

# St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, OH 43231

Pastor: Fr. Robert Jager

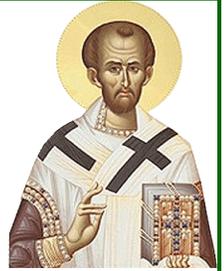
Deacon: Fr. Deacon Jeffrey Martin

Phone: 614-882-7578

Email: stjohnbyz@hotmail.com

Website: byzantinecolumbus.com

To schedule an event: eventstjohn@outlook.com



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	Mar 2	<b><i>Sunday of Cheese-Fare/Forgiveness Sunday</i></b>	
		9:30am	Third Hour
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy
			For the Faithful
			<i>Catechumens from St. Paul attending; short introduction to history of church following Liturgy</i>
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Liturgy
		1:00pm	Forgiveness Vespers in hall
Mon	Mar 3	6:00pm	Liturgy of St. Gregory ( <i>Presanctified</i> )
Wed	Mar 5	9:00am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour w/Isaiah readings
Fri	Mar 7	6:00pm	Liturgy of St. Gregory ( <i>Presanctified</i> )
Sat	Mar 8	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun	Mar 9	<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent</i></b>	
		9:30am	Third Hour
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy
			For the Faithful
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Liturgy

**Confessions:** one hour before liturgy or by appointment



## Readings

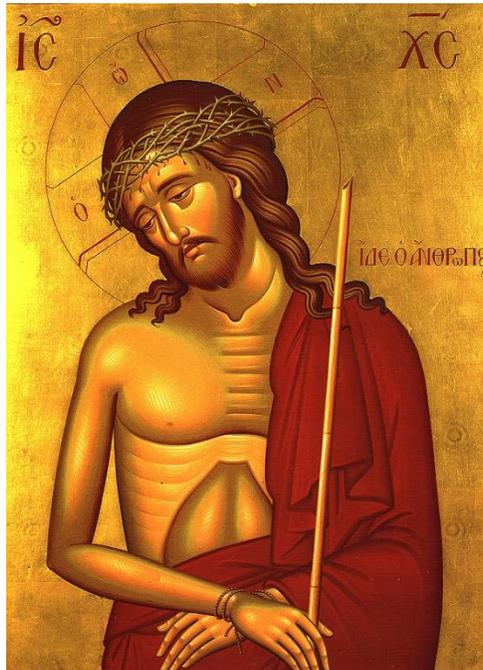
## Epistle

## Gospel

Sun	Mar 2	Rom	13:11-14:4	Matt	6:14-21
Mon	Mar 3	Gen	1:1-13	Prov	1:1-20
Tue	Mar 4	Gen	1:14-23	Prov	1:20-33
Wed	Mar 5	Gen	1:24-2:3	Prov	2:1-21
Thu	Mar 6	Gen	2:4-19	Prov	3:1-18
Fri	Mar 7	Gen	2:20-3:20	Prov	3:19-34
Sat	Mar 8	Heb	1:1-12	Mark	2:23-3:5
Sun	Mar 9	Heb	11:24-26; 31-12:2	John	1:43-51

## Parish Activities

Sun	Mar 2	11:15am	Parish Social; ECF Classes
		1:00pm	Forgiveness Vespers in hall
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Mar 3</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Wed	Mar 5	6:00pm	Nicene Creed Study Group in hall
Thur	Mar 6	9:00am	Pirohi Making
Fri	Mar 7	9:00am	Pirohi making
Sat	Mar 8	4:00pm	Ge'ez Young Mother's meeting w/Fr. Weldit
Sun	Mar 9	11:15am	Parish Social; ECF Classes
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social



## THE GREAT FAST

The Lenten season is a special occasion to reconsider our own life. Where am I in my personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Where am I in my relationship with my fellow believers, the community of Church? Do I resemble more and more Christ's way of life, his attitudes, priorities, and deeds? Joel, the prophet, redirects our attention. "Return to me with all your heart [...] rend your hearts not your garments" (Joel 2:12). Move from the surface to the mystery of being!

"Rend your hearts and see what is there! What do you see there? Bring it to the Lord, so he may bring blessing!" (cf. Joel 2:14). Jesus presents God as Father who welcomes back, forgives, restores, and gives meaning to our lives (cf. Lk 15:11-32). Keeping this in mind, we embark on the journey of returning to Him just as the prodigal son did. The prodigal son recognizes the void of his heart and the misery he caused. He recognizes what he lost (cf. Lk 15:17). He returns and he is restored as son (Lk 15:22-24). We are invited to do

the same. Conversion is not to be reduced to outward forms or vague intentions. It engages and transforms one's entire existence beginning from the center of the person, the heart.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are but tools to rend our hearts, to see clearly, and to help us to return. All of these are oriented to a deeper union with God – theosis, partakers of the divine life: “ [...] so you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is produced by evil desire” (2 Pt 1:4). According to Byzantine tradition, the discipline of the fast consists of three parts:

**1.** Spiritual renewal, by which we examine our hearts and its attitudes and return to the Lord, seeking a greater practice of the virtues, a deeper life of prayer, repentance for our sins, and a greater conversion (metanoia) of heart, which manifests itself in good works. The mystery of reconciliation, one of the two sacraments of healing, is of great value and efficacy.

