



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 10, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	May 10	Mother's Day; Sunday of the Man Born Blind	
	9:30am	Paschal Hour; Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Wed	May 13	8:45am Akathistos to Holy Spirit; Divine Liturgy	
Thu	May 14	Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord	
	5:45pm	Akathistos to Holy Spirit; Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
Fri	May 15	5:45pm Akathistos to Holy Spirit; Divine Liturgy	
Sat	May 16	5:45pm Akathistos to Holy Spirit; Vespers	
Sun	May 17	Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council	
	9:30am	Akathistos to Holy Spirit; Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
	12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
	2:30pm	Ukrainian Divine Liturgy	

Readings for the week of May 10, 2026

		<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun	May 10	Acts 16:16-34	John 9:1-38
Mon	May 11	Heb 13:17-21	John 10:9-16
Tue	May 12	Acts 17:19-28	John 12:19-36
Wed	May 13	Acts 18:22-28	John 12:36-47
Thu	May 14	Acts 1:1-12	Luke 24:36-53
Fri	May 15	Acts 19:1-8	John 14:1-11
Sat	May 16	Acts 20:7-12	John 14:10-21
Sun	May 17	Acts 20:16-18 & 28-38	John 17:1-13

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 10	11:15am	Parish social, NO ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Sat	May 16	6:00pm	Ge'ez choir practice
Sun	May 17	11:15am	Ascension Catechesis; Egg Hunt for the children; NO ECF ; Parish social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
		3:30pm	Ukrainian Social



To all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and mothers-to-be, we wish you a blessed and happy Mother's Day.



Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) has been providing pregnancy support for over 45 years - providing free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) services, parenting support, prevention education, abortion recovery help, and life-saving resources for women and families right here in central Ohio. **Here at St. John Chrysostom, we're excited to join PDHC's Bottles for Life 2026 campaign!** Beginning May 10th through June 21st, you can take part by picking up a bottle before or after service. You may also donate online directly at <https://PDHC.org> and click the Donate button at the bottom of their homepage.

Every gift helps save lives and support families. Let's be the hands and feet of Christ in this mission for LIFE!



PARISH GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION DAY – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for this this Saturday, May 16th, 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.

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 17TH, Father is presenting a catechesis on the Ascension following Divine Liturgy. This is to be followed by the Pascha Egg Hunt that was postponed from Palm Sunday due to inclement weather. There will be no ECF classes.

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 www.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

this 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*

THE MEDITATION

Today we will talk about the form of prayer called meditation. For a Christian, to "meditate" is to seek meaning: it implies placing oneself before the immense page of Revelation to try to make it our own, assuming it completely. And the Christian, after having welcomed the Word of God, does not keep it closed up within him or herself,

because that Word must be met with “another book”, which the Catechism calls “the book of life” (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2706). This is what we try to do every time we meditate on the Word.

The practice of meditation has received a great deal of attention in recent years. It is not only Christians who talk about it: the practice of meditation exists in almost all the world’s religions. But it is also a widespread activity among people who do not have a religious view of life. We all need to meditate, to reflect, to discover ourselves, it is a human dynamic. Especially in the voracious western world, people seek meditation because it represents a barrier raised against the daily stress and emptiness that is rife everywhere. Here, then, is the image of young people and adults sitting in recollection, in silence, with eyes half closed... But what are these people doing, we might ask? They are meditating. It is a phenomenon to be looked on favourably. Indeed, we are not made for rushing all the time, we have an inner life that cannot always be trampled on. Meditating is therefore a need for everyone. Meditating, so to speak, is like stopping and taking a breath in life.

