



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

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

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Office Hours M-W-F 9:00a – 1:00p

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

August 16, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun Aug 16 9:00am Divine Liturgy

for the Faithful

Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch following Liturgy

12:00pm Ge'ez Divine Liturgy

Wed Aug 19 9:00am Divine Liturgy

+Esther Imhoff by B. Chellis

Thu Aug 20 6:00pm Divine Liturgy

+Estalita Fontanila by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Mnich

Fri Aug 21 6:00pm Divine Liturgy

Health of Brad Tucker by G. McCallister

Sat Aug 22 6:00pm Vespers

Sun Aug 23 9:30am Third Hour

10:00am Divine Liturgy

for the Faithful

12:00pm Ge'ez Divine Liturgy

2:30pm Ukrainian Divine Liturgy

Readings for the week of August 16, 2026

Epistle

Gospel

Sun	Aug 16	1 Cor 15:1-11
Mon	Aug 17	2 Cor 8:7-15
Tue	Aug 18	2 Cor 8:16-9:5
Wed	Aug 19	2 Cor 9:12-10:7
Thu	Aug 20	2 Cor 10:7-18
Fri	Aug 21	2 Cor 11:5-21
Sat	Aug 22	1 Cor 2:5-9
Sun	Aug 23	1 Cor 16:13-24

Matt	19:16-26
Mark	3:6-12
Mark	3:13-19
Mark	3:20-27
Mark	3:28-35
Mark	4:1-9
Matt	22:15-22
Matt	21:33-42

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

Parish Activities this week

Sun	Aug 16	Following liturgy, Parish Pilgrimage to Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch in Burton, OH 2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Wed	Aug 19	6:00pm	Apostolic Fathers Study Group
Sat	Aug 22	4:00pm	Ge'ez Women's Club mtg
		6:00pm	Ge'ez Choir practice
Sun	Aug 23	11:15am	Parish social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
		3:30pm	Ukrainian Social

DIVINE LITURGY TODAY, AUGUST 16TH, BEGINS AT 9:00AM. There will be no 3rd Hour. We are continuing our visitation of various churches and shrines with a Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch in Burton, OH. There is no social following Liturgy so that we can meet at the Shrine during the Annual pilgrimage.

NOTE: - The office will be closed the week of August 24-28

APOSTOLIC FATHERS STUDY GROUP

Have you ever wondered how the earliest Christians understood the teachings of the Apostles? Have you wanted to deepen your knowledge of the faith by reading the writings of those who personally knew—or were taught by—the Apostles themselves?

You are warmly invited to join our **Apostolic Fathers Study Group**, where we will read and discuss the writings of the earliest generations of the Church. Together, we will explore the lives, teachings, and spiritual wisdom of figures such as **St. Clement of Rome, St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Polycarp of Smyrna, the author of the Didache, the Epistle of Barnabas, the Shepherd of Hermas**, and others.

This study group is open to anyone who desires to grow in faith, whether you are new to the writings of the early Church or have studied them before. No prior knowledge is required—only a willingness to read, learn, ask questions, and participate in thoughtful discussion.

Starting from August 12 through September 16, on Wednesday evenings from 6pm -7pm, in the Hall.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING - Saint John Chrysostom would like to invite the boys and young men of the parish to consider becoming altar servers. This is a profound and honored tradition in the church to grow deeper in faith by serving the clergy directly in the sanctuary. Altar servers aide the clergy, ensure the Eucharistic liturgy is celebrated with reverence and assist the congregation to pray the liturgy with attention and fervor. Any young man in the parish aged 9 or above is welcome to become a server. Adults are encouraged also to serve.

Anyone or their parents that are interested please contact the parish office, so we have an accurate count. You may also reach out to Drew or Keith as well for more information. We would like to have a training session on Saturday, August 29th following the 4PM liturgy for the Beheading of John the Baptist.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

ECF - As the new school year approaches, we are thrilled to launch the new ECF cycle with prayer and much fun! **ECF Kickoff is September 13th** and **the first day of classes is September 20th**. ECF enrollment forms will be sent out via email in the next few days. There will be hard copies available in the vestibule as well every Sunday.

Make sure you fill them out with all the required details.

