



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.

December 7, 2025

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	Dec 7	9:40am	Emmanuel Moleben	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the faithful</i>
Mon	Dec 8	Maternity of the Holy Anna		
		6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Deceased of St. Cyprian Parish</i>
Wed	Dec 10	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>+Ruth Turanchik by Jirles family</i>
Thu	Dec 11	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	<i>+Elizabeth Zamiskie by Czyrnik family</i>
Fri	Dec 12	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Health of Jacquice</i>
Sat	Dec 13	8:30am	Divine Liturgy	
Sun	Dec 14	9:40am	Emmanuel Moleben	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the faithful</i>
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	

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

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

		<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun	Dec 7	Eph 5:9-19	Luke 17:12-19
Mon	Dec 8	Gal 4:22-31	Luke 8:16-21
Tue	Dec 9	1 Tim 5:11-21	Luke 21:12-19
Wed	Dec 10	1 Tim 5:22-6:11	Luke 21:5-7 & 10-11 & 20-24
Thu	Dec 11	1 Tim 6:17-21	Luke 21:28-33
Fri	Dec 12	Heb 9:1-7	Luke 1:39-56
Sat	Dec 13	Eph 6:10-17	Luke 21:12-19
Sun	Dec 14	Col 3:4-11	Luke 14:16-24

Parish Activities

Sun	Dec 7	11:15am	Children's Christmas Play with Visit from St. Nicholas Social; arrange hall for cookie sale
Thur	Dec 11	10:00am	Cookie Drop-off in hall
Fri	Dec 12	9:00am	Cookie Tray Assembly; package remaining cookies for sale; final set-up/decoration for sale. End time – until finished - many hands needed in the late afternoon/evening hours.
Fri	Dec 12	6-8pm	Parishioner cookie order pick-up
Sat	Dec 13	10:00am	COOKIE SALE
Sun	Dec 14	11:15am	Social; Movie for ECF groups 1-3; 7 th grade through High School attend Guided Tour in church
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social

TODAY AFTER LITURGY – The children are putting on a St. Nicholas Play for the parish. During the play we also have the visit from St. Nicholas. **All are welcome to join us.**

AFTER THE PLAY, WE ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US SET UP THE HALL FOR THE COOKIE SALE.

DECEMBER 13TH COOKIE SALE – Our 21st Annual Christmas Cookie Sale is this Saturday. **Everyone's help is needed. If you have not already done so, please sign up for volunteering on Friday and Saturday, December 12th & 13th.**

Sign-up sheets are on the table in the church vestibule.

Important dates and times are on a flyer in this bulletin.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 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 will again 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.

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.

THANK YOU! – To the Knights of Columbus for organizing and all of you who donated to the Coats for Kids. We collected 155 coats and distributed 150 to parishioners who needed them.

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 THE NASCENT CHURCH

The Church's first steps in the world were interspersed with prayer. The apostolic writings and the great narration of the Acts of the Apostles give us the image of a Church on the move, an active Church which, however, finds the basis and impulse for missionary action while gathered in prayer. The image of the early Community of Jerusalem is the point of reference for every other Christian experience. Luke writes in the Book of Acts: "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (2:42). The community persevered in prayer. We find here four essential characteristics of ecclesial life: listening to the apostles' teaching, first; second, the safeguarding of mutual communion; third, the breaking of the bread; and fourth, prayer. They remind us that the Church's existence has meaning if it remains firmly united to Christ, that is, in community, in his Word, in the Eucharist and in prayer. It is the way we unite ourselves to Christ. Preaching and catechesis bear witness to the words and actions of the Teacher; the constant quest for fraternal communion shields us from selfishness and particularisms; the breaking of the bread fulfils the sacrament of Jesus' presence among us. He will never be absent; it is really him in the Eucharist. He lives and walks with us. And lastly, prayer, which is the space of dialogue with the Father, through Christ in the Holy Spirit. Everything in the Church that grows outside of these "coordinates" lacks a foundation. To discern a situation, we need to ask ourselves: in this situation, how are these four coordinates present — preaching, the constant search for fraternal communion — charity — the breaking of the bread — that is, Eucharistic life — and prayer. Any situation needs to be evaluated in the light of these four coordinates. Whatever is not part of these coordinates lacks ecclesiality, it is not ecclesial. It is God who creates the Church, not the clamour of works. The Church is not a market; the Church is not a group of businesspeople who go forward with a new business. The Church is the work of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to us to gather us together. The Church is precisely the work of the Spirit in the Christian community, in the life of the community, in the Eucharist, in prayer... always. And everything that grows outside of these coordinates lacks a foundation; it is like a house built upon sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27). It is God who creates the Church, not the clamour of works. It is Jesus' word that fills our efforts