But we realise that this word, once accepted in a Christian context, takes on a uniqueness that must not be eradicated. Meditating is a necessary human dimension, but meditating in the Christian context goes further: it is a dimension that must not be eradicated. The great door through which the prayer of a baptised person passes — let us remind ourselves once again — is Jesus Christ. For the Christian, meditation enters through the door of Jesus Christ. The practice of meditation also follows this path. And when Christians pray, they do not aspire to full self-transparency, they do not seek the deepest centre of the ego. This is legitimate, but the Christian seeks something else. The prayer of the Christian is first of all an encounter with the Other, with a capital “O”: the transcendent encounter with God. If an experience of prayer gives us inner peace, or self-mastery, or clarity about the path to take, these results are, so to speak, side effects of the grace of Christian prayer, which is the encounter with Jesus. That is, meditating means going to the encounter with Jesus, guided by a phrase or a word from Holy Scripture.

Throughout history, the term “meditation” has had various meanings. Even within Christianity it refers to different spiritual experiences. Nevertheless, some common lines can be traced, and in this we are helped again by the Catechism, which says the following: “There are as many and varied methods of meditation as there are spiritual masters... But a method is only a guide; the important thing is to advance, with the Holy Spirit, along the one way of prayer: Christ Jesus” (n. 2707). And here, a travelling companion is indicated, one who guides us: the Holy Spirit. Christian meditation is not possible without the Holy Spirit. It is he who guides us to the encounter with Jesus. Jesus said to us, “I will send you the Holy Spirit. He will teach you and explain to you. He will teach you and explain to you”. And in meditation too, the Holy Spirit is the guide to going forward in our encounter with Jesus Christ.

Thus, there are many methods of Christian meditation: some are very simple, others more detailed; some highlight the intellectual dimension of the person, others the affective and emotional one instead. They are methods. They are all important and all worthy of practice, inasmuch as they can help the experience of faith to become an integral act of the person: one does not only pray with the mind; the entire person prays, the person in his or her entirety, just as one does not pray only with one’s feelings. The ancients used to say that the organ of prayer is the heart, and thus they explained that the whole person, starting from the centre — the heart — enters into a relationship with God, not just a few faculties. We must thus always remember that the method is a path, not a goal: any method of prayer, if it is to be Christian, is part of that Sequela Christi that is the essence of our faith. The methods of meditation are paths to travel in order to arrive at the encounter with Jesus, but if you stop on the road, and just look at the path, you will never find Jesus. You will make a “god” out of the path. However, the path is a means to bring you to Jesus. The Catechism specifies: “Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire. This mobilisation of the faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ” (n. 2708).

Here, then, is the grace of Christian prayer: Christ is not far away, but is always in a relationship with us. There is no aspect of his divine-human person that cannot become a place of salvation and happiness for us. Every moment of Jesus’ earthly life, through the grace of prayer, can become immediate to us, thanks to the Holy Spirit, the guide. But, you know, one cannot pray without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is he who guides us! And thanks to the Holy Spirit, we too are present at the River Jordan when Jesus immerses himself to receive baptism. We too are guests at the wedding at Cana, when Jesus gives the best wine for the happiness of the couple, that is, it is the Holy Spirit who connects us with these mysteries of the life of Christ because in contemplation of Jesus we experience prayer, to join us more closely to him. We too are astonished onlookers of the thousands of healings performed by the Master. We take the Gospel, and meditate on those mysteries in the Gospel, and the Spirit guides us to being present there.

And in prayer — when we pray — we are all like the cleansed leper, the blind Bartimaeus who regains his sight, Lazarus who comes out of the tomb... We too are healed by prayer just as the blind Bartimaeus was healed, the other one, the leper... We too rose again, as Lazarus rose again, because prayer of meditation guided by the Holy Spirit leads us to relive these mysteries of the life of Christ and to encounter Christ, and to say, with the blind man, "Lord, have pity on me! Have pity on me!" — "And what do you want?" — "To see, to enter into that dialogue". And Christian meditation, led by the Spirit, leads us to this dialogue with Jesus. There is no page of the Gospel in which there is no place for us. For us Christians, meditating is a way to encounter Jesus. And in this way, only in this way, we rediscover ourselves. And this is not a withdrawal into ourselves, no: going to Jesus, and from Jesus, discovering ourselves, healed, risen, strong by the grace of Jesus. And encountering Jesus, the Saviour of all, myself included. And this, thanks to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis, 5/2/2021

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**

