



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

September 13, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	Sep 13	9:30am	Third Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
			Myrovanije with Oil of St. Charbel	
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Mon	Sep 14	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy – <i>Exaltation of The Holy Cross</i>	
Wed	Sep 16	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>+William Hospodar by the Pitt Family</i>
Fri	Sep 18	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	<i>+Estalita Fontanila by Mnich Family</i>
Sat	Sep 19	4:00pm	Vespers	
Sun	Sep 20	9:30am	Third Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	<i>for the Faithful</i>
			Myrovanije with Oil of St. Charbel	
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	

Readings for the week of September 13, 2026

		<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun	Sep 13	Gal 6:11-18	John 3:13-17
Mon	Sep 14	1 Cor 1:18-24	John 19:6-11, 13-21, 25-27, 30-35
Tue	Sep 15	Eph 2:19-3:7	Mark 11:11-23
Wed	Sep 16	Eph 3:8-21	Mark 11:23-26
Thu	Sep 17	Eph 4:14-19	Mark 11:27-33
Fri	Sep 18	Eph 4:17-25	Mark 12:1-12
Sat	Sep 19	1 Cor 1:26-29	John 8:21-30
Sun	Sep 20	Gal 2:16-20	Mark 8:34-9:1

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 - safeenvironment@parma.org

Safe Environment Victim Assistance Coordinator: Kathleen McComb - kmcccomb@parma.org

Parish Activities this week

Sun	Sep 13	11:15am	Parish social-ECF Kickoff
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Wed	Sep 16	6:00pm	Apostolic Fathers Study Group, Last session
Sat	Sep 19	6:00pm	Ge'ez Choir practice
Sun	Sep 20	11:15am	Parish social; 1 st ECF classes
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social



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. Parents, please bring your children and introduce them (and yourselves) to their teachers in the hall. **The first day of classes is September 20th.**

ECF enrollment forms will be available for those who have not yet registered.

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!!!



Support **Fr. Robert Jager** in the Priest **Axe Throwing Challenge!**

Fr. Robert is taking aim on **Thursday**, September 17th at **4:30 PM - 5:15 PM** in the St. Gabriel Radio AM 820 **Priest Axe Throwing Challenge to support local Catholic radio AM 820.** Every early donation earns extra throws for the participating priests. Show your support for Fr. Robert and the mission of Catholic radio across central Ohio by making a gift today at **StGabrielRadio.com**. Help Fr. Robert hit the bullseye while keeping faithful Catholic programming on the air!



ANNUAL BYZANTINE EPARCHIAL FALL WOMEN'S RENEWAL

Then God led forth his people like sheep, guided them like a flock through the wilderness. Psalm 78:52
Surrender to God and walk with Him daily, in humility and discipline. always seeking His will for your life.

November 13-15, 2026

LOCATION: The Lial Renewal Center | 5908 Davis Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571

REGISTRATION: \$265.00 single occupancy \$155.00 per person for dbl. occupancy (family only)

Scholarships available Reserve your space by October 31, 2026.

Late registrations increase to \$290

Online registration and payment is preferred @ <https://www.parma.org/retreats>



EASTERN CHURCHES SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2026

The 41st Eastern Churches Seminar will begin with a keynote lecture by Father Radu Bordeianu, Ph.D., professor of theology at Duquesne University, titled **"Yours or Mine: Why Do We Have Different Dates for Easter?"** The opening session on September 25th, will take place from 5–7 p.m. at St. Francis Chapel on the John Carroll University campus and will be followed by a complimentary pizza reception in the Lombardo Student Center Atrium.

The seminar will continue the following morning, September 26th, at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Brecksville, beginning at 10 a.m. with a moleben liturgical service followed by Father Bordeianu's presentation, **"Virtual Community? The Parish in a Technological Age,"** exploring the opportunities and challenges of cultivating Christian community in an increasingly digital world.

The seminar is presented by the Tuohy Center for Interreligious Understanding at John Carroll University, St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church, and the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. The program is free and open to the public. Registration is requested at jcu.edu/easternchurches.

