



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Robert Jager

Deacon: Fr. Deacon Jeffrey Martin

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.

January 4, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun Jan 4	<i>Sunday before Theophany</i>	
	9:30am	Third Hour
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy <i>for the faithful</i>
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy
Mon Jan 5	9:00am	Royal Hours for Theophany
	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy w/Blessing of water
Tues Jan 6	<i>Theophany</i>	
	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy w/Blessing of water
Wed Jan 7	<i>Synaxis of John the Baptist</i>	
	9:00am	Divine Liturgy <i>Deceased of St. Cyprian Parish</i>
Thu Jan 8	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy <i>Health of Patsy</i>
Fri Jan 9	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy <i>Deceased of St. Cyprian Parish</i>
Sat Jan 10	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun Jan 11	<i>Sunday after Theophany</i>	
	9:30am	Third Hour
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy <i>for the faithful</i>
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy
	2:30pm	Ukrainian Divine Liturgy w/Blessing of water

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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

Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun Jan 4	2 Tim 4:5-8	Mark 1:1-8
Mon Jan 5	1 Cor 9:19-27	Luke 3:1-18
Tue Jan 6	Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7	Matt 3:13-17
Wed Jan 7	Acts 19:1-8	John 1:29-34
Thu Jan 8	James 1:19-27	Mark 10:17-27
Fri Jan 9	James 2:1-13	Mark 10:23-32
Sat Jan 10	Eph 6:10-17	Matt 4:1-11
Sun Jan 11	Eph 4:7-13	Matt 4:12-17

Parish Activities

Sun Jan 4	11:15am	Social; NO ECF
	2:00pm	Ge'ez social
Mon Jan 5	9:00am	Office reopens
Wed Jan 7	10:00am	Breakfast with the Pastor
	6:00pm	Adult Education in hall
Sat Jan 8	8:45am	Meet in parking lot to carpool to PP for rosary
Sun Jan 11	11:15am	Social; ECF
	2:00pm	Ge'ez social
	3:30pm	Ukrainian Social

NOTE: The office will reopen on tomorrow, January 5, 2026.

TREE OF WARMTH – We ask parishioners to “decorate” the tree in the vestibule of the church 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.

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.

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.

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>

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

To commemorate the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Thursday, January 22, 2026, the Catholic Conference of Ohio (CCO) is hosting Adoration at the Ohio Statehouse from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This provides an opportunity for those unable to make it to D.C. for the March for Life to unite in prayer locally. Please help spread the news about this event.

COLUMBUS DIOCESE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE: February 21, 2026

Ohio State Fairgrounds - Kasich Hall. Early Bird Regular Tickets/Registration: \$45 if you buy before Jan. 1, 2026 - Student Ticket: \$35 - Religious are always free. www.columbuscatholicwomen.com

From parishioner Jessica Rumberger: “A few of us are planning to attend the Catholic women’s conference on February 21st. If you plan on attending and would like us to look out for you so we can sit together and/or carpool,

please let me know! You can respond through the BAND APP or send me a text message at 614-738-1662. I hope a few others can join!"

COLUMBUS DIOCESE CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: February 28, 2026 Ohio Expo Center – Kasich Hall. Tickets/Registration: Adults \$45.00 - Students \$30.00 – Religious FREE

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

FROM PARMA

FROM PARMA: SAVE THE DATES: 5TH Annual Men's Retreat – January 30-February 1, 2026 at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, OH. Contact Karl Busam for more information at karl.busam.77@gmail.com or call 419-626-6811.

13th Annual Women's Retreat – February 20-22, 2026 at the Maria Stein Retreat Center, Maria Stein, OH. Contact Joan Washburn at 865-696-7809 or stmarymbhdwomensretreat@gmail.com

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

2025-2026 Annual eparchial stewardship appeal: The total financial goal for the eparchy is \$400,000, with a target of 100% household participation. Our financial goal is \$5,075 based on households, and an average contribution of \$175. This year's appeal runs from Nov. 1 through May 31, one month longer than last year, and the household goal has been adjusted accordingly.

