



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

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

5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, OH 43231

Office Phone: 614-882-7578

Office Email: stjohnbyz@hotmail.com

Office Hours M-W-F 9:00a – 1:00p

Website: www.byzantinecolumbus.com Facebook: St. John Chrysostom Church

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

June 7, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	June 7	9:30am	3 rd Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
			<i>Blessing of Parish Volunteers</i>	
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Wed	June 10	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	
Sat	June 13	6:00pm	Vespers	
Sun	June 14	9:30am	3 rd Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
			<i>Consecration of our community, families, children, the suffering to Christ the Philanthropos (Lover of mankind)</i>	
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
		2:30pm	Ukrainian Divine Liturgy	

Readings for the week of June 7, 2026

		<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun	June 7	Rom 2:10-16	Matt 4:18-23
Mon	June 8	Rom 7:1-13	Matt 9:36-10:8
Tue	June 9	Rom 7:14-8:2	Matt 10:9-15
Wed	June 10	Rom 8:2-13	Matt 10:16-22
Thu	June 11	Acts 11:19-30	Luke 10:16-22
Fri	June 12	Rom 9:6-18	Matt 10:32-36 & 11:1
Sat	June 13	Rom 3:28-4:3	Matt 7:24-8:4
Sun	June 14	Rom 5:1-10	Matt 6:22-34

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	June 7	11:15am	Volunteer Appreciation Social; NO ECF
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Sat	June 13	8:45am	K of C meet to carpool to PP and pray Rosary
		2:30pm	Holy Resurrection wedding in church
		6:00pm	Ge'ez choir practice
Sun	June 14	11:15am	Social; Final ECF Classes for year
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
		3:30pm	Ukrainian Social

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will hold its 2026 Spring Plenary Assembly in Orlando, Florida, on June 10-12. As part of their assembly, the Bishops will concelebrate Mass and consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (in the Byzantine theology and liturgy the term is CHRIST LOVER OF MANKIND - PHILANTHROPOS). The act of consecration will take place on Thursday, June 11, and the Bishops will hear reflections on the Sacred Heart ahead of the Mass. The consecration comes as the US celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. The initiative hopes to encourage broader Catholic participation in the commemoration and will be livestreamed on the USCCB YouTube channel. Parishes and individual Catholics are being invited to take part through 250 Hours of Adoration and/or 250 Works of Mercy to prepare for the consecration. In 2024, the late Pope Francis released his encyclical *Dilexit nos* (He loved us) on the human and divine love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, highlighting the devotion as an antidote to modern superficiality.

We will consecrate our community, families, children, to the suffering to Christ the Philanthropos (Lover of mankind) next Sunday, June 14.

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.

COMING UP IN JUNE

Saturday, June 13th – Knights of Columbus carpool to Planned Parenthood downtown to pray the Rosary

Sunday, June 14th – Last ECF Class for the year; Ukrainian Divine Liturgy & Social

Saturday, June 20th – Cantors Workshop; 3:30pm

Sunday, June 21st – Father's Day celebration at social

STRUGGLES IN PRAYER

And speaking of prayer, Christian prayer, like all Christian life, is not a "walk in the park". None of the great people of prayer that we meet in the Bible and in the history of the Church found prayer "comfortable". Yes, one can pray like a parrot — blah, blah, blah, blah, blah — but this is not prayer. Prayer certainly gives great peace, but through inner struggle, sometimes difficult, which can accompany even long periods of life. Praying is not something easy, and this is why we flee from it. Every time we want to pray, we are immediately reminded of many other activities, which at that moment seem more important and more urgent. This happens to me too: I go to pray a little ... and no, I must do this and that.... We flee from prayer; I don't know why, but that is how it is. Almost always, after putting off prayer, we realize that those things were not essential at all, and that we may have wasted time. This is how the Enemy deceives us.

All Godly men and women report not only the joy of prayer, but also the tediousness and fatigue it can bring: at times it is a difficult struggle to keep to the time and ways of praying. Some saints continued it for years without finding any

satisfaction in it, without perceiving its usefulness. Silence, prayer and concentration are difficult exercises, and sometimes human nature rebels. We would rather be anywhere else in the world, but not there, in that church pew, praying. Those who want to pray must remember that faith is not easy, and sometimes it moves forward in almost total darkness, without points of reference. There are moments in the life of faith that are dark, and therefore some saints call this “the dark night”, because we hear nothing. But I continue to pray.

The Catechism lists a long series of enemies of prayer, those that make it difficult to pray, that put us in difficulty (cf. nn. 2726-2728). Some doubt that prayer can truly reach the Almighty: why does God remain silent? If God is Almighty, he could say a couple of words and end the matter. Faced with the elusiveness of the divine, others suspect that prayer is merely a psychological operation; something that may be useful, but is neither true nor necessary: and one could even be a practitioner without being a believer; and so on, many explanations.

However, the worst enemies of prayer are found within us. The Catechism describes them in this way: “Discouragement during periods of dryness; sadness that, because we have ‘great possessions’, we have not given all to the Lord; disappointment over not being heard according to our own will; wounded pride, stiffened by the indignity that is ours as sinners; our resistance to the idea that prayer is a free and unmerited gift” (2728). This is clearly a summary list that could be lengthened.

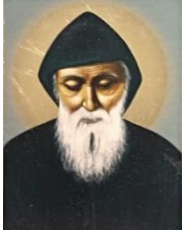
What should be done in the time of temptation, when everything seems to waver? If we look at the history of spirituality, we immediately see that the masters of the soul were very clear about the situation we have described. To overcome it, each of them offered some contribution: a word of wisdom, or a suggestion for facing moments fraught with difficulty. It is not a question of systematically developed theories, no, but of advice born of experience, which shows the importance of resisting and persevering in prayer.

