have the Divine Liturgy for All Souls on Friday evening, the 21st. Please get the lists of people you wish to be mentioned at the Liturgy and your liturgy stipends into the office by Monday, February 17th.

St. Ambrose (+397), when he preached on the fortieth day after the death of Emperor Theodosius (+395), was consoling the survivors with these words: "... I love him (the Emperor), and will not leave him until, through my tears and prayers, I bring him to the holy mountain of God (Psalm 2:6), where is eternal life" (Sermon at the grave of Theodosius, 37). We Christians therefore, have a very important role in praying for the departed especially since we are their advocates who defend their souls which are already standing before God's face and awaiting the second coming of Jesus Christ at the Last Judgment.

As Eastern Christians we have many opportunities during the liturgical year to pray for the souls of the departed. St. John Damascene writes, "Saturday (Shabbat in Hebrew) means rest, when God rested on this day from his work of creation (Genesis 2: 2-3). On this day of rest, we remember the departed loved ones, as they are resting from their worldly worries." For us Eastern Christians it is the symbol of Great and Holy Saturday, when Jesus 'rested' in the tomb and descended into Hades. According to ancient Christian tradition, every Saturday is dedicated to prayer and the commemoration of the departed.

Throughout the liturgical calendar there are five special All Souls Saturdays where we remember the departed and pray 'panachida' (from Greek all-night vigil, or vigil) with 'hramoty' (from the Greek grammata, which literally translates to list, document). The first All Souls Saturday is on Meatfare Saturday, which is the day before Meatfare Sunday when the Gospel about the Last Judgment is proclaimed (Matthew 25:31-46). In our charity, we Christians pray and intercede to the merciful Lord that He place the souls of the departed on His right side when He comes to judge the living and the dead. The second, third, and fourth All Souls Saturdays are during the Great Fast (Lent). Furthermore, since the commemoration is for all the reposed together, it reminds each of us of our own death and arouses us to repentance. The fifth All Souls Saturday is before the feast of Pentecost. On this Saturday, we commemorate the souls of the departed starting with our forefather Adam. The plan of salvation is completed with the sending of the Holy Spirit, and since God's will is for everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), we pray for the departed on the day before Pentecost so that they can be a part of God's plan of salvation. (Fr. Marek Visnovsky, *On All Souls Saturday*, <https://parma.org/news/why-and-when-to-pray-for-the-departed-on-all-souls-saturday>)

2024 CONTRIBUTIONS RECORDS – For those of you wishing a mailed copy of your contributions record for 2024, please place a self-addressed stamped envelope in the collection boxes and one will be mailed to you. Or, notify the office via email and we will email you a copy of the letter and detail.

MARCH 1 4:00pm-9:00pm SPLENDOR OF LOVE - A Prayer, Workshop & Talk, Dinner and Dance For Single Catholics. A unique opportunity to pray, to learn more about love, and have fun! Dr. Perry Cahall, from the Pontifical College Josephinum, will offer a talk on the essence of love, following St. Paul - *Live in love, as Christ loved us* (Eph 5:2). We start with prayer in the Church, followed by talk in the Hall. Dinner and dance included. Early bird price \$35 (until 2/11), afterwards \$50.

More information and registration may be found at:

www.byzantinecolumbus.com/events/splendor-of-love-workshop

MARCH 15 FAMILY MEETING On Saturday March 15th, we continue our successful Family meetings from 4 pm. Prayer, fun - games, sharing with some snacks! We will have the privilege to have Ivana and Mauro Meruzzi sharing their experiences with *The Little Way* spiritually of spouses. More details to come.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 LITURGY WILL BE HELD AT ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER Bishop Robert Pipta will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday March 23 at the Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave. at 12 pm. There will be no liturgy at St. John Chrysostom. All of us are encouraged to attend and share the beauty of the Byzantine Eucharist with college students. Details to come.

APRIL 18, GOOD FRIDAY, we will celebrate the Byzantine Vespers of Holy (Good) Friday at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in downtown Columbus. This is a unique opportunity to share the rich theological and spiritual heritage with the wider Catholic community in Columbus. Details to come.

