



# 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 21, 2025**

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

### **Liturgical Schedule**

### **Intention**

Sun Dec 21	<b><i>Sunday before Christmas; of the Ancestors</i></b>	
	9:40am Emmanuel Moleben	
	10:00am Divine Liturgy	<i>for the faithful</i>
		<i>Guided Tour following Liturgy</i>
	12:00pm Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Wed Dec 24	<b><i>Christmas Eve</i></b>	
	9:00am Royal Hours of Christmas	
	9:00PM Vigil of Christmas and myrovanije	<i>for the Faithful</i>
Thu Dec 25	<b><i>Nativity of Our Lord</i></b>	
	12:00pm Divine Liturgy and myrovanije	<i>for the Faithful</i>
Fri Dec 26	<b><i>Synaxis of the Theotokos</i></b>	
	6:00pm Divine Liturgy	<i>+Elizabeth Zamiskie by Czyrnik Family</i>
Sat Dec 27	<b><i>Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr</i></b>	
	9:00am Divine Liturgy	<i>for the deceased of St. Cyprian Parish</i>
Sun Dec 28	<b><i>Sunday after Christmas; David, Joseph and James</i></b>	
	9:45am Carols	
	10:00am Divine Liturgy	<i>for the faithful</i>
	12:00pm Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
	2:30pm Ukrainian Divine Liturgy W/MYROVANIJE	

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Facebook: St. John Chrysostom Church

To schedule an event, send an email to [eventstjohn@outlook.com](mailto:eventstjohn@outlook.com) allow 24-48 hours for reply

## Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Sun Dec 21	Heb 11:9-10; 17-23 & 32-40	Matt 1:1-25
Mon Dec 22	Heb 3:5-11 & 17-19	Mark 9:42-10:1
Tue Dec 23	Heb 4:1-13	Mark 10:2-12
Wed Dec 24	Heb 1:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Thu Dec 25	Gal 4:4-7	Matt 2:1-12
Fri Dec 26	Heb 2:11-18	Matt 2:13-23
Sat Dec 27	Acts 6:8-7:5 & 47-60	Matt 21:33-42
Sun Dec 28	Gal 1:11-19	Matt 2:13-23

### Parish Activities

Sun	Dec 21	11:15am	Guided Tour in church; Social in hall; ECF classes
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social
Wed	Dec 24		OFFICE CLOSED
Fri	Dec 26		OFFICE CLOSED
Sat	Dec 27	4:00pm	Ge'ez Young Mother's mtg w/Fr. Weldit
		6:00pm	Ge'ez Choir Christmas Social
Sun	Dec 28	11:15am	Social; NO ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social
		3:30pm	Ukrainian Social

**NOTE:** The office will be closed for the Christmas/New Year holiday beginning on Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>. It will reopen on Monday 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](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com)

**COLUMBUS DIOCESE CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE:** February 28, 2026 Ohio Expo Center – Kasich Hall. Early Registration Discount through 12/31/25 Tickets/Registration: Adults \$45.00 - Students \$30.00 – Religious FREE

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

**FROM PARMA: SAVE THE DATES: 5<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:karl.busam.77@gmail.com) or call 419-626-6811.

### **ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL**

2025-2026 Eparchy of Parma Stewardship Appeal "This year's Appeal is not merely a campaign; it is a celebration of faith and an invitation for transformation. It is a sacred opportunity to say "yes" to the mission of our Church and "thank you" for the countless blessings we have received. Together, we have moved forward, and we can continue to progress even more boldly and joyfully to a "future of hope." (Jeremiah 29:11). Some things are worthy of permanency, chief among them our faith. We each have the opportunity to contribute to the enduring legacy our forebears built for us." "Operating our parishes, ministries, and outreaches requires tremendous resources. This year we are committed to greater clarity by providing answers to questions like "What is an Eparchy and what does it do?", "Why do we have a foundation?", and "What really is stewardship and how can I live this day-to-day?" These will be shared through newsletters, Horizons, and other channels. Our Eparchy wide financial goal for this appeal is \$400,000. Please know your contributions have a very profound and resonating impact. Know that there will be plenty of communications throughout this Appeal, not to overwhelm, but to serve the very many preferred methods and frequency levels throughout the Eparchial family. These materials are meant to inform, inspire, and invite, not pressure. Stewardship, at its heart, is a free and joyful response to God's love." Most Reverend Robert M. Pipta Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma.

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.

