



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Robert Jager

Deacon: Fr. Deacon Jeffrey Martin

December 14, 2025

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	Dec 14	<i>Sunday of the Forefathers</i>	
	9:40am	Emmanuel Moleben	
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the faithful</i>
		<i>Guided Tour in church following Liturgy</i>	
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Wed	Dec 17	9:00am	Divine Liturgy
Thu	Dec 18	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy
Fri	Dec 19	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy
Sat	Dec 20	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun	Dec 21	<i>Sunday before Christmas; of the Ancestors</i>	
	9:40am	Emmanuel Moleben	
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the faithful</i>
		<i>Guided Tour following Liturgy</i>	
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	

Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun Dec 14	Col 3:4-11	Luke 14:16-24
Mon Dec 15	2 Tim 2:20-26	Mark 8:11-21
Tue Dec 16	2 Tim 3:16-4:4	Mark 8:22-28
Wed Dec 17	2 Tim 4:9-22	Mark 8:30-34
Thu Dec 18	Titus 1:5-2:1	Mark 9:10-16
Fri Dec 19	Titus 1:15-2:10	Mark 9:33-41
Sat Dec 20	Gal 3:8-12	Luke 13:18-29
Sun Dec 21	Heb 11:9-10; 17-23 & 32-40	Matt 1:1-25

5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, OH 43231

Office Phone: 614-882-7578

Office Email: stjohnbyz@hotmail.com

Office Hours M-W-F 9:00a – 1:00p

Website: www.byzantinecolumbus.com

Facebook: St. John Chrysostom Church

To schedule an event, send an email to eventstjohn@outlook.com allow 24-48 hours for reply

Parish Activities

Sun	Dec 14	11:15am	Guided Tour in church following Liturgy; Social in hall; Movie for ECF groups 1-3; 7 th grade through High School attend Guided Tour in church
		Following Liturgy	Knights of Columbus Council meeting in basement classroom
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social
Sat	Dec 20	8:45am	Knights of Columbus meet to carpool to pray rosary @ PP clinic downtown
		4:00pm	Ge'ez Women's Club meeting in hall
		6:00pm	Ge'ez Choir Christmas Social
Sun	Dec 21	11:15am	Guided Tour in church; Social; ECF classes
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE WHOLE 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.

TODAY, the children in ECF group 1-3 will watch a Christmas movie and the children in 7th grade through high school are to attend the Guided Tour in church following Divine Liturgy.

TREE OF WARMTH – We have a tree in the vestibule of the church to be “decorated” with hats, gloves, scarves and packages of socks of ALL sizes. These will be donated to the shelters in the area. These are items that are most in need during this time of year.

“Feeding the hungry is a greater miracle than raising the dead!” ~ St. John Chrysostom

Please help us help others in this area. The baskets in front of the St. Tabitha icon in the church vestibule are for donations of boxed or canned food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, diapers, etc. These are items are graciously transported to W.A.R.M. (Westerville Area Resource Ministry) by one of our parishioners.

NOTE: The office will be closed for the Christmas/New Year holiday beginning on Wednesday December 24th. It will reopen on Monday January 5, 2026.

PHILIP'S FAST

The Byzantine Catholic Church prepares for the feast of the Nativity of the Lord by a fast, which is also known as Philip's Fast or Pre-Christmas Fast (Byzantine Advent). The purpose of this forty-day period is the spiritual preparation for Nativity of the Lord and the Theophany. In the Byzantine Church, this fast was definitively established sometime between the 6th and 8th centuries, although there are references to it in the 4th century. It is called Philip's because it begins the day after the feast of St. Philip the Apostle (November 14) on November 15 and lasts until December 24. It is one of the four fasting periods in the Byzantine tradition (Great Lent, Apostolic or Peter and Paul Fast in June, and Dormition Fast in August). The fasting regulations for Filipovka were somewhat milder than the rules for the Great Lent before Easter.

Abstain from meat on Fridays. Participate in Charity works. Increase your participation in liturgical services besides Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation. Read daily the Scripture. Receive the Mystery of Reconciliation more frequently.