The eparchy is pleased to offer an enhanced incentive structure to encourage even greater participation:

Parishes, missions and outreaches reaching at least 50% household participation will receive a 10% rebate on all funds raised up to their assigned goal, and 90% on any funds raised beyond the goal.

If 75% household participation is achieved, the rebate increases to 15% on funds raised up to the goal, with 90% beyond the goal.

The stewardship website from last year remains active and *will be updated in the coming weeks*. It will include:

- A contribution form, including the option to donate online
- The soon-to-be-published Foundation Informational Book, which offers clarity and connection to the foundation's work and beneficiaries.

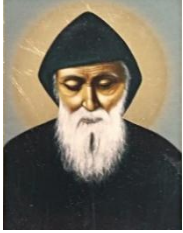
PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Those who pray never turn their backs on the world. If prayer does not gather the joys and sorrows, the hopes and the anxieties of humanity, it becomes a "decorative" activity, a superficial, theatrical, solitary way of behaving. We all need interiority: to retreat within a space and a time dedicated to our relationship with God. But this does not mean that we evade reality. In prayer, God "takes us, blesses us, then breaks us and gives us", to satisfy everyone's hunger. Every Christian is called to become in God's hands bread, broken and shared. That is, it is concrete prayer, that is not an escape. So, men and women of prayer seek solitude and silence, not so as not to be disturbed, but so as to listen better to God's voice. Sometimes they withdraw from the world altogether, in the secret of their own room, as Jesus recommended (see Mt 6:6). But wherever they are, they always keep the doors of their hearts wide open: an open door for those who pray without knowing how to pray; for those who do not pray at all but who carry within themselves a suffocating cry, a hidden invocation; for those who have erred and have lost the way... Whoever can knock on the door of someone who prays finds a compassionate heart which does not exclude anyone. Prayer comes from our hearts and our voices and gives heart and voice to so many people do not know how to pray or who do not want to pray or for whom it is impossible to pray: we are the heart and the voice of these people, rising to Jesus, rising to the Father as intercessors. In the solitude of those who pray, whether the solitude lasts a long time or only a half hour, to pray, those who pray separate themselves from everything and from everyone to find everything and everyone in God. These people pray for the whole world, bearing its sorrows and sins on their shoulders. They pray for each and every person: they are like God's "antennas" in this world. The one who prays sees the face of Christ in every poor person who knocks at the door, in every person who has lost the meaning of things. In the Catechism we read: "intercession - asking on behalf of another (...) has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God's mercy". This is beautiful. When we pray we are in tune with God's mercy; having mercy regarding our sins, being merciful with ourselves, but also merciful with all those who have asked to be prayed for, those for whom we want to pray in tune with God's heart. This is true prayer: in tune with God's mercy, with His merciful heart. "In the

