



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

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

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Office Hours M-W-F 9:00a – 1:00p

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To schedule an event, send an email to eventstjohn@outlook.com allow 24-48 hours for reply

April 5, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

| | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Sun | Apr 5 | Pascha Sunday | | |
| | | 9:00am | Ge'ez Palm Sunday Liturgy | |
| | | 11:30am | Byzantine Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy; Myrovaniye and Blessing of Baskets | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| Mon | Apr 6 | Bright Monday | | |
| | | 5:45pm | Bright Week Paschal Hour | |
| | | 6:00pm | Divine Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| Tue | Apr 7 | 7:00pm | Ukrainian Divine Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| Wed | Apr 8 | 8:45am | Bright Week Paschal Hour | |
| | | 9:00am | Divine Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| Thu | Apr 9 | 8:45am | Bright Week Paschal Hour | |
| | | 9:00am | Divine Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| | | 5:00pm | Ge'ez Holy Thursday Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| Fri | Apr 10 | 10:00am | Ge'ez Good Friday Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| | | 5:45pm | Bright Week Paschal Hour | |
| | | 6:00pm | Divine Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| Sat | Apr 11 | 8:00pm | Ge'ez Paschal Vigil Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |
| Sun | Apr 12 | St. Thomas Sunday | | |
| | | 9:30am | Paschal Hour | |
| | | 10:00am | Divine Liturgy | <i>For the Faithful</i> |

Readings for the week of April 5, 2026

| | | <u>Epistle</u> | <u>Gospel</u> |
|-----|--------|----------------------|---------------|
| Sun | Apr 5 | Acts 1:1-8 | John 1:1-17 |
| Mon | Apr 6 | Acts 1:12-17 & 21-26 | John 1:18-28 |
| Tue | Apr 7 | Acts 2:14-21 | Luke 24:12-35 |
| Wed | Apr 8 | Acts 2:22-36 | John 1:35-51 |
| Thu | Apr 9 | Acts 2:38-43 | John 3:1-15 |
| Fri | Apr 10 | Acts 3:1-8 | John 2:12-22 |
| Sat | Apr 11 | Acts 3:11-16 | John 3:22-33 |
| Sun | Apr 12 | Acts 5:12-20 | John 20:19-31 |

Parish Activities

Sun Apr 5 Basket blessing following Divine Liturgy

OFFICE CLOSED ALL OF BRIGHT WEEK

Sat Apr 11 8:45am Meet in parking lot, carpool to pray Rosary in front of Planned Parenthood downtown
4:00pm Families Gathering in hall

Sun Apr 12 11:15am Parish social, Blessing and Sharing of Artos Bread; NO ECF classes

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.

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC BROTHERHOOD - All men in our Parish are invited to participate in our 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. Please contact Jerry Stasek (jstasek01@gmail.com) or Andrew Wisniewski (andrew.wisniewski@live.com) if you are interested.

FROM OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL - The Knights are having a membership drive **April 12th**. We truly encourage the men of the parish to join. Together we form a bond of brothers united around Christ and the service of our parish. We have done many good things and need more good men to help us grow in our service.

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>

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.

APRIL 26TH, a representative of Holy Land Family will be in the hall selling beautiful hand carved religious artwork made from olive wood and mosaics to help the Christian families in the Holy Land who rely on the selling of their religious work to make a living. These families' livelihoods have been largely affected due to the political conflict in the region. The Christian population in Bethlehem is decreasing and with the support to help these families continue their work, will help maintain their employment so that they stay in their homeland. We invite you to come and browse after each mass, and we greatly thank you for your support! God Bless You. For more information on Holy Land Family, go to holylandfamily.com.

EASTER VIGIL MEDITATION

"After the Sabbath" (Mt 28:1), the women went to the tomb. This is how the Gospel of this holy Vigil began: with the Sabbath. It is the day of the Easter Triduum that we tend to neglect as we eagerly await the passage from Friday's cross to Easter Sunday's Alleluia. This year however, we are experiencing, more than ever, the great silence of Holy Saturday. We can imagine ourselves in the position of the women on that day. They, like us, had before

their eyes the drama of suffering, of an unexpected tragedy that happened all too suddenly. They had seen death and it weighed on their hearts. Pain was mixed with fear: would they suffer the same fate as the Master? Then too there was fear about the future and all that would need to be rebuilt. A painful memory, a hope cut short. For them, as for us, it was the darkest hour.