**2.** Corporal (bodily) fast, by which we give up certain foods, drinks and amusements, in order to break the hold that such things may have over us. Strict abstinence is to be observed on the first day of the Great Fast and on Great Friday. Strict abstinence forbids the use of meat and dairy products, including eggs.

Simple abstinence is to be observed on Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast. Mondays may be included as well. Simple abstinence forbids the use of meat and meat products. The laws of strict and simple abstinence bind all the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma.

Expectant and nursing mothers, infants, those with serious health conditions, and those under physician's orders are exempt from the laws of strict abstinence.

**3.** Spiritual or internal fast, renouncing certain enjoyable activities and creating space for a personal encounter with the Lord. Reading the Scripture, daily examination of conscience, participation in the liturgical life of the parish beyond Sundays and days of obligation, reaching out to persons whom we know live alone or go unnoticed, spending more time with family members, practicing listening to my family members, are some of the ways to spiritual fasting. Thus, we seek to turn from any sin, wickedness or evil habits in our lives, practice agape so that we may come into God's presence well-prepared to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection and our redemption.

**Today, Forgiveness Vespers will be held in the hall beginning at 1:00pm.**

**The office will be closed tomorrow, Clean Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



**THE SPLENDOR OF LOVE WORKSHOP has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**NICENE CREED STUDY GROUP** - On Wednesdays during the Lent, **March 5<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>**, our Parish is offering study sessions from **6pm-7pm**, diving into the profession of faith, the Creed. Study materials will be provided. Useful will be the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Christ Our Pascha catechism. If you need these, please, let the Office know by Tuesday, 03/04.

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. The study sessions are to honor and celebrate this anniversary.

After Pascha another study group will be offered on the book of Benedict XVI. *Jesus of Nazareth*. Details to come!

**MARCH 15 FAMILY GET-TOGETHER** On Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>, we continue our successful Family get-togethers beginning at 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. The kids will have the opportunity to prepare their Easter eggs, pysanky. Grateful to Myroslava Mudrak to offer this incredible workshop!

**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.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18,** 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.

**JOIN OUR PARISH'S "BAND" GROUP!** This is a group page for parishioners and regular attendees to grow in faith, build meaningful connections and deepen our Byzantine Catholic faith. Stay up-to-date on liturgies, feast days and parish events while sharing prayer intentions and encouragement with fellow parishioners. Scan the QR code that is on the flyer in this bulletin.

**AT GREATER COLUMBUS RIGHT TO LIFE,** we are working hard to grow a community of life dedicated to promoting and protecting the dignity of all innocent human life. We can only do this with your help. We encourage you to sign up for our Spring 40 Days for Life campaign.

As an individual, you can adopt an hour or more. The spring campaign will run from Wednesday, March 5th until Sunday, April 13th from 7 am until 7 pm at The Planned Parenthood Surgical Clinic (3255 E Main Street, Columbus).

We know firsthand that there is power in gathering in peaceful prayer and we know that both unborn lives can be saved and abortion-minded women can be protected through compassionate education about choices.

Please prayerfully consider joining us.

Parishioner Kathy Krofcheck plans on praying in front of the Planned Parenthood Center during Lent. She usually stays an hour and prays the rosary. If others join that would be great!

If you would like more information you can talk to Kathy Krofcheck or let the office know and they will contact her for you.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will be selling their annual Cash Bonanza Raffle Tickets until May. Tickets are \$5.00 a piece, and proceeds benefit the Charitable efforts of the Knights in the State of Ohio. Proceeds from the raffle support Catholic High School Education, Vocations, Religious Education and Evangelization, Veterans, and a variety of other charities in each diocese in the state. Assumption Council uses funds to support Seminarians,

### Pregnancy Support Resources



**Pregnancy Decision Health Center: 614-444-4411**

**Birthright: 614-221-0844**

**Mommies Matter: 614-723-9308**

**Option Line: <https://optionline.org/> 1-800-712-4357**

**Women's Care Center: 614-251-0200**

**Stowe Mission, Columbus: 614-445-8400**

**Pregnancy Resources of Delaware County: 740-417-9358**



the Pregnancy Decision Health Center, and various food banks in our local area. Likewise, to support the faith building activities at St. John Chrysostom.



### FROM THE EPARCHY OF PARMA

**Stewardship Appeal 2024/25: During this first week of the Great Fast,** we consider ways in which we can share our faith in Christ for all to see. One way to do that is by contributing to the needs supported by the Stewardship Appeal. Have you made your gift yet? If so, thank you! If not, there is still time! Visit us online at <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> to submit your one-time or monthly donation.

**Our parish goal for this year is \$13,050. Amount contributed to date: \$10,040. Remember,** any amount over the assigned goal for our parish is returned to us.

**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 [stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com)  
Sponsored by St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

#### The 4<sup>th</sup> 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



#### 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:***

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 Czynnik	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 Hoechstetter	Mic O'Halloran	Ruth Turanchik	Steve
Esther Imhoff	John Oshinski	Owen Ward	



Stay Connected with Our Parish BAND Group! Join our parish's BAND Group to deepen your Byzantine faith, stay informed, and build meaningful connections with fellow parishioners!

Why Join?

- Stay Updated - Get real-time updates on liturgies, feast days, and parish events.
- Strengthen Faith - Share prayer intentions, reflections, and encouragement.
- Build Community - Connect with parishioners and regular attendees in a private, faith-centered space.

Scan the QR Code below to download the app and become part of our online parish family today!

