



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

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

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

May 3, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	May 3	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman	
	9:30am	Paschal Hour	
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Wed	May 6	8:45am Akathist to the Theotokos; Divine Liturgy	+Gerald Stasicha by M. Zebula
Thu	May 7	5:45pm Akathist to the Theotokos; Divine Liturgy	
Fri	May 8	5:45pm Akathist to the Theotokos; Divine Liturgy	
Sat	May 9	5:45pm Akathist to the Theotokos; Vespers	
Sun	May 10	Mother's Day; Sunday of the Man Born Blind	
	9:30am	Paschal Hour	
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	

Readings for the week of May 3, 2026

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun May 3	Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30	John 4:5-42
Mon May 4	Acts 12:12-17	John 8:42-51
Tue May 5	Acts 12:25-13:12	John 8:51-59
Wed May 6	Acts 13:13-24	John 6:5-14
Thu May 7	Acts 14:20-15:4	John 9:39-10:9
Fri May 8	1 John 1:1-7	John 19:25-27 & 21:24
Sat May 9	Acts 15:35-41	John 10:27-38
Sun May 10	Acts 16:16-34	John 9:1-38

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	May 3	11:15am	Parish social, ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Sat	May 9	8:45am	Carpool to PP, pray Rosary
		4:00pm	Families Gathering in hall
		6:00pm	Ge'ez choir practice
Sun	May 10	11:15am	Parish social, NO ECF; Egg Hunt for the children; Ascension Catechesis
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social

COMING UP IN MAY

PDHC Baby Bottles for Life – We will again participate in Pregnancy Decision Health Centers' Bottles for Life fundraising program to help raise money for their ministry. This program will run from Mother's Day, May 10th through Father's Day, June 17th. We will have baby bottles supplied by PDHC for you to collect change for this period or write a check to PDHC. ALL bottles need to be back here to St. John by Father's Day, June 17th. A representative of PDHC will pick them up after.



May 9	8:45am	Meet here to carpool to pray Rosary in front of Planned Parenthood downtown
	4:00pm	Families Gathering in hall
May 10	11:15am	Egg Hunt for children, postponed from Palm Sunday due to weather; Ascension Catechesis led by Fr. Robert; Parish Social
May 16	9:30am	Parish Grounds Beautification Day; lunch provided by parish
May 22	7:00pm	Decorate church for Pentecost with branches
May 23	1:00pm	Women's Ministry @ Schimmoeller's



PARISH GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION DAY – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, May 16 beginning at 9:30am. Removal of trees, branches; mulching of flowerbeds; picking up trash. Don't forget to bring gardening gloves and any tools you think might be helpful. Lunch will be provided by the parish. We need lots of volunteers for this spring clean.

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.



**EPARCHY OF PARMA FOUNDATION'S
2025-2026 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
TIME – TALENT – TREASURE**

This Year's appeal runs from November 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026

A Little Makes a Lot, as do the generous gifts of those blessed to give more.

Every gift matters. Some can give a little, some can give more—but when each of us offers what we are able, God weaves our generosity together into something far greater than any one of us could accomplish alone. This is how the Church has always been sustained: through the faithful giving of God's people, each according to their blessings.

"For if the willingness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has..." — 2 Corinthians 8:12

If you'd like help planning your giving, consider spending some time with the budgeting tool and reflection summary online at parma.org/stewardship-appeal. A topic as common and real as budgeting deserves the time.

If you're seeking encouragement and understanding, definitely consider listening to the replay of Laura Ieracci's Faith and Finances for a faith centered, heartfelt perspective on stewardship.

Thank you to all who have given—and to those who have given multiple times! Your generosity provides for the beautiful Byzantine Catholic faith we cherish and the many people we are blessed to serve.



**The Ninth Miracle of Mariapoch Gala
on Saturday, May 16, 2026 6–9:30 p.m.**

Venue 81 Eleven

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio

\$50 per person for full dinner, two alcoholic beverages

Entertainment, raffle baskets

For tickets, visit <https://parma.org/shrine-of-mariapoch>

Questions? Email: shrine@parma.org or call 216-272-6790.

Proceeds benefit capital improvements at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch, Burton, Ohio

GREATER COLUMBUS RIGHT TO LIFE: SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

From now through Christmas, we are inviting our supporters to join us in a Spiritual Adoption program. The premise of the program is that each participant "spiritually adopts" an unborn child at risk of abortion and prays for that child over the next nine months.

We have a limited supply of pray cards that are available on a first come first served basis. An image of the Holy Family is on one side and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's prayer for spiritual adoption is on the back with a space for you to write the name of your unborn spiritual adoptive child.

