



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 28, 2025

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun Dec 28	<i>Sunday after Christmas; David, Joseph and James</i>	
	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
Wed Dec 31	<i>New Year's Eve</i>	
	9:00am	Divine Liturgy
Thu Jan 1, 2026	<i>Circumcision of Our Lord; St. Basil the Great</i>	
	12:00pm	Divine Liturgy and myrovanije
Fri Jan 2	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy
Sat Jan 3	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun Jan 4	<i>Sunday before Theophany</i>	
	9:30am	Third Hour
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy <i>for the faithful</i>
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy

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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 28, 2025

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun Dec 28	Gal 1:11-19	Matt 2:13-23
Mon Dec 29	Heb 8:7-13	Mark 10:46-52
Tue Dec 30	Heb 9:8-10 & 15-23	Mark 11:11-23
Wed Dec 31	Heb 10:1-18	Mark 23-26
Thu Jan 1, 2026	Col 2:8-12; Heb 7:26-8:2	Luke 2:20-21 & 40-52; Luke 6:17-23
Fri Jan 2	Heb 11:8 & 11-16	Mark 12:1-12
Sat Jan 3	1 Tim 3:14-4:5	Matt 3:1-11
Sun Jan 4	2 Tim 4:5-8	Mark 1:1-8

Parish Activities

Sun Dec 28	11:15am	Social; NO ECF
	2:00pm	Ge'ez social
	3:30pm	Ukrainian Social
Wed Dec 31	OFFICE CLOSED	
Fri Jan 2, 2026	OFFICE CLOSED	
Sun Jan 4	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 24th. 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

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

FROM PARMA: SAVE THE DATES: 5TH 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 or call 419-626-6811.

13th Annual Women's Retreat – February 20-22, 2026 at the Maria Stein Retreat Center, Maria Stein, OH. Contact Joan Washburn at 865-696-7809 or stmarymbhdwomensretreat@gmail.com

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

2025-2026 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 PETITION

Let us continue our reflections on prayer. Christian prayer is fully human — we pray as humans, as what we are — it includes praise and supplication. Indeed, when Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he did so with the "Our Father", so that we might place ourselves in a relationship of filial trust with God, and ask him all our questions. We implore God for the highest gifts: the sanctification of his name among men, the advent of his lordship, the fulfillment of his will for good in relation to the world. The Catechism recalls that: "There is a hierarchy in these petitions: we pray first for the Kingdom, then for what is necessary to welcome it and cooperate with its coming" (n. 2632). But in the "Our Father" we also pray for the simplest gifts, for more everyday gifts, such as "daily bread" — which also means health, home, work, everyday things; and it also means for the Eucharist, necessary for life in Christ; just as we pray for the forgiveness of sins — which is a daily matter; we are always in need of forgiveness — and then for peace in our relationships; and finally, that he help us during temptation and deliver us from evil. To ask, to supplicate. This is very human. Let us listen to the Catechism again: "By prayer of petition we express awareness of our relationship with God. We are creatures who are not our own beginning, not the masters of adversity, not our own last end. We are sinners who as Christians know that we have turned away from our Father. Our petition is already a turning back to him" (no. 2629). If one feels bad because he has done bad things — he is a sinner — when he prays the "Our Father" he is already approaching the Lord. At times we may believe we do not need anything, that we are enough for ourselves, and that we live in complete self-sufficiency. This happens at times! But sooner or later this illusion vanishes. The human being is an invocation, that at times becomes a cry, often withheld. The soul resembles a dry, parched land, as the Psalm says (cf. Psalm 63:2). We all experience, at some time or another in our existence, a time of melancholy, or of loneliness. The Bible is not ashamed of showing our human condition, marked by disease, injustice, the betrayals of friends, or the threat of enemies. At times it seems that everything is collapsing, that the life lived so far has been in vain. And in these situations, seemingly dead ends, there is only one way out: the cry, the prayer "Lord, help me!". Prayer can open up a sliver of light in the densest darkness. "Lord, help me!". This opens up the road, it opens up the path. We human beings share this invocation of help with the rest of creation. We are not the only ones "praying" in this boundless universe: every fragment of creation bears the desire for God. And Saint Paul himself expressed it in this way. He says: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly" (Rom 8:22-24). The multiform cry of creatures resounds in us: of trees, of rocks, of animals. Everything yearns for fulfillment. Tertullian wrote: "Every creature prays; cattle and wild beasts pray and bend their knees; and when they issue from the layers and lairs, they look up heavenward with no idle mouth, making their breath vibrate after their own manner. Nay, the birds too, rising out of the nest, upraise themselves heavenward, and instead of hands, expand the cross of their wings, and somewhat to seem like prayer" (De oratione, XXIX). This is a poetic expression commenting on what Saint Paul says: "the

whole creation has been groaning". But we are the only ones who pray consciously, who know that we are addressing the Father, and entering into dialogue with the Father. Therefore, we should not be shocked if we feel the need to pray, we should not be ashamed. And, especially when we are in need, to ask. Jesus, in speaking of a dishonest man, who had to settle the accounts with his landlord, says this: "To ask, I am ashamed". And many of us have this feeling: we are ashamed to ask, to ask for help, to ask something of someone who can help us, to reach our purpose, and also ashamed to ask God. One should not be ashamed to pray and to say: "Lord, I need this", "Lord, I am in difficulty", "Help me!": It is the cry of the heart to God who is the Father. And we have to learn to do so also in happy moments, to thank God for everything that is given to us, and not to take anything for granted or as if it were owed to us: everything is grace. The Lord always gives to us, always, and everything is grace, everything. The grace of God. However, we must not suffocate the supplication that rises up in us spontaneously. Prayer of petition goes in step with acceptance of our limitations and our nature as creatures. One may even not reach the point of belief in God, but it is difficult not to believe in prayer: it simply exists, it presents itself to us as a cry; and we all know this inner voice that may remain silent for a long time, but one day awakens and cries out. Brothers and sisters, we know that God will respond. There is no one at prayer in the Book of Psalms who raises a lament that remains unheard. God always answers: [it may be] today, tomorrow, but he always answers, in one way or another. He always answers. The Bible repeats it countless times: God listens to the cry of those who invoke him. Even our reluctant questions, those that remain in the depths of our heart, that we are ashamed to even express: the Father listens to them and wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, who inspires every prayer and transforms everything. It is always a question of patience, of withstanding the wait. Now we are in the season of Advent, a time that is typically of expectation of Christmas. We are in waiting. This is clear to see. But all our life is also in waiting. And prayer is always in expectation, because we know that the Lord will answer. Even death trembles when a Christian prays, because it knows that everyone who prays has an ally who is stronger than it: the Risen Lord. Death has already been defeated in Christ, and the day will come when everything will be final, and it will no longer scorn our life and our happiness. Let us learn to remain in expectation of the Lord. The Lord comes to visit us, not only during these great feasts — Christmas, Easter — but rather the Lord visits us every day, in the intimacy of our heart if we are in waiting. And very often we do not realize that the Lord is nearby, that he knocks on our door, and we let him pass by. Saint Augustine used to say: I am afraid of God when he passes; I am afraid he will pass and I will not realize. And the Lord passes, the Lord comes, the Lord knocks. But if your ears are filled with other noise, you will not hear the call of the Lord. Brothers and sisters, to be waiting: this is the prayer.

Pope Francis, 12/9/2020

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:

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						