

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	Jan 5	9:30am	Third Hour
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Liturgy
		2:30pm	Ukrainian Liturgy w/blessing of water
Mon	Jan 6	5:30pm	Liturgy of Theophany; Blessing/water
		7:00pm	Ge'ez Christmas Liturgy
Wed	Jan 8	9:00am	Divine Liturgy
Thu	Jan 9	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy
Sat	Jan 11	6:00pm	Vespers

Confessions

one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Readings

		Epistle	Gospel
Sun	Jan 5	2 Tim 4:5-8	Mk 1:1-8
Mon	Jan 6	Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7	Mt 3:13-17
Tue	Jan 7	Acts 19:1-8	Jn 1:29-34
Wed	Jan 8	Heb 5:11-6:8	Lk 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24
Thu	Jan 9	Heb 7:1-6	Lk 21:28-33
Fri	Jan 10	Heb 7:18-25	Lk 21:37-22:8
Sat	Jan 11	Eph 6:10-17 & Cor 4:6-15	Mt 4:1-11 & Mt 11:27-30
Sun	Jan 12	Eph 4:7-13	Mt 4:12-17

Parish Activities

Sun	Jan 5	11:15am	Parish social; NO ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Sun	Jan 12	11:15am	ECF; Parish social

Theophany celebration

This year Theophany, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, falls on Monday, and therefore the liturgy of the Byzantine Church has a specific rhythm. Instead of the usual Royal Hours celebrated on the morning of the 5th of January and Vespers with Basil Liturgy in the evening, the following is the rule:

Sun	01/05	9:30am	Third Hour
		10:00am	Sunday before Theophany
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Pre Christmas Liturgy
		2:30pm	Ukrainian Liturgy with blessing of water
Mon	01/06	5:30pm	Theophany liturgy
		7:00pm	Ge'ez Christmas Liturgy

The Giving Tree - This year the purpose of the Giving Tree this year is to raise money for the replacement of the hall roof. The total cost of the replacement is \$74,018 and we have paid \$37,009 already. We need to raise the balance. We have envelopes for your donations to this effort on the tree in the vestibule. Put your donation in the envelope and the envelope in one of the collection boxes.

We thank you for all your help in raising money for this greatly needed repair.

2025 Offertory Envelopes – There are a few sets of offertory envelopes for next year on the table in the church vestibule that have not yet been picked up. If you wish to use envelopes for 2025 and do not see your name on a set, please contact the office, via email - stjohnbz@hotmail.com, and one will be issued to you.

Iconography Workshop Feb. 6-8, 2025 - Fr. Marek Visnovsky will be offering an iconography workshop at St. John Chrysostom on Thursday, February 6 from 5 pm to 9 pm. Friday, February 7 from 9 am to 9 pm, and Saturday, February 8 from 9 am to 9 pm. We will paint the icon of the SORROWFUL MOTHER. The cost of the workshop is \$400 and includes boards, paints, brushes, twenty-four karat gold leaf (food and accommodation not included).

Beginners as well as advanced artists are welcome. **DEADLINE to register is Wednesday, January 15, 2025.** For more information, please email Fr. Marek at marekvisnovsky@yahoo.com



FROM THE EPARCHY OF PARMA - Stewardship Appeal 2024/25: A blessed Theophany to you!

Have you considered your gift to this year's Stewardship Appeal? The Eparchy of Parma relies on your continued support to provide for our various programs and outreaches. Please make your gift today! Go to parma.org/stewardship. 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.**

SAVE THE DATES

- The 12th Annual Women's Retreat is March 7 through March 9, 2025.

Contact Joan Washburn for further information – 865-696-7809 or stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com.

- The 4th Annual Men's Retreat is March 14-16, 2025.

Contact Karl Busam for further information – karl.busam.77@gmail.com or 419-626-6811.



JUBILEE 2025

In ancient Judaism, the Jubilee Year (which was called the year of the yōbēl, "of the goat", because the holiday was proclaimed by the sound of a goat's horn) was a year that was declared holy. During this period, the Mosaic law prescribed that slaves could regain their freedom, and that land, (of which God is the sole master), should be returned to its former owners. A jubilee year was typically celebrated every 50 years.

In the Christian era, after the first Jubilee of 1300, Pope Boniface VIII fixed the frequency of Jubilee celebrations to every 100 years. Following a plea from the people of Rome to Pope Clement VI (1342), the frequency was reduced to every 50 years.

In 1389, in remembrance of the number of years in the life of Christ, Urban VI chose to set the Jubilee cycle to every 33 years and called for a Jubilee in 1390—though it was only celebrated after his death by Pope Boniface IX.

Despite this, in 1400, at the end of the previously fixed 50-year period, without having declared a Jubilee ahead of time, Boniface IX granted a Jubilee indulgence to the pilgrims who had flocked to Rome.

In 1425, Martin V celebrated a new Jubilee, opening the holy door of St John Lateran for the first time.

The last to celebrate a Jubilee on the 50-year cycle was Pope Nicholas V in 1450. Paul II extended the inter-jubilee period to 25 years, and in 1475 a Holy Year was celebrated by Sixtus IV. From then on, ordinary Jubilees were held at regular intervals. Unfortunately, the Napoleonic wars prevented the celebrations of the Jubilees of 1800 and 1850.