Yet in this situation the women did not allow themselves to be paralyzed. They did not give in to the gloom of sorrow and regret, they did not morosely close in on themselves, or flee from reality. They were doing something simple yet extraordinary: preparing at home the spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They did not stop loving; in the darkness of their hearts, they lit a flame of mercy. Our Lady spent that Saturday, the day that would be dedicated to her, in prayer and hope. She responded to sorrow with trust in the Lord. Unbeknownst to these women, they were making preparations, in the darkness of that Sabbath, for "the dawn of the first day of the week", the day that would change history. Jesus, like a seed buried in the ground, was about to make new life blossom in the world; and these women, by prayer and love, were helping to make that hope flower. How many people, in these sad days, have done and are still doing what those women did, sowing seeds of hope! With small gestures of care, affection and prayer.

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: "Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen" (vv. 5-6). They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: "Do not be afraid" (v. 10). *Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear*: This is the *message of hope*. It is addressed to us, today. These are the words that God repeats to us today, this very night.

Tonight we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: *the right to hope*. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, with a passing smile. No. It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. Over these weeks, we have kept repeating, "All will be well", clinging to the beauty of our humanity and allowing words of encouragement to rise up from our hearts. But as the days go by and fears grow, even the boldest hope can dissipate. Jesus' hope is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life.

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!

Courage. This is a word often spoken by Jesus in the Gospels. Only once do others say it, to encourage a person in need: "Courage; rise, [Jesus] is calling you!" (Mk 10:49). It is he, the Risen One, who raises us up from our neediness. If, on your journey, you feel weak and frail, or fall, do not be afraid, God holds out a helping hand and says to you: "Courage!". You might say, as did Don Abbondio (in Manzoni's novel), "Courage is not something you can give yourself" (*I Promessi Sposi*, XXV). True, you cannot give it to yourself, but you can receive it as a gift. All you have to do is open your heart in prayer and roll away, however slightly, that stone placed at the entrance to your heart so that Jesus' light can enter. You only need to ask him: "Jesus, come to me amid my fears and tell me too: Courage!" With you, Lord, we will be tested but not shaken. And, whatever sadness may dwell in us, we will be strengthened in hope, since with you the cross leads to the resurrection, because you are with us in the darkness of our nights; you are certainty amid our uncertainties, the word that speaks in our silence, and nothing can ever rob us of the love you have for us.

This is the Easter message, a message of hope. It contains a second part, the sending forth. "Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee" (Mt 28:10), Jesus says. "He is going before you to Galilee" (v. 7), the angel says. The Lord goes before us, he goes before us always. It is encouraging to know that he walks ahead of us in life and in death; he goes before us to Galilee, that is, to the place which for him and his disciples evoked the idea of daily life, family and work. Jesus wants us to bring hope there, to our everyday life. For the disciples, Galilee was also

the place of remembrance, for it was the place where they were first called. Returning to Galilee means remembering that we have been loved and called by God. Each one of us has our own Galilee. We need to resume the journey, reminding ourselves that we are born and reborn thanks to an invitation given gratuitously to us out of love, there, in my own Galilee. This is always the point from which we can set out anew, especially in times of crisis and trial. With the memory of my own Galilee.

But there is more. Galilee was the farthest region from where they were: from Jerusalem. And not only geographically. Galilee was also the farthest place from the sacredness of the Holy City. It was an area where people of different religions lived: it was the "Galilee of the Gentiles" (Mt 4:15). Jesus sends them there and asks them to start again from there. What does this tell us? That the message of hope should not be confined to our sacred places, but should be brought to everyone. For everyone is in need of reassurance, and if we, who have touched "the Word of life" (1 Jn 1:1) do not give it, who will? How beautiful it is to be Christians who offer consolation, who bear the burdens of others and who offer encouragement: messengers of life in a time of death! In every Galilee, in every area of the human family to which we all belong and which is part of us – for we are all brothers and sisters – may we bring the song of life! Let us silence the cries of death, no more wars! May we stop the production and trade of weapons, since we need bread, not guns. Let the abortion and killing of innocent lives end. May the hearts of those who have enough be open to filling the empty hands of those who do not have the bare necessities.

Those women, in the end, "took hold" of Jesus' feet (Mt 28:9); feet that had travelled so far to meet us, to the point of entering and emerging from the tomb. The women embraced the feet that had trampled death and opened the way of hope. Today, as pilgrims in search of hope, we cling to you, Risen Jesus. We turn our backs on death and open our hearts to you, for you are Life itself.

Pope Francis, 4/11/2020

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:

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|---------|---------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
| 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 | | |