



# St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

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

## March 1, 2026

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

### Liturgical Schedule

### Intention

Sun	Mar 1	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast</b>	
		9:30am	Akathistos to the Holy Cross
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy
Mon	Mar 2	6:00pm	Liturgy of St. Gregory ( <i>Presanctified</i> )
Wed	Mar 4	9:00am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour w/Isaiah readings
Fri	Mar 6	5:45 pm	Panachida for All Souls
		6:00pm	Liturgy of St. Gregory ( <i>Presanctified</i> )
Sat	Mar 7	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> All Souls Saturday</b>	
		6:00pm	All Souls Liturgy
Sun	Mar 8	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast; Veneration of the Holy Cross</b>	
		9:30am	Akathistos to the Holy Cross
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy

*for the faithful*

*for the faithful*

### **Readings for the week of March 1, 2026**

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun Mar 1	Heb 1:10-2:3	Mark 2:1-12
Mon Mar 2	Gen 6:9-22	Prov 8:1-21
Tue Mar 3	Gen 7:1-5	Prov 8:32-9:11
Wed Mar 4	Gen 7:6-9	Prov 9:12-18
Thu Mar 5	Gen 7:11-8:4	Prov 10:1-22
Fri Mar 6	Gen 8:4-21	Prov 10:31-11:12
Sat Mar 7	Heb 10:32-38	Mark 2:14-17
Sun Mar 8	Heb 4:14-5:6	Mark 8:34-9:1

### **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.*

### Parish Activities

Sun	Mar 1	11:15am	Social; ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social
Wed	Mar 4	9:30am	Breakfast with Pastor/Lenten Preparation
		6:00pm	Lenten Preparation
Thu	Mar 5	10:00am	Pirohi making
Fri	Mar 6	10:00am	Pirohi making
Sat	Mar 7	10:00am	Pascha Bread making
		4:00pm	Ge'ez Young Mothers mtg w/Fr. Weldit
		6:00pm	Ge'ez Choir practice in hall
Sun	Mar 8	11:15am	Social; ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez social

**Lenten activity for kids and youth: MY LENTEN JOURNEY.** It's very simple. On Monday 2/16, first day of Lent, we set up and decorated the cross in the church. There are little signs for prayer, charity, fasting-renouncing. Each Sunday the kids and ECF students will pick up a sign of a good deed they have done during the week and put it to the cross after the liturgy with the ECF teachers. In this way we remind ourselves we are saved and called to live this salvation, new life, through constant growth in love toward God and neighbor!

### **CALLING ALL "BROTHERS IN CHRIST":**

All men in our Parish are invited to participate in our **Byzantine Catholic Brotherhood** inaugural gathering on **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:45 in the church hall.** This introductory meeting will focus on fellowship development within our Parish, to help address issues relevant to Christian men in an increasingly secular world. Open to men 21 years of age and older.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another! (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

**MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> BISHOP ROBERT PIPTA** will be in Columbus to celebrate Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos. This will take place at the Newman Center on the OSU Campus, with Liturgy beginning at 5:45pm.

**MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00PM** we will pray the Akathistos to the Theotokos. This will be followed by a biblical patristic study of the Annunciation - **"Let It Be to Me": The Annunciation and the Beginning of Our Salvation.** On the Feast of the Annunciation, the Church proclaims: *"Today is the summit of our salvation."* But why is this hidden moment in Nazareth called the summit? In this workshop, we will explore the mystery of the Incarnation through Scripture, the liturgical hymns, and the icon of the Annunciation. Drawing on the insights of the Church Fathers, we will reflect on Mary as the New Eve, the Burning Bush that bears the divine fire without being consumed, and the model of true freedom before God. Celebrated in the midst of the Great Fast, the Annunciation reveals how God's self-emptying love awaits our free "yes," and how Christ desires to dwell within us.

**Deacon John Harden** is the director of Eastern Catholic formation and evangelization for the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma and the manager of small group programs at Ascension Press. He has a bachelor's in theology from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, and a master's in theology from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He, his wife, and their children live in Kansas City, Missouri.

**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>

**PASCHA FOODS SALE – Lazarus Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am-1:00pm.** This sale is open to the public and is first come, first sold. We will have loaves of Pascha bread, pirohi, nut and poppyseed rolls and other goodies as well.

### **LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

As Byzantine Catholics in the USA the following is our Lenten required observance:

- The first Day of Lent & Good (Holy) Friday are days of strict fasting - no meat and dairy for everyone of 14-65 years of age.
- If you are pregnant or have serious health issues you are exempt.
- Monday, Wednesday and Fridays of Lent - no meat for everyone of 14-65 years of age.
- If you are pregnant or have serious health issues you are exempt.
- You may opt for the full monastic observance - 40 days no dairy and meat.

**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.

### **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

Today's Gospel reading from Mark 2:1-12 tells the story of Jesus healing the paralytic. This passage highlights the power of faith, community, and forgiveness.

The paralytic's friends, determined to bring him to Jesus, lower him through the roof. Their faith and persistence are rewarded as Jesus heals the man's physical ailment and forgives his sins. This reminds us of the importance of supporting one another in our spiritual journeys.

Jesus' response teaches us about the transformative power of faith. As we fast, pray, and give alms, let us do so with a heart full of faith, trusting that God will work wonders in our lives.

The Great Fast is also a time to seek reconciliation with God through confession. Just as Jesus forgave the paralytic, He is ready to forgive us if we approach Him with sincere repentance.

Let us deepen our faith, support our community, and seek God's forgiveness during this season of the Great Fast.



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### ***Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

### *Listening*

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church."

### *Fasting*

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity." Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly." As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic."

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

### *Together*

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

*From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr*  
LEO PP. XIV

**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	Mary Ann	McCallister	MaryBeth	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	Christine	Leon	Maria	Rakowsky	Josh	Taylor
Charles	Branham	Deborah	Jeanne	Lombardi	Kristi	Ralston	L.T.	Tekle
Anna	Brown	Charlene	Christine	Long	Terry	Rasor	John	Wagner
John	Brown	Nataly	Jessie	Madzia	Nadia	Ritchey	Owen	Ward
Vernal	Brown	John	Ilya	Mandebur	Charles	Roddy	Curtis	Weber
Mary	Carroll	Evelyn	Bill	Martin	Sandra	Roddy	Nicholas	Zvansky
Will	Culver	Esther	Joe	Martin	Justin	Rogers	Sandra	Zvansky
Maria	Czyrnik	Mech	Griffen	Martz	Lillian	Rogers		

**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.



**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**