The Jubilees were resumed in 1875, after the annexation of Rome to the Kingdom of Italy, although that year it was celebrated without the traditional solemnity.

Jubilee Logo

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Peregrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.





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

An angel of the Lord, bathed in light, illumines the night and brings glad tidings to the shepherds: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). Heaven breaks forth upon earth amid the wonder of the poor and the singing of angels. God has become one of us to make us like himself; he has come down to us to lift us up and restore us to the embrace of the Father.

Sisters and brothers, this is our hope. God is Emmanuel, God-with-us. The infinitely great has made himself tiny; divine light has shone amid the darkness of our world; the glory of heaven has appeared on earth. And how? As a little child. If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever. Hope does not disappoint!

Brothers and sisters, with the opening of the Holy Door we have inaugurated a new Jubilee, and each of us can enter into the mystery of this extraordinary event. Tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world. Tonight, God speaks to each of us and says: there is hope also for you! There is hope for each of us. And do not forget, sisters and brothers, that God forgives everything, God always forgives. Do not forget this, which is a way of understanding hope in the Lord.

To receive this gift, we are called to set out with the marvel of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. The Gospel tells us that, having heard the message of the angel, they "went with haste" (Lk 2:16). In this same way, "with haste", we too are called to recover lost hope, to renew that hope in our hearts, and to sow seeds of hope amid the bleakness of our time and our world. And there is so much desolation at this time. We think of wars, of children being shot at, bombs on schools and hospitals. Do not delay, do not hesitate, but allow yourselves to be drawn along by the Good News.

With haste, then, let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, our hearts joyful and attentive, ready to meet him and then to bring hope to the way we live our daily lives. And this is our task: to bring hope into the different situations of life. For Christian hope is not a cinematic "happy ending" which we passively await, but rather, a promise, the Lord's promise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and

sighs. It is a summons not to tarry, to be kept back by our old habits, or to wallow in mediocrity or laziness. Hope calls us – as Saint Augustine would say – to be upset with things that are wrong and to find the courage to change them. Hope calls us to become pilgrims in search of truth, dreamers who never tire, women and men open to being challenged by God’s dream, which is of a new world where peace and justice reign.

Let us learn a lesson from the shepherds. The hope born this night does not tolerate the indifference of the complacent or the lethargy of those content with their own comforts – and so many of us are in danger of becoming too comfortable; hope does not accept the faux prudence of those who refuse to get involved for fear of making mistakes, or of those who think only of themselves. Hope is incompatible with the detachment of those who refuse to speak out against evil and the injustices perpetrated at the expense of the poor. Christian hope, on the other hand, while inviting us to wait patiently for the Kingdom to grow and spread, also requires of us, even now, to be bold, responsible, and not only that but also compassionate, in our anticipation of the fulfilment of the Lord’s promise. And here perhaps it will do us good to ask ourselves about compassion: do I have compassion? Am I able to suffer-with? Let us reflect on this.

On reflecting on how often we accommodate ourselves to the world and conform to its way of thinking, a fine priest and writer prayed for a Blessed Christmas in these words: “Lord, I ask you for a little annoyance, a touch of restlessness, a twinge of regret. At Christmas, I would like to find myself dissatisfied. Happy, but not satisfied. Happy because of what you do, dissatisfied by my lack of response. Please, take away our complacency and hide a few thorns beneath the hay of our all-too-full ‘manger’. Fill us with the desire for something greater” (a. pronzato, *La novena di Natale*). The desire for something greater. Do not stand still. Let us not forget that still water is the first to become stagnant.

Christian hope is precisely this “something greater”, which should spur us to set out “with haste”. As disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world.

Sisters and brothers, this is the Jubilee. This is the season of hope in which we are invited to rediscover the joy of meeting the Lord. The Jubilee calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation. A jubilee for our mother Earth, disfigured by profiteering; a time of jubilee for the poorer countries burdened beneath unfair debts; a time of jubilee for all those who are in bondage to forms of slavery old and new.

All of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered and hearts overwhelmed by adversity. We are called to bring hope to the weary who have no strength to carry on, the lonely oppressed by the bitterness of failure, and all those who are broken-hearted. To bring hope to the interminable, dreary days of prisoners, to the cold and dismal lodgings of the poor, and to all those places desecrated by war and violence. To bring hope there, to sow hope there.

The Jubilee has now opened so that all people may receive hope, the hope of the Gospel, the hope of love and hope of forgiveness. As we contemplate the manger, as we gaze upon it and see God’s tender love in the face of the Child Jesus, let us ask ourselves: “Are our hearts full of expectation? Does this hope find a place there? ... As we contemplate the loving kindness of God who overcomes our doubts and fears, let us also contemplate the grandeur of the hope that awaits us. ... May this vision of hope illumine our path each day” (c. m. martini, *Christmas Homily*, 1980).

Dear sister, dear brother, on this night the “holy door” of God’s heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for you, for me, for us, for every man and woman. And remember that with him, joy flourishes; with him, life changes; with him, hope does not disappoint.

(Pope Francis, Homily at the Opening of the Jubilee Door, 2024)

The Jubilee Prayer

**Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.**

**May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.**

**To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.**

Amen

Franciscus