It would be interesting to review at least some of these pieces of advice, because each one deserves to be explored further. For example, the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola is a short book of great wisdom that teaches how to put one’s life in order. It makes us understand that the Christian vocation is militancy, it is the decision to stand under the banner of Jesus Christ and not under that of the devil, trying to do good even when it becomes difficult.

In times of trial, it is good to remember that we are not alone, that someone is at our side, watching over and protecting us. Saint Anthony the Abbot, the founder of Christian monasticism, also faced terrible times in Egypt, when prayer became a difficult struggle. His biographer, Saint Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, recounts one of the worst episodes in the life of the hermit saint when he was about 35, a time of middle age that for many people involves a crisis. Anthony was disturbed by the ordeal, but he resisted. When calm finally returned, he turned to his Lord with an almost reproachful tone: “But Lord, where were you? Why did you not come immediately to put an end to my suffering?” And Jesus answered: “Anthony, I was there. But I was waiting to see you fight” (Life of Anthony, 10). Fighting in prayer. And very often, prayer is combat. I am reminded of something I experienced close up, when I was in the other diocese. There was a married couple with a nine-year-old daughter, with an illness that the doctors were unable to diagnose. And in the end, in hospital, the doctor said to the mother: “Madam, call your husband”. And the husband was at work; they were labourers, they worked every day. And he told the father: “The child will not survive the night. There is an infection; there is nothing we can do”. Perhaps that man did not attend Mass every Sunday, but he had great faith. He left, weeping; he left his wife there with the little girl in the hospital, he took the train and he travelled seventy kilometres towards the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján, Patroness of Argentina. And there — the Basilica was already closed, it was almost ten o’clock at night, in the evening — he clung to the grates of the Basilica and spent all night praying to Our Lady, fighting for his daughter’s health. This is not a figment of the imagination: I saw him! I saw him myself. That man there, fighting. At the end, at six o’clock in the morning, the church opened, and he entered to salute Our Lady: all night “fighting”, and then he returned home. When he arrived he looked for his wife but could not find her. And he thought: “She has left us. No, Our Lady cannot do this to me”. Then he found her, smiling as she said: “I don’t know what happened. The doctors said that something changed, and now she is cured”. That man, fighting with prayer, received the grace of Our Lady. Our Lady listened to him. And I saw this: prayer works miracles, because prayer goes directly to the heart of the tenderness of God, who loves us like a father. And when he does not grant us a grace, he will grant us another that in time we will see. But always, it is necessary to battle in prayer to ask for grace. Yes, at times we ask for a grace we do not need, but we ask for it without truly wanting it, without fighting. But serious things are not asked for this way. Prayer is combat, and the Lord is always with us.

Jesus is always with us: if in a moment of blindness we cannot perceive his presence, we will succeed in the future. We will also end up repeating the same sentence that the patriarch Jacob said one day: “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it” (Gen 28:16). At the end of our life, looking back, we too will be able to say: “I thought I was alone, but I was not: Jesus was with me”. We will all be able to say this.

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	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	Razor	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
							Ivan	

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



The Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma: 216-741-8773

Administrator: Bishop Robert Pipta

Chancellor: Rev. Gary Yanus

Chief Finance Officer: Matthew McDonald

Vocations Director: Rev. John Russell

Safe Environment Coordinator: Fr. Andrew Nagrant

Safe Environment Victim Assistance Coordinator: Kathleen McComb

FROM THE EPARCHY OF PARMA



The **Byzantine Youth Rally** provides Eastern Catholic faith formation and fraternity for all teens (ages 13-18) growing up in the Byzantine Catholic tradition. Together with their peers, youth actively engage in living, growing in, and promoting the Byzantine Catholic tradition.

All youth are given the opportunity to gather from across the country for our biennial national Byzantine Youth Rally or a Rally in our Eparchy. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, form lasting relationships, pray, grow spiritually, listen to inspiring talks from our Byzantine leaders, support one another in the Faith, and just have fun. Scan the QR code at left for more information and to register.

The next Byzantine Youth Rally will take place July 9-12, 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio!

YOUNG ADULT ANNUAL SUMMER RETREAT

Hosted annually at St. Mary's Parish in Marblehead, Ohio, the 2026 gathering—July 23–26, 2026 (Thursday–Sunday)—will mark the Byzantine Young Adult 6th Annual Retreat. The weekend dedicates a full day to each of our pillars—service, socializing, and spirituality—with a hands-on service project launching the retreat on Thursday. What began with 11 retreatants in 2021 has become our signature event, flourishing in both participation and coordination each year.



This year's theme is "Love One Another." Scan the QR code at the right for information and registration.

For general inquiries, please email byzantineyoungadults@gmail.com

FAMILY LITURGY & LIFE CAMP - Experience a week filled with joy, prayer, and unforgettable memories at our Eparchy's Annual Family Liturgy & Life Camp. The videos below beautifully capture what makes this gathering so special—families praying together, playing together, learning together, and growing together in a vibrant, faith-filled community.

This year's camp held August 9–14, 2026, promises the same spirit of connection and renewal that so many have come to love. Below, hear firsthand from parishioners Jon and Alison Sedlak and Laura Ustanovska, whose testimonials reflect the deep impact this week has on families across the Eparchy.

Come be part of a community where faith comes alive, friendships flourish, and families encounter Christ in a joyful and meaningful way!

Registration will be open until July 9, 2026. If registration has closed, and you are still interested in participating in this year's camp, please contact familycamp@parma.org to see if there is any last-minute availability.