PARENTS: we ask you to volunteer as an aide during the ECF lessons. Each group requires one aide; therefore, we ask the parents to sign up. Aides help the children with the in-class activities, oversee behavior, help the teacher, and help with cleaning up after the class. The aide is not teaching!!!

ECF CLASSROOM CLEANUP — We invite parents to help clean up and prepare the basement classrooms for the current ECF year. This will be following the 4:00pm Liturgy on August 29th. Cleaning supplies and refreshments will be provided.

HELP FOR UKRAINE: Last year's summer collection allowed our Parish to send tourniquets and other medical aids to Ukraine. We invite you to share again some spare cents for the same purpose. You can use our PayPal option on the Parish website, checks (written to St. John Chrysostom Church) or cash put in the collection boxes in church. Your prayers and generous help are highly appreciated! Mark your donation with "**HELP FOR UKRAINE**".



"The wind blows where it wishes". Where there is the Spirit of God, there is freedom

In today's catechesis, I would like to reflect with you on the name by which the Holy Spirit is called in the Bible.

The first thing we know of a person is their name. It is by their name that we address them, that we distinguish and remember them. The third Person of the Trinity also has a name: he is called the Holy Spirit. But "Spirit" is the Latinised version. The name of the Spirit, the one by which the first recipients of revelation knew him, by which the prophets, the psalmists, Mary, Jesus, and the Apostles invoked him, is *Ruach*, which means breath, wind, air.

In the Bible, a name is so important that it is almost identified with the person himself. To sanctify the name of God is to sanctify and honour God himself. It is never a merely conventional designation: it always says something about the person, their origin, or their mission. This is also the case with the name *Ruach*. It contains the first fundamental revelation about the Person and function of the Holy Spirit.

It was precisely by observing the wind and its manifestations that the biblical writers were led by God to discover a "wind" of a different nature. It is not by accident that at Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles accompanied by the "rush of a mighty wind" (cf. Acts 2:2). It was as if the Holy Spirit wanted to put his signature on what was happening.

What, then, does his name, *Ruach*, tell us about the Holy Spirit? The image of the wind serves first of all to express the Holy Spirit's *power*. "Spirit and power", or "power of the Spirit" is a recurring combination throughout the Bible. For the wind is an overwhelming force, an indomitable force, capable even of moving oceans.

Again, however, to discover the full meaning of the realities of the Bible, one must not stop at the Old Testament, but come to Jesus. Alongside power, Jesus will highlight another characteristic of the wind: its *freedom*. To Nicodemus, who visits him at night, Jesus solemnly says: "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit" (Jn 3:8).

The wind is the only thing that absolutely cannot be bridled, cannot be "bottled up" or put in a box. We seek to "bottle up" the wind or put it in a box: it's not possible. It is free. To presume to enclose the Holy Spirit in concepts, definitions, theses or treatises, as modern rationalism has sometimes attempted to do, is to lose it, nullify it, or reduce it to the purely human spirit, to a simple spirit. There is, however, a similar temptation in the ecclesiastical field, and it is that of wanting to enclose the Holy Spirit in canons, institutions, definitions. The Spirit creates and inspires institutions, but he himself cannot be "institutionalised," "objectified". The wind blows "where it wills"; in the same way the Spirit distributes his gifts "as he wills" (1 Cor 12:11).

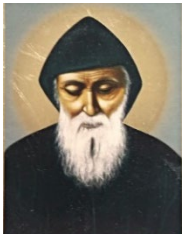
Saint Paul made all of this the fundamental law of Christian action: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Cor 3:17), he said. A free person, a free Christian, is one who has the Spirit of the Lord. This is a very special freedom, quite different from what is commonly understood. It is not freedom to do what one wants, but the freedom to freely do what God wants! Not freedom to do good or evil, but freedom to do good and do it freely, that is, by attraction, not compulsion. In other words, the freedom of children, not of slaves.

Saint Paul was well aware of the abuse or misunderstanding that can arise from this freedom. In fact, he wrote to the Galatians: "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another" (Gal 5:13). This is a freedom that expresses itself in what appears to be its opposite; it is expressed in service, and in service is true freedom.

