



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 24, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

| | | | | |
|-----|--------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Sun | May 24 | Pentecost Sunday | 9:30am Akathistos to Holy Spirit; Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Ge'ez Divine Liturgy | <i>for the Faithful</i> |
| Mon | May 25 | Pentecost Monday; Memorial Day | 6:00pm Pentecost Monday Liturgy with procession; Memorial Day Panachida | <i>In memory of those who have died in service to their country</i> |
| Wed | May 27 | | 9:00am Akathistos to the Theotokos; Divine Liturgy | |
| Thu | May 28 | | 6:00pm Akathistos to the Theotokos; Divine Liturgy | |
| Fri | May 29 | | 6:00pm Akathistos to the Theotokos; Divine Liturgy | |
| Sat | May 30 | | 6:00pm Akathistos to the Theotokos; Vespers | |
| Sun | May 31 | 11:00am | St. John Chrysostom is celebrating Liturgy at Holy Resurrection Parish NO service at St. John Chrysostom Parish | |
| | | | 12:00pm Ge'ez Divine Liturgy | |

Readings for the week of May 24, 2026

| | | <u>Epistle</u> | <u>Gospel</u> |
|-----|--------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Sun | May 24 | Acts 2:1-11 | John 7:37-52 & 8:12 |
| Mon | May 25 | Eph 5:8b-19 | Matt 18:10-20 |
| Tue | May 26 | 2 Cor 4:6-15 | Matt 11:2-15 |
| Wed | May 27 | Rom 1:18-27 | Matt 5:20-26 |
| Thu | May 28 | Rom 1:28-2:9 | Matt 5:27-32 |
| Fri | May 29 | Rom 2:14-29 | Matt 5:33-41 |
| Sat | May 30 | Rom 1:7-12 | Matt 5:42-48 |
| Sun | May 31 | Heb 11:32-12:2a | Matt 10:32-33; 37-38 & 19:27-30 |

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 24 | 11:15am 2:00pm | Parish Picnic; NO ECF Ge'ez Social |
| Mon | May 25 | MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED | |
| Sat | May 30 | 4:00pm 6:00pm | Ge'ez Women's Club mtg Ge'ez choir practice |
| Sun | May 31 | 2:00pm | NO ECF – Liturgy is held at Holy Resurrection. Please bring a snack to share Ge'ez Social |
| Mon | June 1 | 6:00pm | Finance Board Meeting |



TODAY IS OUR PARISH PICNIC. All are invited!

TOMORROW, MAY 25th, THE OFFICE IS CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.

REMINDER: Next Sunday, May 31st, 11:00am - St. John Chrysostom Parish will celebrate liturgy at Holy Resurrection Parish. We ask parishioners attending to bring a snack to share. The Noon Ge'ez liturgy will still be held here. There will not be any ECF classes.

VOLUNTEER TO BE ON THE MOWING CREW

We invite gentlemen to join the mowing crew. Currently, the property is mowed 2 times a week. You can mow any time during the week (except Sundays). Notify the Office via email, including your mobile phone number for scheduling.

HELP WITH HOSPITALITY! Please see the sign-up sheet on the food table with suggestions for items to share. 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.

PENTECOST

Today the word of God shows us the Holy Spirit in action. We see him acting in three ways: *in the world he created, in the Church, and in our hearts.*

1. First, *in the world he created*, in creation. From the beginning, the Holy Spirit was at work. We prayed with the Psalm (104:30): "When you send forth your Spirit, they are created". He is in fact the *Creator Spiritus* (cf. SAINT AUGUSTINE, *In Ps. XXXII, 2.2*), the Creator Spirit: for centuries the Church has invoked him as such. Yet we can ask ourselves: What does the Spirit do in the creation of the world? If everything has its origin from the Father, and if everything is created through the Son, what is the specific role of the Spirit? One great Father of the Church, Saint Basil, wrote: "if you attempt to remove the Spirit from creation, all things become confused and their life appears unruly and lacking order" (*De Sancto Spiritu*, XVI, 38). That is the role of the Spirit: at the beginning and at all times, he makes created realities pass from disorder to order, from dispersion to cohesion, from confusion to harmony. We will always see this way of acting in the Church's life. In a word, he gives *harmony* to the world; in this way, he "directs the course of time and renews the face of the earth" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 26; *Ps 104:30*). He does renew the earth, but listen carefully: He does this not by changing reality, but rather by harmonizing it. That is his "style", because in himself he is harmony: *ipse harmonia est* (cf. SAINT BASIL, *In Ps. XXIX, 1*).

