



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

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

August 23, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	Aug 23	9:30am	Third Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
		2:30pm	Ukrainian Divine Liturgy	
Wed	Aug 26	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	
Thu	Aug 27	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	<i>+William Hospodar by Pitt Family</i>
Fri	Aug 28	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	<i>+Estalita Fontanila by Mnich family</i>
Sat	Aug 29	Beheading of John the Baptist		
		4:00pm	Divine Liturgy	
Sun	Aug 30	9:30am	Third Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	

Readings for the week of August 23, 2026

		<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun	Aug 23	1 Cor 16:13-24	Matt 21:33-42
Mon	Aug 24	2 Cor 12:10-19	Mark 4:10-23
Tue	Aug 25	2 Cor 12:20-13:2	Mark 4:24-34
Wed	Aug 26	2 Cor 13:3-13	Mark 4:35-41
Thu	Aug 27	Gal 1:1-10 & 1:20-2:5	Mark 5:1-20
Fri	Aug 28	Gal 2:6-10	Mark 5:22-25 & 35-6:1
Sat	Aug 29	Acts 13:25-33	Mark 6:14-29
Sun	Aug 30	2 Cor 1:21-2:4	Matt 22:1-14

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 23	11:15am	Parish social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
		3:30pm	Ukrainian Social
Wed	Aug 26	6:00pm	Apostolic Fathers Study Group
Sat	Aug 29	5:00pm	Altar server training in church
		6:00pm	Ge'ez Choir practice
Sun	Aug 30	11:15am	Parish social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social

NOTE: - THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ALL THIS WEEK

APOSTOLIC FATHERS STUDY GROUP - through September 16, on Wednesday evenings from 6pm -7pm, in the Hall.

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.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING following 4:00pm Liturgy on Saturday, August 29th - 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.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

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

2026-27 ECF YEAR

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 are being sent out via email, if you have not received a digital copy there will be hard copies available in the church vestibule every Sunday. If you wish a digital copy, please email the office at stjohnbyz@hotmail.com.

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!!!

PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, COLUMBUS - if you plan on attending the Eparchial Assembly in October, **please email the Parish Office BY September 4th**. Our Parish will cover your meal expenses. You don't need to sign up using the official link.

After September 4th, you will need to use the Parma link to sign up and pay.

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



“All Scripture is inspired by God” Knowing God's love through God's words

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning, welcome!

Let us continue the catechesis on the Holy Spirit who guides the Church towards Christ our hope. He is the guide. Last time we contemplated the work of the Spirit in creation; today we will see it in *revelation*, in which the *Sacred Scripture* is witness inspired by God and authoritative.

The Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy contains this statement: “*All Scripture is inspired by God*” (3:16). And another passage in the New Testament says: “*men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God*” (2 Pt 1:21). This is the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, which we proclaim as an article of faith in the Creed, when we say that the Holy Spirit “has spoken through the prophets”. The divine inspiration of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures, is also the one who explains and makes them perennially living and active. From *inspired*, he makes them *inspiring*. The Sacred Scriptures “as inspired by God”, says Vatican Council II, “and committed once and for all to writing ... impart the word of God Himself without change, and make the voice of the Holy Spirit resound in the words of the prophets and Apostles” (21). In this way the Holy Spirit continues, in the Church, the action of the Risen Jesus who, after Easter, “opened the minds of the disciples to understand the Scriptures” (cf. Lk 24:45).

Indeed, it can happen that in a certain passage of the Scripture, that we have read many times without particular emotion, one day we read it in an atmosphere of faith and prayer, and then that text is unexpectedly illuminated, it speaks to us, it sheds light on a problem we are living, it makes God’s will for us clear in a certain situation. To what is this change due, if not to an enlightenment of the Holy Spirit? The words of the Scripture, under the action of the Spirit, become luminous; and in those cases, we touch with our own hands how true is the statement in the Letter to the Hebrews: “*The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword*” (4:12).