Prayer for Spiritual Adoption – "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much and ask you to spare the life of the preborn baby who I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. May he/she grow strong and healthy, keep his/her mother in your care, and may they both be blessed with a beautiful and happy birth. Amen."

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" Jer 1:5

_____ *Adopted baby's name*

VOCAL PRAYER

Prayer is dialogue with God; and every creature, in a certain sense, “dialogues” with God. Within the human being, prayer becomes word, invocation, hymn, poetry... The divine Word is made flesh, and in each person’s flesh the word returns to God in prayer.

We create words, but they are also our mothers, and to some extent they shape us. The words of a prayer get us safely through a dark valley, lead us towards green pastures rich in water, and enable us to feast in the presence of an enemy, as the Psalm teaches us (cf. Ps 23). Words are born from feelings, but there is also the reverse path, whereby words shape feelings. The Bible educates people to ensure that everything comes to light through the word, that nothing human is excluded, censored. Above all, pain is dangerous if it stays hidden, closed up within us... Pain that is closed up within us, that cannot express or give vent to itself, can poison the soul. It is deadly.

This is why Sacred Scripture teaches us to pray, sometimes even with bold words. The sacred writers do not want to deceive us about the human person: they know that our hearts also harbour unedifying feelings, even hatred. None of us is born holy, and when these negative feelings come knocking at the door of our hearts, we must be capable of defusing them with prayer and with God’s words. We also find very harsh expressions against enemies in the Psalms — expressions that the spiritual masters teach us are to be directed to the devil and to our sins — yet they are words that belong to human reality and ended up in the riverbed of the Sacred Scriptures. They are there to testify to us that if, in the face of violence, no words existed to make negative feelings harmless, to channel them in such a way that they do no harm, then the world would be overwhelmed.

The first human prayer is always a vocal recitation. The lips always move first. Although we are all aware that praying does not mean repeating words, vocal prayer is nevertheless the surest, and can always be practised. Feelings, on the other hand, however noble, are always uncertain: they come and go, they leave us and return. Not only that, but the graces of prayer are also unpredictable: at times consolations abound, but on the darkest days they seem to evaporate completely. The prayer of the heart is mysterious, and at certain times it is lacking. Instead, the prayer of the lips that is whispered or recited together, is always accessible, and is as necessary as manual labour. The Catechism teaches us about this, and states that: “Vocal prayer is an essential element of the Christian life. To his disciples, drawn by their Master’s silent prayer, Jesus teaches a vocal prayer, the Our Father” (n. 2701). “Teach us how to pray”, the disciples asked Jesus, and Jesus taught them a vocal prayer: the Lord’s Prayer. And everything is there, in that prayer.

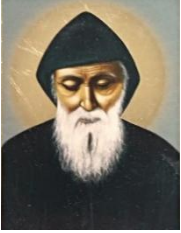
We should all have the humility of certain elderly people who, in church, perhaps because their hearing is no longer acute, recite quietly the prayers they learned as children, filling the nave with whispers. That prayer does not disturb the silence, but testifies their fidelity to the duty of prayer, practised throughout their lives without fail. These practitioners of humble prayer are often the great intercessors in parishes: they are the oaks that from year to year spread their branches to offer shade to the greatest number of people. Only God knows when and how much their hearts have been united to those prayers they recited: surely these people too had to face nights and moments of emptiness. But one can always remain faithful to vocal prayer. It is like an anchor: one can hold on to the rope and remain, faithful, come what may.

We all have something to learn from the perseverance of the Russian pilgrim, mentioned in a famous work on spirituality, who learned the art of prayer by repeating the same invocation over and over again: “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord, have mercy on us, sinners!” (cf. CCC, 2616; 2667). He only repeated this. If his life received graces, if prayer became so warm one day as to perceive the presence of the Kingdom among us, if his gaze was transformed until it became like that of a child, it is because he insisted on reciting a simple Christian exclamation. In the end, it became part of his breathing. The story of the Russian pilgrim is beautiful: it is a book that is accessible to all. I recommend you read it; it will help you to understand what vocal prayer is.

Therefore, we must not disregard vocal prayer. One might say, “Ah, this is for children, for ignorant folk; I am seeking mental prayer, meditation, the inner void so that God might come to me”. Please, one must not succumb to the pride of scorning vocal prayer. It is the prayer of the simple, the one Jesus taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven.... The words we speak take us by the hand; at times they restore flavour, they awaken even the sleepest of hearts; they reawaken feelings we had forgotten. And they lead us by the hand towards the experience of God. And above all, they are the only ones that, in a sure way, address to God the questions that he wants to hear. Jesus did not leave us in a fog. He told us: “when you pray, say this”. And he taught the Lord’s Prayer (cf. Mt 6:9).

Pope Francis, 4/21/2021

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	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

