

# St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, OH 43231

Pastor: Fr. Robert Jager

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To schedule an event, email - 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.

## **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.*

**July 6, 2025**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

### **Liturgical Schedule**

### **Intention**

Sun	July 6	9:30am	Third Hour	<i>For the faithful</i>
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Fri	July 11	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	
Sat	July 12	6:00p	Vespers	
Sun	July 13	9:30am	Third Hour	<i>For the faithful</i>
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	

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### **Readings**

Sun	July 6
Mon	July 7
Tue	July 8
Wed	July 9
Thu	July 10
Fri	July 11
Sat	July 12
Sun	July 13

### **Epistle**

Rom	6:18-23
Rom	12:4-5 & 15-21
Rom	14:9-18
Rom	15:7-16
Gal	5:22-6:2
Rom	16:1-16
Rom	8:14-21
Rom	10:1-10 or Heb 13:7-16

### **Gospel**

Matt	8:5-13
Matt	12:9-13
Matt	12:14-16 & 22-30
Matt	12:38-45
Luke	6:17-23
Matt	13:4-9
Matt	9:9-13
Matt	8:28-9:1 or John 17:1-13

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## Parish Activities

Sun	July 6	11:15am	Parish Social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Mon	July 7	7:00pm	Book Study
Sat	July 12	4:00pm	Family Meeting
Sun	July 13	11:15am	Parish Social; ECF
		2:00pm	Geez social

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## THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JULY 7<sup>th</sup> THROUGH JULY 11<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ **The next Family Meeting is July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm** in the parish hall. There will be prayer, fun - games, sharing with some snacks! All families, especially those with children, are invited and welcome to attend. We ask you to bring salads and sides, the parish will supply hot dogs. This is a great way to get to know your parish family. Please let the office know so we can provide enough hot dogs.
- ❖ **The book study** will not be held on July 14<sup>th</sup> as Fr. Robert is attending the Byzantine Assembly that week. The book study will resume on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

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## FROM THE EPARCHY OF PARMA

- **Fifth Annual Young Adult Retreat Jul 31, 2025, 12pm – Aug 03, 2025, 12pm** Lakeside Marblehead, 506 E Main St, Lakeside Marblehead, OH 43440  
Join us for a weekend of service, spirituality, and socializing! Set right on the coast of beautiful Lake Erie, this will be a retreat you won't forget. We can't wait to see you there! The cost for the retreat this year is \$150, we are happy to offer financial assistance to those who need it. Go to ***byzantineyoungadults.com*** for more information and to register.
- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Liturgy & Life Camp** is scheduled for **August 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>** at Cedar Lake Ministries in Cedar Lake, IN. Go to ***parma.org/family-camp*** for more information and to register.
- **Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Mariapoch – August 16 – 17.** Theme *"Theotokos – our joy,, our protection, our hope"* Questions, ask Deacon Greg Loya at gregloya@yahoo.com or 216-272-6790. Mariapoch website: *https://parma.org/shrine-of-mariapoch*
- **The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Bishop's Golf Classic**, to benefit the Eparchy of Parma Foundation, is scheduled for **August 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Valleaie Golf Club in Hinkley, OH. For Sponsorship & Golfer information email ***development@parma.org***

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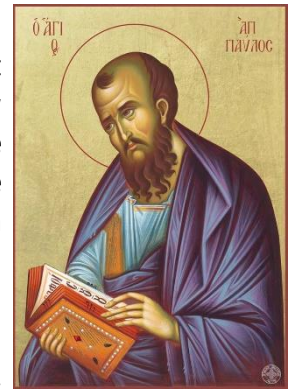
- **Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Annual Pilgrimage- Uniontown, PA**  
**August 29 @ 8am - September 1 @ 5pm**

- Mount St. Macrina Monastery 500 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 878  
Uniontown, PA 15401. Website: *sistersofstbasil.org/events-2/annual-pilgrimage-honoring-our-lady-of-perpetual-help/*

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## Freedom...

With his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul gradually introduces us to the great novelty of faith. Slowly. It is truly a great novelty because it does not merely renew a few aspects of life, but rather it leads us into that "new life" that we received with Baptism. There the greatest gift, that of being children of God, was poured upon us. Reborn in Christ, we passed from a religiosity made up of precepts to a living faith, which has its centre in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters, that is, in love. We have passed from the slavery of fear and sin to the freedom of God's children. Here, again, is the word *freedom*.



Today we will try to better understand what the heart of this freedom is for the Apostle. Paul states that it is anything but an "opportunity for the flesh" (*Gal 5:13*): freedom, therefore, is not a libertine way of living, according to the flesh or according to instincts, individual desires or one's own selfish impulses; on the contrary, the freedom of Jesus leads us to be, the Apostle writes, "servants of one another" (*ibid.*). But is this slavery? Yes, freedom in Christ has an element of slavery, a dimension that leads us to service, to living for others. True freedom, in other words, is fully expressed in love. Yet again, we find ourselves faced with the paradox of the Gospel: we are free in serving, not in doing whatever we want. We are free in serving, and freedom comes from there; we find ourselves fully to the extent to which we give ourselves. We find ourselves fully to the extent to which we give ourselves, to which we have the courage to give ourselves; we possess life if we lose it (cf. *Mk 8:35*). This is pure Gospel.