with meaning. It is in humility that we build the future of the world. At times, I feel tremendous sadness when I see a community that has good will, but takes the wrong path because it thinks that the Church is built up in meetings, as if it were a political party: the majority, the minority, what does this one think, that one, the other.... "This is like a Synod, the synodal path that we must take". I ask myself: where is the Holy Spirit there? Where is prayer? Where is communitarian love? Where is the Eucharist?". Without these four coordinates, the Church becomes a human society, a political party — majority, minority — changes are made as if it were a company, according to majority or minority... But the Holy Spirit is not there. And the presence of the Holy Spirit is precisely guaranteed by these four coordinates. To evaluate whether a situation is ecclesial or not ecclesial, let us ask ourselves whether these four coordinates are present: life in community, prayer, the Eucharist... [preaching] how is life developing along these four coordinates. If this is lacking, the Holy Spirit is lacking, and if the Holy Spirit is lacking, we will be a beautiful humanitarian charitable organization, good, good ... even an ecclesial party, let's put it that way. But it is not the Church. And this is why the Church cannot grow by these things: she does not grow through proselytism, as any other company, she grows by attraction. And who provokes attraction? The Holy Spirit. Let us never forget Benedict XVI's words: "The Church does not grow through proselytizing, she grows by attraction". If the Holy Spirit — who is the one who attracts [people] to Jesus — is lacking, the Church is not there. There might be a beautiful friendship club, good, with good intentions, but not the Church, not synodality. In reading the Acts of the Apostles we then discover what a powerful driving force of evangelization the prayer gatherings can be, where those who participate actually experience Jesus' presence and are touched by the Spirit. The members of the first community — although this always applies, even to us today — sensed that the narrative of the encounter with Jesus did not stop at the moment of the Ascension but continued in their life. In recounting what the Lord said and did — listening to the Word — in praying to enter into communion with him, everything became alive. Prayer infuses light and warmth: the gift of the Spirit endowed them with fervour. In this regard, the Catechism contains a very substantial expression. It says this: "The Holy Spirit ... keeps the memory of Christ alive in his Church at prayer, also leads her toward the fullness of truth, to the whole truth, and inspires new formulations expressing the unfathomable mystery of Christ at work in his Church's life, sacraments, and mission" (n. 2625). This is the Spirit's work in the Church: making us remember Jesus. Jesus himself said so: he will teach you and remind you. The mission is to remember Jesus, but not as a mnemonic exercise. Christians, walking on the paths of mission, remember Jesus while they make him present once more; and from him, from his Spirit, they receive the "push" to go, to proclaim, to serve. In prayer, Christians immerse themselves in the mystery of God who loves each person, that God who desires the Gospel to be preached to everyone. God is God for everyone, and in Jesus every wall of separation has definitively crumbled: as Saint Paul says, He is our peace, that is, he "who has made us both one" (Eph 2:14). Jesus created unity. In this way the life of the early Church had the rhythm of a continuous succession of celebrations, convocations, times of both communitarian and personal prayer. And it is the Spirit who granted strength to the preachers who set out on the journey, and who, for love of Jesus, sailed the seas, faced dangers, subjected themselves to humiliation. God gives love, God asks for love. This is the mystical root of the believer's entire life. In prayer, the first Christians, but we too who have come many centuries later, all live the same experience. The Spirit inspires everything. And every Christian who is not afraid to devote time to prayer can make his or her own the words of the Apostle Paul: "the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). Prayer makes you aware of this. Only in the silence of adoration do we experience the whole truth of these words. We must recapture this sense of adoration. To adore, to adore God, to adore Jesus, to adore the Spirit. The Father, the Son and the Spirit: to adore. In silence. The prayer of adoration is the prayer that makes us recognize God as the beginning and the end of all of History. And this prayer is the living flame of the Spirit that gives strength to witness and to mission. Thank you.