NEW ADULT EDUCATION SESSIONS - The new cycle of Adult Education - Christ Our Pascha - will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. All the sessions will be held on Wednesdays at 6pm-7pm in the hall.

GUIDED TOUR AT ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM - PHILIP'S FAST

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 11:15 a.m. and Sunday, December 21, 2025, there will be a guided tour Spirituality of the Philip's Fast (Byzantine Advent). Come to explore how to deepen your preparation for Christmas with the treasures of the Byzantine tradition. Participation in the 10:00 a.m. liturgy is highly recommended. The tour is located at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church (5858 Cleveland Ave Columbus United States 43231). For further details, contact stjohnbyz@hotmail.com.

VOCATIONS ICON - Each family is encouraged to sign up for a weeklong prayer chain, using the booklets. Every Sunday there will be a beautiful little ritual of handing over the icon to the next family. Sign up online using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EAAAC28A6FBC70-59910986-weekly>

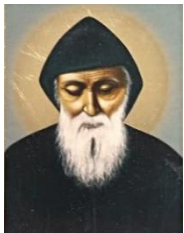
THE PRAYER OF BLESSING

Today we will reflect on an essential dimension of prayer: blessing. We are continuing the reflections on prayer. In the creation accounts (cf. Gen 1-2), God continually blesses life, always. He blesses the animals (1:22); he blesses the man and the woman (1:28); finally, he blesses the Sabbath, the day of rest and the enjoyment of all of creation (2:3). It is God who blesses. In the first pages of the Bible, there is a continual repetition of blessings. God blesses, but men give blessings as well, and soon they discover that the blessing possesses a special power that accompanies those who receive it throughout their entire life and disposes man's heart to allow God to change it (cf. Second Vatican Council Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium, 61). At the world's beginning, there is thus God who "speaks goodness" [dice-bene], he blesses [bene-dice], he speaks goodness [dice-bene]. He sees that every work of his hands is good and beautiful, and when he creates man, and creation is complete, he recognizes that it is "very good" (Gen 1:31). Shortly thereafter, the beauty that God had imprinted within his work will change, and the human being will become a degenerate creature, capable of spreading evil and death in the world; but nothing will ever take away God's original imprint, an imprint of goodness that God placed in the world, in human nature, in all of us: the capacity to bless and the fact of being blessed. God did not make a mistake with creation nor with the creation of man. The hope of the world lies entirely in God's blessing: he continues to love us, to wish us well; he is the first, as the poet Péguy said, to continue to hope for our good (The Portico of the Mystery of the Second Virtue, first ed. 1911). God's great blessing is Jesus Christ; his Son is God's greatest gift. He is a blessing for all of humanity. He is the blessing that saved us all. He is the eternal Word with which the Father blessed us "while we were yet sinners" (Rom 5:8), Saint Paul says, the Word made flesh and offered for us on the cross. Saint Paul proclaims God's plan of love with emotion. And he says it like this: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved" (Eph 1:3-6). There is no sin that can completely erase the image of Christ present in each one of us. No sin can erase that image that God has given us — the image of Christ. Sin can disfigure it but not remove it from God's mercy. A sinner can remain in error for a long time, but God is patient till the end, hoping that [the sinner's] heart will eventually open and change. God is like a good father and like a good mother — he is also a good mother: they never stop loving their child, no matter what he or she may do wrong, always. What comes to my mind is the many times that I have seen people queue to enter a prison. Many mothers queue up to see their imprisoned child: they do not stop loving their child and they know that the people passing by on the bus are thinking: "Ah, that is a prisoner's mother". Yet they are not embarrassed about this; or better yet, they are embarrassed, but they go ahead, because their child is more important than their embarrassment. Thus, we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit, because he is a father, he is a mother, he is pure love, he has blessed us forever. And he will never stop blessing us. It is an impressive experience to read these biblical texts of blessing in a prison, or in a rehabilitation group. To let these people feel that they are still blessed, notwithstanding their grave errors, that the heavenly Father continues to desire their good and to hope that they will open themselves to the good, in the end. Even if their closest relatives have abandoned them since by now, they judge them to be irredeemable, they are always children to God. God cannot erase in us the image of sons and daughters; each one of us is his son, his