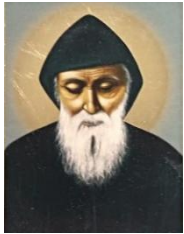
### **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

At the world's beginning, there is thus God who "speaks goodness" [dice-bene], he blesses [bene-dice], he speaks goodness [dice-bene]. He sees that every work of his hands is good and beautiful, and when he creates man, and creation is complete, he recognizes that it is "very good" (Gen 1:31). Shortly thereafter, the beauty that God had imprinted within his work will change, and the human being will become a degenerate creature, capable of spreading evil and death in the world; but nothing will ever take away God's original imprint, an imprint of goodness that God placed in the world, in human nature, in all of us: the capacity to bless and the fact of being blessed. God did not make a mistake with creation nor with the creation of man. The hope of the world lies entirely in God's blessing: he continues to love us, to wish us well; he is the first, as the poet Péguy said, to continue to hope for our good (The Portico of the Mystery of the Second Virtue, first ed. 1911). God's great blessing is Jesus Christ; his Son is God's greatest gift. He is a blessing for all of humanity. He is the blessing that saved us all. He is the eternal Word with which the Father blessed us "while we were yet sinners" (Rom 5:8), Saint Paul says, the Word made flesh and offered for us on the cross. Saint Paul proclaims God's plan of love with emotion. And he says it like this: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved" (Eph 1:3-6). There is no sin that can completely erase the image of Christ present in each one of us. No sin can erase that image that God has given us — the image of Christ. Sin can disfigure it but not remove it from God's mercy. A sinner can remain in error for a long time, but God is patient till the end, hoping that [the sinner's] heart will eventually open and change. God is like a good father and like a good mother — he is also a good mother: they never stop loving their child, no matter what he or she may do wrong, always. What comes to my mind is the many times that I have seen people queue to enter a prison. Many mothers queue up to see their imprisoned child: they do not stop loving their child and they know that the people passing by on the bus are thinking: "Ah, that is a prisoner's mother". Yet they are not embarrassed about this; or better yet, they are embarrassed, but they go ahead, because their child is more important than their embarrassment.

Thus, we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit, because he is a father, he is a mother, he is pure love, he has blessed us forever. And he will never stop blessing us. It is an impressive experience to read these biblical texts of blessing in a prison, or in a rehabilitation group. To let these people feel that they are still blessed, notwithstanding their grave errors, that the heavenly Father continues to desire their good and to hope that they will open themselves to the good, in the end. Even if their closest relatives have abandoned them since by now, they judge them to be irredeemable, they are always children to God. God cannot erase in us the image of sons and daughters; each one of us is his son, his daughter. At times we see miracles happen men and women who are reborn because they find this blessing that has anointed them as children. For God's grace changes lives: he takes us as we are, but he never leaves us as we are. Let us think about what Jesus did with Zacchaeus (cf. Lk 19:1-10), for example. Everyone saw evil in him; instead, Jesus spots a glimmer of good, and from that — from his curiosity to see Jesus — He allows the mercy that saves to pass through. Thus, first Zacchaeus' heart was changed, and then his life. Jesus sees the indelible blessing of the Father in the people who are rejected and repudiated. Zacchaeus was a public sinner; he had done so many awful things, but Jesus saw that indelible sign of the Father's blessing and because of that, he had compassion. That phrase that is repeated often in the Gospel, "He was moved with compassion", and that compassion leads Him to help him and to change his heart. What's more, Jesus came to identify himself with every person in need (cf. Mt 25:31-46). In the passage about the final protocol on which all of us will be judged, Matthew 25, Jesus says: "I was hungry, I was naked, I was in prison, I was in hospital, I was there...". To God who blesses, we too respond by blessing — God has taught us how to bless and we must bless — through the prayer of praise, of adoration, of thanksgiving. The Catechism writes: "The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing" (n. 2626). Prayer is joy and thanksgiving. God did not wait for us to convert before beginning to love us, but he loved us long before, when we were still in sin. We cannot just bless this God who blesses us; we must bless everyone in him, all people, bless God and bless our brothers and sisters, bless the world: this is the root of Christian meekness, the ability to feel blessed and the ability to bless. If we were all to do this, wars would surely not exist. This world needs blessings, and we can give blessings and receive blessings. The Father loves us, and the only thing that remains for us is the joy of blessing him, and the joy of thanking him, and of learning from him not to curse, but to bless. Here, just one word for the people who have the habit of cursing, people who always have a bad word, a curse, on their lips and in their hearts. Each of us can think: do I have this habit of cursing like this? And ask the Lord for the grace to change this habit because we have a blessed heart and curses cannot come out of a blessed heart. May the Lord teach us never to curse, but to bless.

Pope Francis, 12/2/2020

### Prayer to Saint Charbel Makhoul



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