NOTE that the Saturday portion of the seminar will take place at our very own St. Joseph Church, Brecksville, OH.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me”. The Holy Spirit in the Baptism of Jesus

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we reflect on the Holy Spirit who descends upon Jesus at the baptism in the Jordan, and spreads from Him into His body, which is the Church. In the Gospel of Mark, the scene of Jesus’ baptism is described thus: “In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased’” (Mk 1:9-11).

The entire Trinity met at that moment, on the banks of the Jordan! There is the Father, who is present with his voice; there is the Holy Spirit, who descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove; and there is he whom the Father proclaims to be his beloved Son, Jesus. It is a very important moment of Revelation, it is an important moment of salvation history. It will be good for us to reread this Gospel passage.

What happened that was so important at Jesus’ baptism that led all the Evangelists to recount it? We find the answer in the words Jesus utters, shortly afterwards, in the synagogue of Nazareth, clearly referring to the event in the Jordan: “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me*” (Lk 4:18).

In the Jordan, God the Father “anointed with the Holy Spirit”; that is, he consecrated Jesus as King, Prophet and Priest. Indeed, in the Old Testament, kings, prophets and priests were anointed with perfumed oil. In the case of Christ, instead of physical oil, there is the spiritual oil that is the Holy Spirit; instead of the symbol there is the reality: there is the Spirit himself who descends upon Jesus.

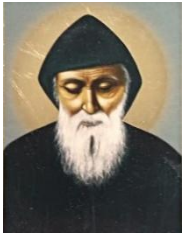
Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit ever since the first moment of his Incarnation. However, this was a “personal grace”, incommunicable; now, instead, with this *anointment*, he receives the fullness of the gift of the Spirit, but for his mission which, as the head, he will communicate to his body, which is the Church, and to every one of us. This is why the Church is the new “regal people, prophetic people, and priestly people”. The Hebrew term “Messiah” and the corresponding Greek “Christ” — *Christós*, both referring to Jesus, mean “anointed”. He was anointed with the oil of joy, anointed with the Holy Spirit. Our very name of “Christians” was explained by the Fathers in the literal sense: “Christian” means “anointed in imitation of Christ” (cf. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, *Mystagogical Catechesis*, III, 1).

There is a Psalm in the Bible that speaks of a perfumed oil, poured on the head of the high priest Aaron, and which descends to the hem of his robe (cf. Ps 133:2). This poetic image of the descending oil, used to describe the happiness of living together as brothers, has become a spiritual reality and a mystical reality in Christ and in the Church. Christ is the head, our High Priest, the Holy Spirit is the perfumed oil, and the Church is the body of Christ in which it spreads.

We have seen why the Holy Spirit, in the Bible, is symbolized by wind and, indeed, takes its very name, *Ruah* — wind — from it. It is also worth asking ourselves why it is symbolized by oil, and what practical lesson we can draw from this symbol. During Holy Thursday Mass, consecrating the oil known as “Chrism”, the bishop, referring to those who will receive the anointing in Baptism and Confirmation, says: “May those formed into a temple of your majesty by the holiness infused through this anointing and by the cleansing of the stain of their first birth be made fragrant with the innocence of a life pleasing to you”. This rite dates back to Saint Paul, who writes to the Corinthians: “For we are the aroma of Christ to God” (2 Cor 2:15). Anointment perfumes us, and a person who lives his anointment with joy makes the Church fragrant, makes the community fragrant, makes the family fragrant with this spiritual scent.

We know that, unfortunately, sometimes Christians do not spread the fragrance of Christ, but the bad odour of their own sin. And let us never forget: sin distances us from Jesus, sin makes us become bad oil. And the devil — let us not forget this — the devil usually enters via the pockets. Beware, beware. However, this must not distract us from the commitment to fulfil, as far as we are able and each in their own environment, this sublime vocation of being the good fragrance of Christ in the world. The fragrance of Christ emanates from the “fruits of the Spirit”, which are “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:22). Paul said this, and how good it is to find a person who has these virtues: a loving person, a joyful person, a person who makes peace, a magnanimous person, not stingy, a benevolent person who welcomes everyone, a good person. It is beautiful to find a good person, a faithful person, a meek person, who is not proud... If we cultivate these fruits, and encounter these people, without us realizing it, someone will smell some of the fragrance of the Spirit of Christ around us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us more aware that we are anointed, anointed by him.

Pope Francis 8/21/2024



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.

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



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.



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

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