daughter. At times we see miracles happen men and women who are reborn because they find this blessing that has anointed them as children. For God's grace changes lives: he takes us as we are, but he never leaves us as we are. Let us think about what Jesus did with Zacchaeus (cf. Lk 19:1-10), for example. Everyone saw evil in him; instead, Jesus spots a glimmer of good, and from that — from his curiosity to see Jesus — He allows the mercy that saves to pass through. Thus, first Zacchaeus' heart was changed, and then his life. Jesus sees the indelible blessing of the Father in the people who are rejected and repudiated. Zacchaeus was a public sinner; he had done so many awful things, but Jesus saw that indelible sign of the Father's blessing and because of that, he had compassion. That phrase that is repeated often in the Gospel, "He was moved with compassion", and that compassion leads Him to help him and to change his heart. What's more, Jesus came to identify himself with every person in need (cf. Mt 25:31-46). In the passage about the final protocol on which all of us will be judged, Matthew 25, Jesus says: "I was hungry, I was naked, I was in prison, I was in hospital, I was there...". To God who blesses, we too respond by blessing — God has taught us how to bless and we must bless — through the prayer of praise, of adoration, of thanksgiving. The Catechism writes: "The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing" (n. 2626). Prayer is joy and thanksgiving. God did not wait for us to convert before beginning to love us, but he loved us long before, when we were still in sin. We cannot just bless this God who blesses us; we must bless everyone in him, all people, bless God and bless our brothers and sisters, bless the world: this is the root of Christian meekness, the ability to feel blessed and the ability to bless. If we were all to do this, wars would surely not exist. This world needs blessings, and we can give blessings and receive blessings. The Father loves us, and the only thing that remains for us is the joy of blessing him, and the joy of thanking him, and of learning from him not to curse, but to bless. Here, just one word for the people who have the habit of cursing, people who always have a bad word, a curse, on their lips and in their hearts. Each of us can think: do I have this habit of cursing like this? And ask the Lord for the grace to change this habit because we have a blessed heart and curses cannot come out of a blessed heart. May the Lord teach us never to curse, but to bless.

Pope Francis, 12/2/2020

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	Ron	Doctor	Charyton	Intentions	Angela	Merva	Trey	Shearon
Carol	Laura	Eckenrode	DeClue	Intentions	Ed	Nyahay	Kathy	Slonka
Hagos	Aregay	Family	Dora	Johnson	Anne	O'Halloran	Monica	Smith
Kathy	Conley	Family	Gordon	Kaercher	Mic	O'Halloran	Scott	Smith
Mara	Jackson	Family	Susan	Kaiser	John	Oshinski	Kim	Snow
Melissa	Lippert	Family	James	Kester	Paula	Oshinski	Helen	Stephens
Steve	Mazon	Family	Kathy	Krofcheck	Maksym	Popadyn	Dennis	Stinich
Hussein	Jack	Figel	Regina	Lee	Maria	Rakowsky	Josh	Taylor
William	Sarah	Frye	Christine	Leon	Kristi	Ralston	L.T.	Tekle
Charles	Christopher	Gehman	Jeanne	Lombardi	Terry	Rasor	John	Wagner
Anna	Deborah	Gordon	Christine	Long	Nadia	Ritchey	Owen	Ward
John	Charlene	Grabner	Jessie	Madzia	Charles	Roddy	Curtis	Weber
Vernal	Nataly	Grace	Ilya	Mandebur	Sandra	Roddy	Nicholas	Zvansky
Mary	John	Griffen	Bill	Martin	Justin	Rogers	Sandra	Zvansky
Will	Evelyn	Hoechstetter	Joe	Martin	Lillian	Rogers		
Maria	Esther	Imhoff	Mary Ann	McCallister	Mary Beth	Rogers		
	Mech	Intention						