But how can this paradox be explained? The Apostle's answer is as simple as it is demanding: "through love" (*Gal 5:13*). There is no freedom without love. The selfish freedom of doing what I want is not freedom, because it turns in on itself, it is not fruitful. It is Christ's love that has freed us and it is love that also frees us from the worst slavery, that of the self; therefore, freedom increases with love. But beware: not with self-indulgent love, with the love of soap operas, not with the passion that simply seeks what we want and like, but with the love we see in Christ, charity: this is the love that is truly free and freeing. It is the love that shines in gratuitous service, modelled on that of Jesus, who washes the feet of his disciples and says: "I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (*Jn 13:15*). Serving one another.

Therefore, for Paul freedom is not "doing what you want and what you like". This type of freedom, without a goal and without points of reference, would be an empty freedom, a freedom of the circus: it is not good. And indeed, it leaves emptiness within: how often, after following instinct alone, do we realise that we are left with a great emptiness inside and that we have used badly the treasure of our freedom, the beauty of being able to choose true goodness for ourselves and for others. Only this freedom is complete, concrete, and inserts us into real everyday life. True freedom always frees us, whereas when we exercise that freedom of "what we like and do not like", we remain empty, in the end.

In another letter, the First to the Corinthians, the Apostle responds to those who supported an incorrect idea of freedom. "All things are lawful", they say. Yes, "but not all things are helpful", Paul replies. "All things are lawful, but not all things build up", the Apostle answers. He then adds: "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour" (*1 Cor 10:23-24*). This is the rule for unmasking any type of selfish freedom. Paul puts the need for love even before those who are tempted to reduce freedom only to their own tastes. Freedom guided by love is the only one that sets others and ourselves free, that knows how to listen without imposing, that knows how to love without coercing, that builds and does not destroy, that does not exploit others for its own convenience and does good without seeking its own benefit. In short, if freedom is not at the service — this is the test — if freedom is not at the service of good, it runs the risk of being barren and not bearing fruit. On the other hand, freedom inspired by love leads towards the poor, recognising the face of Christ in their faces. Therefore, this service to one another allows Paul, writing to the Galatians, to emphasise something that is by no means secondary: thus, speaking of the freedom that the other Apostles gave him to evangelise, he underlines that they recommended only one thing: to remember the poor (cf. *Gal 2:10*). This is interesting. When, following that ideological battle between Paul and the Apostles, they came to an agreement, what did the Apostles say to him?: "Go ahead, go ahead and do not forget the poor", that is, may your freedom as a preacher be a freedom at the service of others, not for yourself, to do as you please.

We know, however, that one of the most widespread modern conceptions of freedom is this: "my freedom ends where yours begins". But here the relationship is missing! It is an individualistic vision. Instead, those who received

the gift of freedom brought about by Jesus cannot think that freedom consists in keeping away from others, seeing them as a nuisance; they cannot regard human beings as cooped up in themselves, but always as part of a community. The social dimension is fundamental for Christians, and it enables them to look to the common good and not to private interest.

Especially in this moment in history, we need to rediscover the communitarian, not individualistic, dimension of freedom: the pandemic has taught us that we need each other, but it is not enough to know this; we need to choose it in a tangible way, every day, to decide on that path. Let us say and believe that others are not an obstacle to my freedom, but rather they are the possibility to fully realise it. Because our freedom is born from God's love and grows in charity.

**Pope Francis, General Audience, 10/20/2021**

### Prayer to Saint Charbel Makhlof



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

**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.



# St. John Chrysostom Calendar for July 2025

*Please see current week's bulletin for any changes to this schedule*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9a Office 9a Divine Liturgy 10a Breakfast with Pastor	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> 6p Divine Lit.	5 4p Young Mother's mtg w/Fr. Weldit
6 9:30a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour 10a Divine Lit w/Baptism 11:15a Social 12p Ge'ez Lit 2p Social	7 7p Book Study	8	9	10	11 6p Divine Lit.	12 4p Family Meeting 6p Vespers
← OFFICE CLOSED →						
13 9:30a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour 10a Divine Lit 11:15a Social 12p Ge'ez Lit 2p Social	14 9a Office	15	16 9a Office	17	18	19 6p Vespers
← FATHER @ BYZANTINE ASSEMBLY →						
20 <i>St. Elijah</i> 9:30a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour 10a Divine Lit Blessing of cars 11:15a Social 12p Ge'ez Lit 2p Social	21 9a Office 7p Book Study	22	23 9a Office	24	25 6p Divine Lit.	26 4p Ge'ez Women's Club 4p Fireside Fellowship 6p Vespers
27 9:30a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour 10a Divine Lit 11:15a Social 12p Ge'ez Lit 2p Social 2:30p Ukrainian Lit.	28 9a Office 7p Book Study	29	30 9a Office			

## 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