Brothers and sisters, the Church is nourished by the spiritual reading of the Sacred Scripture, that is, by reading under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that inspired it. At its centre, like a beacon that illuminates everything, there is the event of the death and resurrection of Christ, which fulfils the plan of salvation, realizes all the figures and the prophecies, unveils all the hidden mysteries and offers the true key to reading the entire Bible. The death and resurrection of Christ is the beacon that illuminates all the Bible, and it also illuminates our life. Revelation describes all of this with the image of the Lamb that breaks the seals of the book “written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals” (cf. 5:1-9), that is, the Scriptures of the Old Testament. The Church, Bride of Christ, is the authorized interpreter of the inspired text of the Scriptures; the Church is the mediator of its authentic proclamation. Since the Church is gifted with the Holy Spirit — this is why she is the interpreter — she is the “pillar and bulwark of the truth” (1 Tm 3:15). Why? Because she is inspired, held steady by the Holy Spirit. And the task of the Church is to help the faithful and those who seek the truth to interpret the biblical texts correctly.

One way of doing a spiritual reading of the Word of God is what is called the *lectio divina*, a word whose meaning we perhaps do not understand. It consists in dedicating a time of the day to the personal and meditative reading of a passage of the Scripture. And this is very important: every day, take the time to listen to, to meditate, reading a passage from the Scripture. And therefore, I recommend that you always have a pocket edition of the Gospel and keep it in your bag, in your pocket... So, when you are travelling, or have a little free time, you can take it and read it. This is very important for life. Get a pocket Gospel and read it once, twice, or whenever you have the chance throughout the day. But the quintessential spiritual reading of the Scriptures is the community reading in the Liturgy at Mass. There, we see how an event or a teaching, given by the Old Testament, finds its full expression in the Gospel of Christ. And the homily, that comment by the celebrant, must help to transfer the Word of God from the book to life. But for this, the homily must be brief: an image, a thought and a sentiment. The homily must not go on for more than eight minutes, because after that time, attention is lost and the people fall asleep, and they are right. A homily should be like that. And I want to say this to priests, who talk a lot, very often, and one does not understand what they are talking about. A brief homily: a thought, a sentiment and a cue for action, for what to do. No more than eight minutes. Because the homily must help transfer the Word of God from the book to life. And among the many words of God that we listen to every day in Mass or in the Liturgy of the Hours, there is always one that is meant especially for us. Something that touches the heart. Welcomed into the heart, it can illuminate our day and inspire our prayer. It is a question of not letting it fall on deaf ears!

Let us conclude with a thought that can help us to fall in love with the Word of God. Like certain pieces of music, the Sacred Scripture too has a base note that accompanies it from the beginning to the end, and this note is the love of God. “The whole Bible”, observes Saint Augustine, “does nothing but tell of God’s love”. [1] And Saint Gregory the Great defines the Scriptures as “a letter from God Almighty to His creature”, like a letter from a bridegroom to the bride, and exhorts us to “learn and know the heart of God in the words of God”. [2] “Through this revelation”, says Vatican Council II again, “the invisible God, out of the abundance of His love, speaks to men as friends and lives among them, so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself” (*Dei Verbum*, 2).

Dear brothers and sisters, keep reading the Bible! But do not forget the pocket Gospel: carry it in your bag, in your pocket, and at some moment during the day, read a passage. And this will bring you very close to the Holy Spirit, who is in the Word of God. May the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures and now breathes from them, help us to grasp this love of God in the concrete situations of life.

Pope Francis 6/12/2024



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	Charlene	Grabner	Angela	Merva	Mary Beth	Rogers	Conley	Family
William	Nataly	Grace	Dcn Jeff	Mierzejewski	Trey	Shearon	Jackson	Family
Charles	John	Griffen	Ed	Nyahay	Kathy	Slonka	Lippert	Family
Anna	Dora	Johnson	Anne	O'Halloran	Monica	Smith	Mazon	Family
John	Susan	Kaiser	Mic	O'Halloran	Scott	Smith	Mech	Intention
Vernal	James	Kester	John	Oshinski	Kim	Snow	Charyton	Intentions
							DeClue	Intentions

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

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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