WOMEN'S RETREAT IN MARCH - For the ladies who are considering going to the retreat in Fremont in March, given the distance and the opportunity for fellowship, it would be great if we could travel together. If you would be interested in traveling together, Sharon Mech is willing to organize this. Please email her at smech46@gmail.com.

SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE – This is one of the Church's National Collections. There are special envelopes for this on the table in the vestibule. All the money collected that is marked for this will be forwarded to Parma to be sent on.)



FROM THE EPARCHY OF PARMA

Stewardship Appeal 2024/25: The Stewardship Appeal helps cover the costs of a variety of programs in the Eparchy including the support of parishes and missions. For the good of the faithful, we will examine all regions of the Eparchy and determine the way forward. Specifically, this year we give focus to our Mission in Dayton and our Outreach in Iowa and the needed worship and fellowship that become key to thriving parishes. We will provide consultation in financials, capital improvements, and human resources. We will assess the vitality of parishes and determine the establishment of new parishes as we stabilize ourselves as a community first.

If you have not already made your gift, please visit <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help financially with the many needs we face. Thank you for your generosity!

Any amount over the assigned goal for our parish is returned to us. **Our parish goal for this year is \$13,050. Amount contributed to date: \$9,940 from 11 donors.**

12th Annual Women's Retreat - March 7-9, 2025 Location: Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center - Fremont, OH Theme: Our Lord Jesus Christ-The Path to the Father Retreat Master: Fr. Jan Maturkanic Contact Joan Washburn for further information at 865-696-7809 or stmarymbhdwomensretreat@gmail.com
Sponsored by St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

The 4th Annual Men's Retreat - March 14,-16 2025 Location: Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center - Fremont, OH Theme: The Beatitudes: The Way of Life Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro Contact Karl Busam for further information at 419-626-6811 or karl.busam.77@gmail.com
Sponsored by Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

There are Save the Date cards and mail-in registration forms for both events on the table in the vestibule.)



IN COLUMBUS

2025 Catholic Men's Conference – Called to be Saints Men: on Mission The 28th Annual Catholic Men's Conference returns to Kasich Hall at the Ohio Expo Center and State Fairgrounds on **February 22, 2025**. This final year of the Eucharistic Revival is the Year of Mission and becomes a fitting theme to remind us that we are Men On Mission. The Catholic Men's Conference continues to dedicate itself to the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, and this year we particularly acknowledge our role – our Mission – as Men Called to be Saints, carrying out our mission of faith, fellowship, evangelization, and role models.

<https://www.catholicmensministry.com/2025conference>



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:

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|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Hussein Abdi | Dora Johnson | Paula Oshinski | Claudette Weber |
| William Brake | Gordon Kaercher | Beauetta Parks | Curtis Weber |
| Charles Branham | Susan Kaiser | Cathy Pitt | Nicholas Zvansky |
| John Brown | James Kester | Maksym Popadyn | Sandra Zvansky |
| Vernal Brown | Kathy Krofcheck | Maria Rakowsky | Abby |
| Mary Carroll | Regina Lee | Terry Rasor | Carol |
| Maria Czarnik | Christin Leon | Nadia Ritchey | Charyton Intentions |
| Cindy Cox | Christine Long | Charles Roddy | DeClue Intentions |
| Will Culver | Jessie Madzia | Sandra Roddy | Dock Family |
| Ron Doctor | Ilya Mandebur | Trey Shearon | Hagos |
| Jack Figel | Bill Martin | John Sikora | Jackson Family |
| Sarah Frye | Joe Martin | Kathy Slonka | Kathy |
| Christopher Gehman | Joy Mersch | Kim Snow | Lippert Family |
| Deborah Gordon | Angela Merva | Helen Stephens | Mara |
| Charlene Grabner | Katie Nann | Dennis Stinich | Mech Intention |
| Nataly Grace | Ed Nyahay | Josh Taylor | Melissa |
| John Griffen | Anne O'Halloran | L.T. Tekle | Special Intentions |
| Evelyn Hoehstetter | Mic O'Halloran | Ruth Turanchik | Steve |
| Esther Imhoff | John Oshinski | Owen Ward | |