We know when this freedom becomes a "pretext for the flesh". Paul gives an ever relevant list: "fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like" (Gal 5:19-21). But so too is the freedom that allows the rich to exploit the poor, an ugly freedom that allows the strong to exploit the weak, and everyone to exploit the environment with impunity. And this is an ugly freedom, it is not the freedom of the Spirit.

Brothers and sisters, where do we obtain this freedom of the Spirit, so contrary to the freedom of selfishness? The answer is in the words Jesus addressed one day to his listeners: “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (*John 8:36*). The freedom that Jesus gives us. Let us ask Jesus to make us, through his Holy Spirit, truly free men and women. Free to serve, in love and joy.

Pope Francis, 6/5/2024



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

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.



Eparchial Assembly 2026

The Eparchy of Parma has set sail on an exciting journey of mission, vision, and strategic planning—revisiting the same creative, daring, visionary, charismatic, and evangelical spirit that shaped our founding in 1969 and the early 1970s. This journey calls all clergy and faithful to courageously and selflessly board the “**Holy Flotilla**” of **Missionary DiscipleSHIP, Authentic WorSHIP, Godly FellowSHIP, and Sacrificial StewardSHIP.**

In this spirit, the Eparchy calls its faithful to the **2026 Eparchial Assembly**, where clergy, monastics, and lay members will gather to pray, listen, and discern the pastoral needs of our Church. Rooted in synodality and hope, the Assembly strengthens our unity and helps guide the future of our Eparchy as we renew Christ’s mission in our communities.

Intentionally designed to foster genuine, prayerful interaction among all who participate, offering a blessed opportunity for praying, listening, and learning together as the convoked Assembly prepares for its canonical gathering immediately afterward.

Don't miss this opportunity to gather as one Eparchy—listening to the Holy Spirit, strengthening our bonds, and renewing our shared mission in Christ.

Charting the Course – Renewing Byzantine Catholic Life in the Heartland

October 17-19, 2026 – St. John Chrysostom – Columbus, Ohio

The Eparchy of Parma invites all clergy and faithful to take part in the open **Preparatory Gathering of the 2026 Eparchial Assembly** – a shared moment of praying, listening and learning as we set sail on a renewed journey of mission and vision. All are welcome to board the “**Holy Flotilla**” of **DiscipleSHIP, WorSHIP, FellowSHIP, and StewardSHIP** as we chart the course forward for our church.

This public first phase offers the whole Eparchy a blessed opportunity to gather as one, strengthening our unity and deepening our synodal spirit. It also provides essential formation and context for those who have been formally convoked and will continue into the invitation-only canonical gathering that follows.

Registration is required. Participation in the liturgical services, presentations, and discussions is offered free of charge to all attendees. Meal tickets may be purchased for those who wish to join the community meals; otherwise, participants are welcome to make their own dining arrangements off-site.

www.parma.org/eparchial-assembly

PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, COLUMBUS - if you plan on attending, please reach out to the Parish Office. Our Parish will cover your participation expenses. You don't need to sign up using the official link.

If you would like to volunteer with the organization of the event, please let us know.

AGENDA FOR PUBLIC SESSIONS

Saturday, October 17

- 5PM Great Vespers
- 6PM Dinner (*Meal ticket purchase required*)
- 7PM **Presentation: Eparchial Synodality with Benjamin Auton**
- 7:45PM **Presentation: Fellowship and the Lay-Apostolate with Jonathan Shellnut**
- 8:30PM **Discussion: Walking Together as Missionary Disciples**
- 9PM Social (Interactive Dance & Music)

Sunday, October 18

- 9AM Festal Matins (Bishop Robert with Bishop Fernandez of Columbus concelebrating)
- 10AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (Bishop Robert preaches; Bishop Fernandez of Columbus concelebrates)
- 12PM Lunch
- 1:30PM **Presentation: Sharing the Gospel of God's Wonder with Kieran McNulty, Ph.D.**
- 3PM **Presentation: Return to Authentic Worship and a Rule of Personal Prayer with Bishop Robert**
- 4:30PM **Presentation: Stewardship and Tithing with Laura Ieraci-Summerson**
- 6PM Dinner (*Meal ticket purchase required*)
- 7PM Chat on Liturgical Chant with Bishop Robert

Monday, October 19 – Thursday, October 22 – By invitation - clergy, monastics, and designated delegates