In our world today, there is so much discord, such great division. We are all "connected", yet find ourselves disconnected from one another, anesthetized by indifference and overwhelmed by solitude. So many wars, so

many conflicts: it seems incredible the evil of which we are capable! Yet in fact, fueling our hostilities is the spirit of division, the devil, whose very name means "divider". Yes, preceding and exceeding our own evil, our own divisions, there is the evil spirit who is "the deceiver of the whole world" (Rev 12:9). He rejoices in conflict, injustice, slander; that is his joy. To counter the evil of discord, our efforts to create harmony are not sufficient. Hence, the Lord, at the culmination of his Passover from death to life, at the culmination of salvation, pours out upon the created world his good Spirit: the Holy Spirit, who opposes the spirit of division because he is harmony, the Spirit of unity, the bringer of peace. Let us invoke the Spirit daily upon our whole world, upon our lives and upon any kind of division!

2. Along with his work in creation, we see the Holy Spirit at work *in the Church*, beginning with the day of Pentecost. We notice, however, that the Spirit does not inaugurate the Church by providing the community with rules and regulations, but by descending upon each of the apostles: every one of them receives particular graces and different charisms. Such an abundance of differing gifts could generate confusion, but, as in creation, the Holy Spirit loves to create harmony out of diversity. The harmony of the Spirit is not a mandatory, uniform order; in the Church, there is indeed an order, but it is "structured *in accordance with the diversity of the Spirit's gifts*" (SAINT BASIL, *De Spiritu Sancto*, XVI, 39). At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends in tongues of fire: he bestows upon each person the ability to speak other languages (cf. Acts 2:4) and to understand in his or her own language what is spoken by others (cf. Acts 2:6.11). In a word, the Spirit does not create a single language, one that is the same for all. He does not eliminate differences or cultures, but harmonizes everything without reducing them to bland uniformity. And this must make us stop and reflect at this current time, when the temptation of "back-stepping" seeks to homogenise everything into merely apparent disciplines lacking any substance. Let us think about this: the Spirit does not begin with a clearly outlined programme, as we would, who so often become caught up in our plans and projects. No, he begins by bestowing gratuitous and superabundant gifts. Indeed, on that day of Pentecost, as the Scripture emphasizes, "*all were filled with the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:4). *All were filled*: that is how the life of the Church began, not from a precise and detailed plan, but from the shared experience of God's love. That is how the Spirit creates harmony; he invites us to experience amazement at his love and at his gifts present in others. As Saint Paul tells us: "There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... For in the one Spirit we were all baptized *into one body*" (1 Cor 12:4.13). To see each of our brothers and sisters in the faith as part of the same body of which I am a member: this is the harmonious approach of the Spirit, this is the path that he points out to us!

And the Synod now taking place is – and should be – *a journey in accordance with the Spirit*, not a Parliament for demanding rights and claiming needs in accordance with the agenda of the world, nor an occasion for following wherever the wind is blowing, but the opportunity to be docile to the breath of the Spirit. For on the sea of history, the Church sets sail only with him, for he is "the soul of the Church" (SAINT PAUL VI, *Address to the Sacred College*, 21 June 1976), the heart of synodality, the driving force of evangelization. Without him, the Church is lifeless, faith is mere doctrine, morality mere duty, pastoral work mere toil. Sometimes we hear so-called thinkers or theologians, who suggest seemingly mathematical theories that leave us cold because they lack the Spirit within. With the Spirit, on the other hand, faith is life, the love of the Lord convinces us, and hope is reborn. Let us put the Holy Spirit back at the centre of the Church; otherwise, our hearts will not be consumed by love for Jesus, but by love for ourselves. Let us put the Spirit at the start and heart of the Synod's work. For "it is he above all whom the Church needs today! Let us say to him each day: Come!" (cf. ID., *General Audience*, 29 November 1972). And let us journey together because, as at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit loves to descend when "all come together" (cf. Acts 2:1). Yes, to manifest himself to the world, he chose the time and place where *all were gathered together*. The People of God, in order to be filled with the Spirit, must therefore journey together, "do Synod". That is how harmony in the Church is renewed: by journeying together with the Spirit at the centre. Brothers and sister, let us build harmony in the Church!

