



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

June 21, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	June 21	9:30am	3 rd Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Fathers</i>	<i>for the Faithful</i>
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Tue	June 23	6:00pm	Vigil Liturgy for the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist	
Wed	June 24	<i>Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist</i>		
		9:00am	Divine Liturgy	
Thu	June 25	6:00pm	Akathistos	
Fri	June 26	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	
Sat	June 27	6:00pm	Vespers	
Sun	June 28	9:30am	3 rd Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	

Readings for the week of June 21, 2026

		<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun	June 21	Rom 6:18-23	Matt 8:5-13
Mon	June 22	Rom 12:4-5 & 15-21	Matt 12:9-13
Tue	June 23	Rom 14:9-18	Matt 12:14-16 & 22-30
Wed	June 24	Rom 13:11-14:4	Luke 1:5-25, 57-68 & 76-80
Thu	June 25	Rom 15:17-29	Matt 12:46-13:3
Fri	June 26	Rom 16:1-16	Matt 13:4-9
Sat	June 27	Rom 8:14--21	Matt 9:9-13
Sun	June 28	Rom 10:1-10	Matt 8:28-9:3

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 21	11:15am	Father's Day Social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Sat	June 27	1:00pm	Women's Ministry at Schimmoeller's
		4:00pm	Ge'ez Women's Club meeting
		6:00pm	Ge'ez choir practice
Sun	June 28	11:15am	Social; Knights of Columbus presentation @ social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social



TODAY, we will honor all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers and fathers-to-be at our parish social. All are welcome.

ALL PDHC AND KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BABY BOTTLES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH BY TODAY Please turn in the bottles to the plastic container on the table in the vestibule, filled or empty all must be returned.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY – 1:00pm Saturday, June 27th at Schimmoeller's

JUNE 28TH DURING THE PARISH SOCIAL - Gary Anderson, a financial representative from K of C will be providing a presentation to the parish during the social. Gary will offer the parishioners at St. John Chrysostom an introduction into the products the Knights offer. These products are pro-life and will never invest in organizations that promote anything contrary to Church teaching.

The Office will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 3, 2026.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE AUGUST 14TH – We are continuing our visitation of various churches with a Parish Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Mariapoch. We will meet at Mariapoch during the Annual pilgrimage on August 14th. The schedule is as follows

- 12 Noon Sixth Hour, followed by lunch at the Café (individual payment)
 - 1:30 PM Children Activity – Tent area
 - 1:30 PM Guest Speaker Talk, Nicholas Boros, History of Mariapoch
 - 3:00 PM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, Bishop Robert Pipta
 - 5:00 PM Café opens for dinner
- MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE PILGRIMAGE

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.

ORIENTALE LUMEN XXX CONFERENCE - The 30th Orientale Lumen Conference will take place on July 13-15 at the St. John Paul II Shrine and Retreat House in Washington, DC. The theme will be "Ecumenical Crossroad: Consensus Achieved – What's Next?" Speakers will include Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop Flavio Pace from the Vatican, Bishop John Michael Botean (Romanian Greek Catholic), Bishop Anthony Vrame (Greek Orthodox), and Lector Jack Figel, Founder of the Conferences. The new papal nuncio, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, and Metropolitan Tikhon, primate of the Orthodox Church in America, will attend some sessions. Video lectures will also be shown by Archbishop Borys Gudziak (Ukrainian Greek Catholic), Metropolitan Job of Pisidia

(Ecumenical Patriarchate) and Archimandrite Cyril Hovorun (Orthodox Church of Ukraine). Register for this in-person event and get to mingle with high Church officials here: <https://olfoundation.net/upcoming-events/orientale-lumen-xxx/>

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.

Annual Eparchial Pilgrimage 2026 – Shrine of Mariapoch

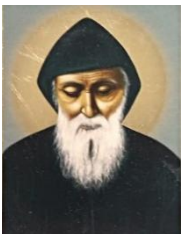
“Theotokos: Our Advocate for Peace”

Saturday, August 14th through Sunday, August 15th. 12:00pm Opening/water blessing – Main Chapel. The opportunity for Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Repentance (Confession) will be available throughout the pilgrimage.

Tent camping IS permitted by the southern tree line. Food will be available for purchase at the listed times only. Please bring a chair/blanket, and a friend.

stern Treasures Gift Shop behind the Café

Questions? Ask Deacon Greg Loya, Administrator: gregloya@yahoo.com, or 216-272-6790 Our website: <https://parma.org/shrine-of-mariapoch>



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

Distraction, time of barrenness, sloth

Continuing along the same lines of the Catechism, in this catechesis we refer to the lived experience of prayer, trying to show some very common difficulties, which must be identified and overcome. Praying is not easy: many difficulties present themselves in prayer. It is necessary to know them, recognize them and overcome them. The first problem that emerges to those who pray is distraction (cf. CCC, 2729). You start to pray and then your mind wanders, it wanders all over the world; your heart is here, your mind is there ... distraction from prayer. Prayer often co-exists with distraction. Indeed, the human mind struggles to dwell for long on a single thought. We all experience this constant whirlwind of images and illusions in perpetual motion, which accompanies us even during sleep. And we all know that it is not good to follow this inclination towards disorder.

