

## St. John Chrysostom, Columbus, OH Parish Weekly Schedule

**Sunday December 11**

*Sunday of the Forefathers*

**9:30a** Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
*For the Faithful*

~ Coffee and refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the services. Everyone is welcome!



**Monday December 12**

**9a-1p** Office Hours

**7pm** Advisory Board meeting

**Tuesday December 13**

**7:00pm** Penance Service with confessions heard after

**Wednesday December 14**

**9a-1p** Office Hours

**Thursday December 15**

**9a-1p** Office Hours

**Friday December 16**

**9a-1p** Office Hours

**Saturday December 17**

**4pm** Fr. Bob covering St. Barbara in Dayton

**Sunday December 18**

*Sunday of the Ancestors; Sunday before Christmas*

**9:30a** Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
*For the Faithful; For the Health of Ruth Turanchick*

**11:15am** ECF Classes

~ Coffee and refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the services. Everyone is welcome!



*Icon of the Forefathers of Christ*



Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie sale a success. To Pat Papai and

Rose Ann Jirles who coordinated the making of the pirohi and nut rolls. To all who baked cookies and other goodies, to those who decorated and worked the sale and a big thank you to Lisa Sulich who coordinated everything. We are truly blessed with many good people.

God bless all the parishioners of St. John Chrysostom Church.

~ Fr. Bob

### *2017 Offertory Envelopes*

The 2017 Offertory Envelopes are in the church narthex for you to pick up beginning today.

### *Philip's Fast Reflection Read your Bible*

[www.catholicstewardship.com](http://www.catholicstewardship.com)

***Isaiah 35: 1-6A, 10; Psalms 146: 6-10;  
James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11***

On this Sunday, all of our readings above deal with rejoicing and with joy. Even the prophet Isaiah, from whom our First Reading comes and who can sometimes be a bit dour and negative, begins with this statement, *"The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song."* We are on a journey, a trek of faith that we might also call our stewardship journey. It is a life-long journey and when we reach the end of it,

according to Revelation 21:4, *"God will wipe away every tear from our eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

The point may be that we need to be both on the journey and aware we are on the journey, which is what Philip's Fast is really concerning. If we have not committed to the journey, if we have not made the conversion necessary to be a part of it, and if we have not made an effort to pursue our lives as Disciples of Christ, now is the time.

We have often made reference to agricultural thoughts expressed in Holy Scripture. The Second Reading from the letter of James is another example of that. James notes, *"See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains."* Farmers offer us two great examples for our reasons to be joyous. A farmer plants a crop and knows that it takes time for it to come to fruition. Although the farmer cannot see it, the farmer believes that it will bear fruit and produce what is wanted and needed.

That faith is followed by patience and endurance as the farmer keeps caring for and preparing for the crop, although it cannot be seen. It does not matter how far away the fruits may be; the farmer believes and trusts and endures. That is the same patience and endurance that lives of stewardship exemplify. It is based upon trust in God and knowing that God will both provide and reward us. That is why we are joyful today, and every day.

St. John the Baptist is so important as the messenger of Jesus, the messenger of the Messiah. Yet, even John, like each of us, harbors doubts. He, like many, may have expected the Lord to arrive with great fanfare and instant political acts and impact. However,

Jesus does not and did not work in that way.

Jesus' approach was always simple acts, one at a time, not huge dramatic works. That is an important stewardship message for us as well. Stewardship, and the example of Jesus, is based upon humility, the acceptance that all are more important than we are. As the Lord says in today's Gospel about John, whom he has already glorified and praised, "...yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

On this holy day, as we always do at Divine Liturgy, we gather to celebrate Christ in the Eucharist, an example of His humility. St. Teresa of Calcutta, an example of humility and stewardship, said this: "*The humility of Jesus can be seen in the crib, in the exile to Egypt, in the hidden life, in the ability to make people understand Him, in the desertion of His apostles, in the hatred of His persecutors, in all the terrible suffering and death of His Passion, and now in His permanent state of humility in the tabernacle, where He has reduced Himself to such a small particle of bread that a priest can hold Him with two fingers. The more we empty ourselves, the more room we give God to fill us.*"

Although Pre-Christmas is a season of penitence and preparation, today's readings deal with Christian joy. This may seem not in keeping with the overall mood encouraged for this time, but it is most definitely in keeping with what we need to feel, and it is definitely appropriate for those who embrace stewardship as a way of life.

Stewardship is, of course, based upon an "attitude of gratitude" and today is a day to focus on the joy that results from that gratitude. Father Henri Nouwen was a well known Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. Father Nouwen clarified the difference between joy and happiness. He said, "*While happiness is dependent upon external*

*conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that we are unconditionally loved by God and nothing — not sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death — can take that love away. Joy can be present in the midst of sadness.*"

This "joy" that is reflected in lives of stewardship was also emphasized by Pope Francis, who said in his homily for Gaudete Sunday in 2014, "*Today is a day of joy. Rather than fretting about all we have not done or accomplished to prepare for Christmas during Advent, we need to think of all the good things God, and life, has given us.*"

**Come, O Jesus, our Savior  
redeem and save us!**



### Prayer List

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

The Priest Eugene Linowski			
Ron Doctor	Ray Duskotch	Julia Fedeczko	Julie Fultz
Charlene Grabner	John Grabner	Ev Houston	Esther Imhoff
Frederick Kowalski	Marilyn Kimbrel	Donald Krofcheck	Victor Lonzrick
Christine Loya	Bill Martin	Joe Martin	Paul Mech
Ed Nyahay	Dave Olszyk	Mic O'Halloran	John Oshinski
Paula Oshinski	Bob Parks	Maria Rakowsky	Betty Sikora
John Sikora	Dennis Stinich	Bernie Turanchik	Ruth Turanchik
Anastaszja Wojchak			

***That the Lord God, for the glory of His name, visit his sick servants with His Holy Spirit and cure every illness and affliction, let us pray.***

**Special Dates this Week!**  
**Happy Birthday!**

Jim Pitt	December 14
Mark Stephens	December 15
Eileen Gingras	December 16

**May God grant them many Happy and Blessed Years!**

**Church Cleaning**  
**December**  
12/3- All Clean  
12/17 – Paula/Cathy

**Thanks to Our Volunteers!**

**Collection Counting**

Dec. 4	Kathy Krofcheck
Dec. 11	Jerry Stasek
Dec. 18	Mark Frye
Dec. 25	Alex Rakowsky