age of the Church, Christian intercession participates in Christ's, as an expression of the communion of saints" (n. 2635). What does it mean to participate in Christ's intercession? When I intercede for someone or pray for someone: because Christ is before the Father He is the intercessor, He prays for us, He prays showing the Father the wounds of His hands because Jesus is physically present before the Father with His body. And Jesus is our intercessor and to pray is to be a bit like Jesus: to intercede in Jesus to the Father, for others. This is very beautiful. The human heart tends toward prayer. It is simply human. Those who do not love their brother or sister do not pray seriously. Someone might say: one cannot pray when steeped in hatred; one cannot pray when steeped in indifference. Prayer is offered only in the spirit of love. Those who do not love pretend to pray, they believe they are praying, but they are not praying because they lack the proper spirit, which is love. In the Church, those who are familiar with the sadness and joy of others dig deeper than those who investigate the worlds "chief systems". Because of this, human experience is present in every prayer, because no matter what mistakes people may have committed, they should never be rejected or set aside. When believers, moved by the Holy Spirit, pray for sinners, no selection is made, no judgement or condemnation is uttered: they pray for everyone. And they pray for themselves. At that moment they know they are not that different from those for whom they pray. They realize they are sinners among sinners and they pray for everyone. The lesson of the parable of the Pharisee and the publican is always alive and always relevant (see Lk 18:9-14): we are not better than anyone, we are all brothers and sisters who bear fragility, suffering and being sinners in common. Therefore, a prayer that we can say to God is this: "Lord, no one is just in your sight" (see Ps 143:2), this is what one of the Psalms says: "Lord, no one who lives is just in your sight, none of us: we are all sinners – we are all in debt, each with an outstanding balance to pay; no one is without sin in Your eyes. Lord, have mercy on us!" And with this spirit, prayer is fruitful because we go humbly before God and pray for everyone. Instead, the Pharisee was praying proudly: "I thank you, Lord, because I am not like others, sinners: I am just, always always do...". This is not prayer: this is looking at yourself in a mirror, it is not looking at one's own reality, no. It is like looking at yourself made-up in a mirror because of your pride. The world keeps going thanks to this chain of people who pray, who intercede, and who are unknown for the most part...but not unknown to God! There are many anonymous Christians who, in times of persecution, have repeated the words of our Lord: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:34). The Good Shepherd remains faithful even before the awareness of the sin of His own people: the Good Shepherd continues to be a Father even when His children distance themselves and abandon Him. He perseveres in His service as shepherd even with those who have bloodied His hands; He does not close His heart to those who have even made Him suffer. The Church, in all of her members, has the mission to practice the prayer of intercession: to intercede for others. This is especially so for those who exercise roles of responsibility: parents, teachers, ordained ministers, superiors of communities... Like Abraham and Moses, they must at times "defend" the people entrusted to them before God. In reality, we are talking about protecting them with God's eyes and heart, with His same invincible compassion and tenderness. Pray with tenderness for others. Brothers and sisters, we are all leaves on the same tree: each one that falls reminds us of the great piety that must be nourished in prayer, for one another. So let us pray for each other. It will do us good and do good for everyone.

Pope Francis, 12/16/2020





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

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. You can go online to <https://www.band.us/en> or scan the QR code to download and join.



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



January 2026 St. John Chrysostom Calendar

For any change in this schedule please go to www.byzantinecolumbus.com and check the bulletins page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Circumcision; St Basil	2	3
				12p Div Lit	Office Closed 6p Div Lit	6p Vespers
4	5	6 Theophany	7	8	9	10
9:30a 3 rd Hour 10a Div Lit; Social; NO ECF 12p Ge'ez Div Lit; Social	9a Office Hrs 9a Royal Hours for Theophany 6p Vigil Div. Lit. w/Blessing of water	6p Div Lit w/Blessing of water	9a Div Lit 9a Office Hrs 6p Adult Educ in hall	6p Akathist	9a Office Hrs 6p Div Lit	8:45a K/C Rosary @ PP 6p Vespers
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30a 3 rd Hour 10a Div Lit; Social; ECF 12p Ge'ez Div Lit; Social 2:30p Ukrain Div Lit; Social	9a Office Hrs		9a Div Lit 9a Office Hours 6p Adult Educ in hall	6p Akathist	9a Office Hrs 6p Divine Liturgy	1p Women's Ministry @ Schimmoeller's 6p Vespers
18 Zaccheus Sunday	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30a 3 rd Hour 10a Div Lit; Social; ECF 12p Ge'ez Div Lit; Social	9a Office Hrs		9a Div Lit 9a Office Hrs 6p Adult Educ in hall	6p Div Lit	9a Office Hrs 6p Div Lit	4p Ge'ez Women's Club mtg. 6p Vespers
25 Publican & Pharisee	26	27	28	29	30 3 Holy Hierarchs	31
9:30a 3 rd Hour 10a Div Lit; Social; ECF 12p Ge'ez Div Lit; Social	9a Office Hrs		9a Div Lit 9a Office Hrs 6p Adult Educ in hall	6p Div Lit	9a Office Hrs 6p Div Lit	6p Vespers