The battle to achieve and maintain concentration does not relate only to prayer. If one does not attain a sufficient level of concentration, one cannot study profitably, nor can one work well. Athletes know that contests are not won solely through physical training, but also with mental discipline: above all, with the capacity to concentrate and to remain focused.

Distractions are not to blame, but they must be fought. In the heritage of our faith there is a virtue that is often forgotten, but which is quite present in the Gospel. It is called "vigilance". And Jesus said, "Keep vigil. Pray". The Catechism mentions it explicitly in its instruction on prayer (cf. no. 2730). Jesus often calls the disciples to the duty of a sober life, guided by the thought that sooner or later He will return, like a bridegroom from a wedding or a master from a journey. Not knowing the day and hour of his return, however, all the minutes of our lives are precious and should not be wasted on distractions. In a moment that we do not know, the voice of our Lord will resound: on that day, blessed will be those servants whom he will find diligent, still focused on what really matters. They did not stray in pursuit of every attraction that entered their minds, but tried to walk the right path, doing good and performing their own task.

This is distraction: the imagination wanders, it wanders and wanders.... Saint Teresa used to call this imagination that wanders and wanders in prayer "the madwoman in the house"; it is like a madwoman that leads you to wander here and there ... We must stop it and put it in a cage, with attention.

The time of barrenness warrants a different discourse. The Catechism describes it this way: "the heart is separated from God, with no taste for thoughts, memories, and feelings, even spiritual ones. This is the moment of sheer faith clinging faithfully to Jesus in his agony and in his tomb" (n. 2731). Barrenness makes us think of Good Friday, at night, and Holy Saturday, the whole day: Jesus is not there, he is in the tomb; Jesus is dead: we are alone. And this is the "mother-thought" of barrenness. Often we do not know what the reasons for barrenness are: it may depend on ourselves, but also on God, who permits certain situations in the exterior or interior life. Or, at times, it may be a headache or a sick feeling that stops us from entering into prayer.

Often we do not really know the reason. Spiritual teachers describe the experience of faith as a continuous alternation between times of consolation and desolation; there are times when everything is easy, while others are marked by great weightiness. Very often, when we encounter a friend, we say, "How are you?" — "Today I am down". Very often we are "down", or rather, we don't have feelings, we don't have consolation, we can't do it. They are those grey days ... and there are so many of them in life! But the danger is having a grey heart: when this "feeling down" reaches the heart and sickens it ... and there are people who live with a grey heart. This is terrible: one cannot pray, one cannot feel consolation with a grey heart! Or, one cannot emerge from spiritual barrenness with a grey heart. The heart must be open and luminous, so that the light of the Lord can enter. And if it does not enter, we need to wait for it, with hope. But do not close it up in greyness.

Then, a different thing is sloth, another flaw, another vice, which is a real temptation against prayer and, more generally, against the Christian life. Sloth is "a form of depression due to lax ascetical practice, decreasing vigilance, carelessness of heart" (CCC, 2733). It is one of the seven "deadly sins" because, fuelled by conceit, it can lead to the death of the soul. So what can we do in this succession of enthusiasms and discouragements? One must learn to always walk. True progress in spiritual life does not consist in multiplying ecstasies, but in being able to persevere in difficult times: walk, walk, walk on.... and if you are tired, stop a bit and then start walking again. But with

perseverance. Let us remember Saint Francis' parable on perfect joy: it is not in the infinite fortunes rained down from Heaven that a friar's skill is measured, but in walking with consistency, even when one is not acknowledged, even when one is mistreated, even when everything has lost its initial flavour. All the saints have passed through this "dark valley", and let us not be scandalized if, in reading their diaries, we find accounts of evenings of listless prayer, lived without enthusiasm. We must learn to say: "Even though You, my God, seem to be doing everything to make me stop believing in You, I still continue to pray to You". Believers never shut off prayer! It may sometimes resemble the prayer of Job, who does not accept that God treats him unjustly, protests and calls him to judgment. But, very often, even protesting before God is a way of praying or, as that little old lady said, "getting angry with God is a way to pray too", because a son often gets angry with his father: it is a way of relating to the father; since he recognizes him as "father", he gets angry....

And we too, who are far less holy and patient than Job, know that in the end, at the end of this time of desolation, during which we have raised silent cries to Heaven and many times have asked "why?", God will answer us. Do not forget the prayer that asks "why?". It is the prayer of children when they begin not to understand things, which psychologists call "the why stage", because the child asks his father, "Daddy, why? Daddy, why? Daddy, why?" But let us be careful: the child does not listen to his father's answer. The father starts to reply, but the child interrupts with another "why?". He simply wants to draw his father's attention to himself; and when we get a little angry with God and start asking why?, we are attracting our Father's heart towards our misery, towards our difficulty, towards our life. But yes, have the courage to say to God: "But why?". Because at times, getting a little angry is good for you, because it reawakens that son-father, daughter-father relationship we must have with God. And he will accept even our harshest and bitterest expressions with a father's love, and will consider them as an act of faith, as a prayer.

Pope Francis, 5/19/2021



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

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