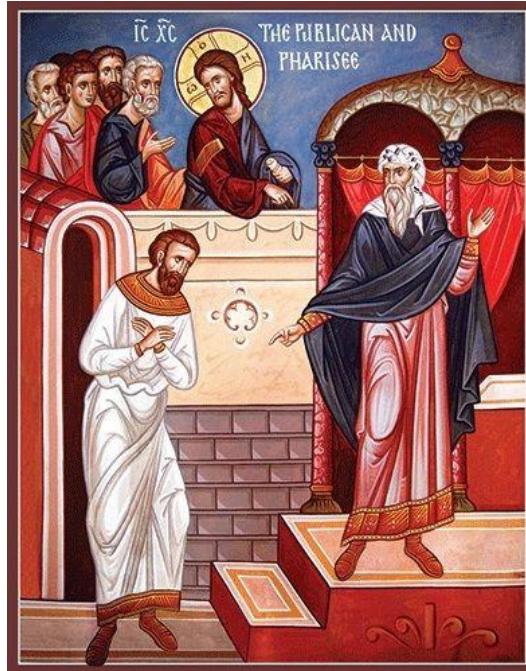




# St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Robert Jager      Deacon: Fr. Deacon Jeffrey Martin



**January 25, 2026**

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

**Liturgical Schedule**

**Intention**

Sun Jan 25	<b>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</b>	
	9:30am	Third Hour
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy
Wed Jan 28	9:00am	Divine Liturgy
Thu Jan 29	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy
Fri Jan 30	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy
Sat Jan 31	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun Feb 1	<b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b>	
	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](mailto:eventstjohn@outlook.com) allow 24-48 hours for reply

## Readings for the week of January 25, 2026

		<b>Epistle</b>		<b>Gospel</b>
Sun	Jan 25	2 Tim	3:10-15	Luke 18:10-14
Mon	Jan 26	2 Pet	1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tue	Jan 27	Heb	7:26-8:2	John 10:9-16
Wed	Jan 28	2 Pet	3:1-18	Mark 13:24-31
Thu	Jan 29	1 John	1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
Fri	Jan 30	Heb	13:7-16	Matt 5:14-19
Sat	Jan 31	2 Tim	3:1-9	Luke 20:46-21:4
Sun	Feb 1	1 Cor	6:12-20	Luke 15:11-32

### Parish Activities

Sun	Jan 25	11:15am 2:00pm	Social; ECF Ge'ez social
Wed	Jan 28	6pm	Prepare for Lent session on Repentance
Sun	Feb 1	11:15am 2:00pm	Social; ECF 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.*

**HELP WITH HOSPITALITY!** 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. Please see the sign-up sheet on the food table with suggestions for items to share. If 3 or 4 people would sign up each week, there would be enough to go around. (There's also the option to donate money.) If you like to bake or have a favorite snack to share, please do so. We are asking every family to check this list 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.

**PREPARE FOR LENT:** As the Great Lent approaches, our parish offers a 5-week study on Repentance. Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm in the Hall January 28 through February 25. Sessions will cover themes such as:

- Who we are
- What we lost
- How God looks at me
- What sin is
- Repentance, confession and repeated failures
- What I can & should do

Meetings will be hybrid. Q/A and material for self-study included. Reading for the first session Genesis 1-2

**CANDLE BLESSING ON FEBRUARY 2:** On the Feast of the Encounter of the Lord, February 2, candles will be blessed following the 6pm Divine Liturgy. All are encouraged to bring candles. The Parish will provide some as well.

**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY:** On February 15 after the Sunday 10am liturgy we will celebrate and honor married couples of our parish with a special blessing. It is an outstanding occasion to be thankful for the example of steadfast love, commitment, and compassion spouses show each other. In their never-ending mutual love, there is a reflection of the heavenly kingdom. There will be a special social in the Hall. Details to follow.

**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>

**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

**SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE.** More than 300 years ago the Bishops of the United States established the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe to help the Church rebuild and resume its mission in the countries where, for decades, the communist regimes had confiscated churches and persecuted priests, consecrated religious, and laity. The end of those communist regimes restored the Church's freedom to preach the Gospel, pray and carry our public ministries such as health care and education.

Your support for this collection helps the in 28 countries to rebuild and continue the mission to share the Gospel with new generations. More information about the range of projects this collection supports can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee)

We have envelopes and prayer cards for this collection on the table in the vestibule. If you have contribution envelopes, there is an envelope for this collection included.