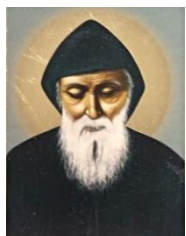
3. Finally, the Holy Spirit creates harmony *in our hearts*. We see this in the Gospel, where Jesus, on the evening of Easter, breathes upon the disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn 20:22). He bestows the Spirit for a precise purpose: to forgive sins, to reconcile minds and to *harmonize hearts* wounded by evil, broken by hurts, led astray by feelings of guilt. Only the Spirit restores harmony in the heart, for he is the one who creates "intimacy with God" (SAINT BASIL, *De Spiritu Sancto*, XIX, 49). If we want harmony let us seek him, not worldly substitutes. Let us invoke the Holy Spirit each day. Let us begin our day by praying to him. Let us become docile to him!

And today, on his feast, let us ask ourselves: Am I docile to the harmony of the Spirit? Or do I pursue my projects, my own ideas, without letting myself be shaped and changed by him? Is my way of living the faith docile to the Spirit or is it obstinate? Am I stubbornly attached to texts or so-called doctrines that are only cold expressions of life? Am I quick to judge? Do I point fingers and slam doors in the face of others, considering myself a victim of everyone and everything? Or do I welcome the Spirit's harmonious and creative power, the "grace of wholeness" that he inspires, his forgiveness that brings us peace? And in turn, do I forgive? Forgiveness is making room for the Spirit to come. Do I foster reconciliation and build communion, or am I always on the lookout, poking my nose into problems and causing hurt, spite, division and breakdown? Do I forgive, promote reconciliation and build communion? If the world is divided, if the Church is polarized, if hearts are broken, let us not waste time in criticizing others and growing angry with one another; instead, let us invoke the Spirit. He is able to resolve all of this.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus and of the Father, inexhaustible wellspring of harmony, to you we entrust the world; to you we consecrate the Church and our hearts. Come, Creator Spirit, harmony of humanity, renew the face of the earth. Come, Gift of gifts, harmony of the Church, make us one in you. Come, Spirit of forgiveness and harmony of the heart, transform us as only you can, through the intercession of Mary.

Pope Francis, Pentecost 2023

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:

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|---------|---------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| Abby | Ron | Doctor | Mech | Intention | Griffen | Martz | Lillian | Rogers |
| Carol | Aregay | Family | Charyton | Intentions | Mary Ann | McCallister | Mary Beth | Rogers |
| Hagos | Conley | Family | DeClue | Intentions | Angela | Merva | Trey | Shearon |
| Kathy | Jackson | Family | Dora | Johnson | Ed | Nyahay | Kathy | Slonka |
| Mara | Lippert | Family | Gordon | Kaercher | Anne | O'Halloran | Monica | Smith |
| Melissa | Mazon | Family | Susan | Kaiser | Mic | O'Halloran | Scott | Smith |
| Steve | Jack | Figel | James | Kester | John | Oshinski | Kim | Snow |
| Hussein | Abdi | Sarah | Kathy | Krofcheck | Paula | Oshinski | Helen | Stephens |
| William | Brake | Jeremy | Regina | Lee | Maksym | Popadyn | Dennis | Stinich |
| Charles | Branham | Christopher | Christine | Leon | Maria | Rakowsky | Josh | Taylor |
| Anna | Brown | Deborah | Jeanne | Lombardi | Kristi | Ralston | L.T. | Tekle |
| John | Brown | Charlene | Christine | Long | Terry | Rasor | John | Wagner |
| Vernal | Brown | Nataly | Jessie | Madzia | Nadia | Ritchey | Owen | Ward |
| Mary | Carroll | John | Ilya | Mandebur | Charles | Roddy | Curtis | Weber |
| Will | Culver | Evelyn | Bill | Martin | Sandra | Roddy | Nicholas | Zvansky |
| Maria | Czyrnik | Esther | Joe | Martin | Justin | Rogers | Sandra | Zvansky |

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.