Pope Francis, 11/25/2020

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.



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	Ron	Doctor	Charyton	Intentions	Angela	Merva	Trey	Shearon
Carol	Laura	Eckenrode	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		

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



Shop Unique Ukrainian Souvenirs for your Christmas Gifts this Year!



From handcrafted jewelry, traditional pysankas and tree decorations to handmade toys and original artwork — a beautiful selection of Ukrainian souvenirs will be available at the UCAO table during the Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 13th!

✨ Every purchase supports a cause that matters — proceeds go directly to humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

✨ Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio (UCAO) is a registered 501(c)3. non-profit.

St. John Chrysostom Calendar for December 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9a Office Hours 9a St. Nicholas Cookie Baking	2 10a Hall kitchen in use	3 9a Office Hours 9a Divine Liturgy 10a Breakfast w/Pastor	4 9a Hall kitchen in use 6p Divine Liturgy	5 9a Office Hours 6p Vigil Liturgy- Feast of St. Nicholas	6 St Nicholas of Myra 11a Divine Liturgy Feast of St. Nicholas 12p St. Nicholas Play practice in hall 6p Vespers
7 9:40a Emman Moleb 10a Divine Lit 11:15a St. Nicholas play & visit w/St. Nicholas	8 Maternity/Holy Anna 9a Office Hours 6p Divine Liturgy Feast of Maternity of Holy Anna	9 	10 9a Office Hours 9a Divine Liturgy	11 10a Cookie Drop-off 6p Divine Liturgy	12 9a Office Hours 9a Tray assembly 1p into evening Sale final set up 6p Parishioner Order Pick-up 6p Divine Liturgy	13 8:30a Divine Lit 10a COOKIE SALE
14 9:40a Emman Moleb 10a Divine Lit Guided Tour in Church 11:15a Social; NO ECF movie for groups 1-3 12p Ge'ez Lit. & Social	15 9a Office Hours	16 	17 9a Office Hours 9a Divine Liturgy	18 6p Divine Liturgy	19 9a Office Hours 6p Divine Liturgy	20 8:45a K/C rosary @ PP 4p Ge'ez Women's Club mtg 6p Vespers
21 9:40a Emman Moleb 10a Divine Lit; Guided Tour 11:15a Social; ECF 12p Ge'ez Lit. & Social	22 9a Office Hours	23 	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 9a Royal Hours 9p Vigil of Christmas & myrovanije	25 Nativity/Our Lord 12p Divine Liturgy & myrovanije	26 Synaxis/Theotokos Office Closed 6p Divine Liturgy Feast of Synaxis of Theotokos	27 St. Stephen, Protomartyr 9a Divine Liturgy Feast of St. Stephen 4p Ge'ez Young Mothers' mtg w/Fr. Weldit
28 9:45a Carols 10a Divine Lit 11:15a Social 12p Ge'ez Lit. & Social 2:30p Ukrain Lit. & Social	29 9a Office Hours	30 	31 Office Closed 9a Divine Liturgy	Jan 1 2026 12p Divine Lit	Jan 2 2026 Office Closed 6p Divine Liturgy	Jan 3 2026 6p Vespers



6 Days to Cookie Sale!

December 13th is our 21st Christmas Cookie Sale

This is our big fundraiser and **EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED AND REQUESTED.**

Important Cookie Sale Dates & Times

Volunteer Sign-up Sheets are in the church vestibule

Thu, Dec 11th Cookie Drop-Off

Beginning at 10am Drop your cookies off in the hall

Fri, Dec 12th Cookie Tray Assembly

9am until complete

Fri, Dec 12th Package Cookies & Final Hall set-up

12pm until complete

We need people who can stay after or arrive at 5pm, that's when we have the fewest people

Fri, Dec 12th Parishioner Order Pick-up

6-8pm We ask that all parishioners please pick up their orders on Friday. If you need a different time, please contact Lisa or the office **BEFORE** December 7th.

Sat, December 13th

8:30am Divine Liturgy

Volunteers need to be here by 9:15am. If you are planning on volunteering later then 9:15am, please contact Lisa.

9:15am - Volunteer assignments and preparation for sale

10:00am - **DOORS OPEN**