### **PRAAYER WITH THE SCRIPTURE**

Today I would like to focus on the prayer we can do beginning with a Bible passage. The words of Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart. The Word of God goes to the heart. The Catechism affirms that: "prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture" — the Bible cannot be read like a novel — "so that a dialogue takes place between God and man" (n. 2653). This is where prayer leads you, because it is a dialogue with God. That Bible verse was written for me too, centuries and centuries ago, to bring me a word of God. It was written for each of us. This experience happens to all believers: a passage from Scripture, heard many times already, unexpectedly speaks to me one day, and enlightens a situation that I am living. But it is necessary that I be present on that day for that appointment with the Word. That I be there, listening to the Word. Every day God passes and sows a seed in the soil of our lives. We do not know whether today he will find dry ground, brambles, or good soil that will make that seed grow (cf. Mk 4: 3-9). That they become for us the living Word of God depends on us, on our prayer, on the open heart with which we approach the Scriptures. God passes continually through Scripture. And here I return to what I said last week, to what Saint Augustine said: "I am afraid of God when he passes". Why is he afraid? That he will not listen to him. That he will not realize that he is the Lord. Through prayer a new incarnation of the Word takes place. And we are the "tabernacles" where the words of God seek to be welcomed and preserved, so that they may visit the world. This is why we must approach the Bible without ulterior motives, without exploiting it. The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore they should be welcomed and understood in that same Spirit, so that the encounter can occur. It bothers me a little when I hear Christians who recite verses from the Bible like parrots. "Oh, yes... Oh, the Lord says... He wants this...". But did you encounter the Lord, with that verse? It is not only a question of memory: it is a question of the memory of the heart, which opens you to the encounter with the Lord. And that word, that verse, leads you to the encounter with the Lord. Thus, we read the Scriptures so that they may "read us". And it is a grace to be able to recognize oneself in this passage or that character, in this or that situation. The Bible was not written for a generic humanity, but for us, for me, for you, for men and women in flesh and blood, men and women who have a name

and a surname, like me, like you. And when the Word of God, infused with the Holy Spirit, is received with an open heart, it does not leave things as they were before: never. Something changes. And this is the grace and the power of the Word of God. Christian tradition is rich in experiences and reflections on prayer with the Sacred Scripture. In particular, the method of "Lectio divina" was established; it originated in monastic circles, but is now also practised by Christians who frequent their parishes. It is first of all a matter of reading the biblical passage attentively: even more, I would say with "obedience" to the text, to understand what it means in and of itself. One then enters into dialogue with Scripture, so that those words become a cause for meditation and prayer: while remaining faithful to the text, I begin to ask myself what it "says to me". This is a delicate step: we must not slip into subjective interpretations, but rather become part of the living Tradition, which unites each of us to Sacred Scripture. The last step of Lectio divina is contemplation. Words and thoughts here give way to love, as between lovers for whom sometimes it is enough to just look at each other in silence. The biblical text remains, but like a mirror, like an icon to be contemplated. And in this way, there is dialogue. Through prayer, the Word of God comes to abide in us and we abide in it. The Word inspires good intentions and sustains action; it gives us strength and serenity, and even when it challenges us, it gives us peace. On "bad" and confusing days, it guarantees to the heart a core of confidence and of love that protects it from the attacks of the evil one. In this way the Word of God is made flesh — allow me to use this expression: made flesh — in those who receive it in prayer. The intuition emerges in some ancient texts that Christians identify so completely with the Word that, even if all the Bibles in the world were to be burned, its "mould" could still be saved through the imprint it left on the life of the saints. This is a beautiful expression. Christian life is at the same time a work of obedience and of creativity. Good Christians must be obedient, but they must be creative. Obedient, because they listen to the Word of God; creative, because they have the Holy Spirit within who drives them to be so, to lead them forward. At the end of one of his discourses addressed in the form of parables, Jesus makes this comparison: "Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure" — the heart — "what is new and what is old" (Mt 13:52). The Holy Scriptures are an inexhaustible treasure. May the Lord grant us all to draw ever more from them, though prayer.

Pope Francis, 1/27/2021

## TRANSFORMATIONAL THURSDAYS

A violin left in its case plays no music and serves no one. A gift unused becomes a loss not only to you, but to those who need and would appreciate it; to those whom God intended to bless through it.

### Ask yourself:

- What ability has God given me that I'm keeping locked away?
- What fear keeps me from sharing what I've been given?

Courage is not the absence of fear; it's faith in motion. It's trusting that God can make beautiful music even from trembling hands.

**Today, take one simple, small step: share a talent you've been hiding or hesitant to share, perhaps out of lack of confidence. Or try something new (definitely do this!) as you may discover a gift God placed within you that's simply been waiting to be developed.**





## 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	Frye	Regina	Lee	Maksym	Popadyn	Dennis
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	Owen
Vernal	Brown	John	Griffen	Ilya	Mandebur	Charles	Roddy	Ward
Mary	Carroll	Evelyn	Hoechstetter	Bill	Martin	Sandra	Roddy	Curtis
Will	Culver	Esther	Imhoff	Joe	Martin	Justin	Rogers	Weber
Maria	Czynik	Mech	Intention	Griffen	Martz	Lillian	Rogers	Zvansky