



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Robert Jager

Deacon: Fr. Deacon Jeffrey Martin



January 18, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Sun Jan 18

Sunday of Zacchaeus

9:30am	Third Hour
10:00am	Divine Liturgy
12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy

Intention

for the faithful

Wed Jan 21

9:00am Divine Liturgy

for the deceased of St. Cyprian Parish

Thu Jan 22

6:00pm Divine Liturgy

for the deceased of St. Cyprian Parish

Fri Jan 23

6:00pm Divine Liturgy

for the deceased of St. Cyprian Parish

Sat Jan 24

6:00pm Vespers

Sun Jan 25

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

9:30am	Third Hour
10:00am	Divine Liturgy
12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy

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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 January 18, 2026

		Epistle		Gospel
Sun	Jan 18	1 Tim 4:9-15		Luke 19:1-10
Mon	Jan 19	1 Pet 2:21-3:9		Mark 12:13-17
Tue	Jan 20	Heb 13:17-21		Luke 6:17-23
Wed	Jan 21	1 Pet 4:1-11		Mark 12:28-37
Thu	Jan 22	1 Pet 4:12-5:5		Mark 12:38-44
Fri	Jan 23	2 Pet 1:1-10		Mark 13:1-8
Sat	Jan 24	2 Tim 2:11-19		Luke 18:2-8
Sun	Jan 25	2 Tim 3:10-15		Luke 18:10-14

Parish Activities

Sun	Jan 18	11:15am	Social; ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social
Sat	Jan 24	4:00pm	Ge'ez Women's Club mtg in hall
Sun	Jan 25	11:15am	Social; ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social

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.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS! With the increase in parishioners and visitors at St. Johns, it's important to make sure there are enough refreshments at the Sunday Socials.

The Ladies' Guild provides the beverages, and we all need to donate something to make sure there's food for the social. We have come up with a sign-up sheet which we started using on Jan. 11. The suggestions are meant to encourage more people to participate and keep the cost reasonable for families and individuals. (There's also the option to donate money.) The list is in the hall. We are asking every family to check this list over and sign up for a Sunday to bring some snacks and/or treats to share. More than one family may sign up for a week.

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

This Thursday, January 22, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - To commemorate the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children the Catholic Conference of Ohio (CCO) is hosting Adoration at the Ohio Statehouse 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.

SAINT CARLO ACCUTIS RELICS

St. Paul in Westerville will be hosting a first-class relic of St. Carlo Acutis on Monday, February 16, as part of a diocesan initiative of Bishop Earl Fernandes.

The relic will be making five stops throughout the Diocese. It will be brought to St. Paul by Monsignor Figueiredo from the Diocese of Assisi. The relic is a portion of St. Carlo's pericardium, the membrane surrounding the heart, which carries deep spiritual and symbolic significance, particularly in light of his love for the Eucharist and his witness of faith.

Monsignor Figueiredo will celebrate the 8:15 AM Mass, then confessions will be offered throughout the day, until 7pm

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

PRAYER OF PRAISE

We will take our cue from a critical passage in the life of Jesus. After the first miracles and the involvement of the disciples in proclaiming the Kingdom of God, the mission of the Messiah undergoes a crisis. John the Baptist has doubts and makes Him receive this message — John is in jail: "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Mt 11:3). He feels this anguish of not knowing whether he is mistaken in his proclamation. There are always dark moments, moments of spiritual nighttime, and John is going through this moment. There is hostility in the villages along the lake, where Jesus had performed so many prodigious signs (cf. Mt 11:20-24). Now, precisely in this disappointing moment, Matthew relates a truly surprising fact: Jesus does not raise a lament to the Father but, rather, a hymn of jubilation: "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes" (Mt 11:25). Thus, in the midst of a crisis, amid the darkness of the soul of so many people, such as John the Baptist, Jesus blesses the Father, Jesus praises the Father. But why? First and foremost, he praises Him for who He is : "Father, Lord of heaven and earth". Jesus rejoices in his spirit because he knows and feels that his Father is the God of the Universe, and vice versa, the Lord of all that exists is the Father, "My Father". Praise springs from this experience of feeling that he is "Son of the Most High". Jesus feels he is Son of the Most High. And then Jesus praises the Father for favouring the little ones. It is what he himself experiences, preaching in the villages: the "learned" and the "wise" remain suspicious and closed; they make calculations; while the "little ones" open themselves and welcome his message. This can only be the will of the Father, and Jesus rejoices in this. We too must rejoice and praise God because humble and simple people welcome the Gospel. When I see these simple people, these humble people who go on pilgrimages, who go to pray, who sing, who praise, people who perhaps lack many things but whose humility leads them to praise God. In the future of the world and in the hopes of the Church there are always the "little ones": those who do not consider themselves better than others, who are aware of their own limitations and their sins, who do not want to lord it over others, who, in God the Father, recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. Therefore, in that moment of apparent failure, where everything is dark, Jesus prays, praising the Father. And his prayer also leads us, readers of the Gospel, to judge our personal defeats in a different way, to judge differently the situations in which we do not see clearly the presence and action of God, when it seems that evil prevails and there is no way to stop it. Jesus, who highly

recommended the prayer of asking, at the very moment when he would have had reason to ask the Father for explanations, instead begins to praise him. It seems to be a contradiction, but therein lies the truth. To whom is praise helpful? To us or to God? A text of the Eucharistic liturgy invites us to pray to God in this way, it says this: "Although you have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift, since our praises add nothing to your greatness, but profit us for salvation" (Roman Missal, Common Preface IV). By giving praise, we are saved. The prayer of praise is helpful to us. The Catechism defines it this way: it "shares in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory" (no. 2639). Paradoxically it must be practised not only when life fills us with happiness, but above all in difficult moments, in moments of darkness when the path becomes an uphill climb. That too is the time for praise, like Jesus who in the dark moment praises the Father. Because we learn that, through that ascent, that difficult path, that wearisome path, those demanding passages, we get to see a new panorama, a broader horizon. Giving praise is like breathing pure oxygen: it purifies the soul, it makes you look far ahead, it does not leave you imprisoned in the difficult and dark moment of hardship. There is a great teaching in that prayer that for eight centuries has never lost its beat, that Saint Francis composed at the end of his life: the "Canticle of Brother Sun" or "of the creatures". The Poverello did not compose it in a moment of joy, of well-being, but on the contrary, in the midst of difficulty. Francis was by then almost blind, and he felt in his soul the weight of a solitude he had never before experienced: the world had not changed since the beginning of his preaching, there were still those who let themselves be torn apart by quarrels, and in addition he was aware that death was approaching ever nearer. It may have been a moment of disillusionment, of that extreme disillusionment and the perception of his own failure. But at that instant of sadness, in that dark instant Francis prays. How does he pray? "Praised be You, my Lord...". He prays by giving praise. Francis praises God for everything, for all the gifts of creation, and even for death, which he courageously calls "sister", "sister death". These examples of saints, of Christians, and also of Jesus, of praising God in difficult moments, open to us the gates of a great road towards the Lord, and they always purify us. Praise always purifies. The Saints show us that we can always give praise, in good times and bad, because God is the faithful Friend. This is the foundation of praise: God is the faithful Friend, and his love never fails. He is always beside us. He always awaits us. It has been said that "he is the sentinel who is close to you and keeps you going forward with confidence". In difficult and dark moments, let us have the courage to say: "Blessed are you, O Lord". Praising the Lord. This will do us much good.

Pope Francis



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