



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 20, 2026

Confessions: one hour before liturgy or by appointment

Liturgical Schedule

Intention

Sun	Sep 20	9:30am	Third Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	for the Faithful
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
Fri	Sep 25	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	
Sat	Sep 26	4:00pm	Vespers	
Sun	Sep 27	9:30am	Third Hour	
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy	for the Faithful
		12:00pm	Ge'ez Divine Liturgy	
		2:30pm	Ukrainian Liturgy	

Readings for the week of September 20, 2026

		<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sun	Sep 20	Gal 2:16-20	Mark 8:34-9:1
Mon	Sep 21	Eph 4:25-32	Luke 3:19-22
Tue	Sep 22	Eph 5:20-26	Luke 3:23-4:1
Wed	Sep 23	Gal 4:22-31	Luke 1:5-25
Thu	Sep 24	Eph 5:33-6:9	Luke 4:16-22
Fri	Sep 25	Eph 6:18-24	Luke 4:22-30
Sat	Sep 26	1 Jn 4:12-19	John 19:25 & 21:24-25
Sun	Sep 27	2 Cor 9:6-11	Luke 5:1-11

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.

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 - kmccomb@parma.org

Parish Activities this week

Sun	Sep 20	11:15am	Parish social; 1 st ECF classes
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
Thu	Sep 24	10:00am	Pirohi making
Fri	Sep 25	10:00am	Pirohi making
Sat	Sep 26	4:00pm	Vespers
		4:00pm	Ge'ez Women's Club mtg
		6:00pm	Ge'ez Choir practice
Sun	Sep 27	11:15am	Parish social
		2:00pm	Ge'ez Social
		3:30pm	Ukrainian Social



PLEASE NOTE: The Wednesday and Thursday (Sept. 23 & 24) liturgies this week have been cancelled.

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF ECF CLASSES!

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!!!



You are cordially invited to attend the Ordination to the Holy Diaconate of Daniel Mark Garland, Jr. by the laying on of hands of His Excellency Most Reverend Bohdan J. Danylo, Bishop of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat, during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. October 1, 2026; 6:30 in the evening at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral; 5720 State Rd., Parma, OH 44134. Reception to follow. Please RSVP by September 23, 2026 to dmgarlandjr@yahoo.com

COMING UP

Sun. Sept. 27, 2:30pm – Ukrainian Divine Liturgy; social following

Sept. 30, 6:00pm – Vigil Divine Liturgy for the Protection of the Theotokos

NO LITURGIRES SCHEDULED for October 1st & 2nd

Sat. Oct 3, 3:00pm – Children's ECF in rectory basement classrooms; Adult ECF in hall

Sat. Oct 3, 4:00pm – Vespers

Sun. Oct 4, 11:45am – The Women's club and Men's club meetings will be held once a month on the first Sunday of the month. The clubs will meet at the same time in the rectory basement classrooms at 11:45am. If you are interested, please reach out to Dana Stasek or send an email to the Parish Office.



Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

The Holy Spirit, our ally in the fight against the spirit of evil

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Immediately after His baptism in the Jordan, Jesus “*was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil*” (Mt 4:1) – this is what the Gospel of Matthew says. The initiative is not Satan's, but God's. Going into the wilderness, Jesus obeys an inspiration of the Holy Spirit; He does not fall into an enemy snare, no, no! Once He has withstood the test, it is written, He returns to Galilee “*in the power of the Spirit*” (Lk 4:14).

In the wilderness, Jesus freed Himself *of* Satan, and now He can deliver *from* Satan. He freed Himself, He frees from Satan. It is what the Evangelists highlight with the numerous studies of deliverance from possession. Jesus says to His opponents: “*If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you*” (Mt 12:28). And Jesus casts out the demons, with the aspiration of the kingdom of God.

Nowadays we are witnessing a strange phenomenon regarding the devil. At a certain cultural level, it is held that he simply does not exist. He would be a symbol of the collective subconscious, or alienation; in short, a metaphor. But “*the cleverest ruse of the devil is to persuade you he does not exist!*”, as someone wrote (Charles Baudelaire). He is astute: he makes us believe that he does not exist, and in this way he dominates everything. He is cunning. And yet our technological

and secularized world is teeming with magicians, occultism, spiritualism, astrologers, sellers of spells and amulets, and unfortunately with real satanic sects. Driven out the door, the devil has re-entered, one might say, through the window. Driven out of faith, he re-enters with superstition. And if you are superstitious, you are unconsciously conversing with the devil. One does not converse with the devil.

The strongest proof of the existence of Satan is found not in sinners or the possessed, but in the saints! “And how can this be, Father?”. Yes, it is true that the devil is present and working in certain extreme and “inhuman” forms of evil and wickedness that we see around us. But by this route, though, it is practically impossible to reach, in individual cases, the certainty that it is truly him, given that we cannot know with precision where his action ends and our own evil begins. This is why the Church is so prudent and so rigorous in performing exorcism, unlike what happens, unfortunately, in certain films!

It is in the life of the saints, precisely there, that the devil is forced to come out into the open, to place himself “against the light”. All the saints, all the great believers, some more, some less, testify to their struggle with this obscure reality, and one cannot honestly assume that they were all deluded or mere victims of the prejudices of their time.

The battle against the spirit of evil is won as Jesus won it in the wilderness: by striking with the word of God. You see that Jesus does not converse with the devil, He never conversed with the devil. Either he casts him out, or condemns him, but He never converses. And in the wilderness, he replies not with His word, but with the Word of God. Brothers, sisters, never converse with the devil; when temptations present themselves: “But, this would be nice, that would be nice” – stop. Raise your heart to the Lord, pray to Our Lady and banish him, just as Jesus taught us how to banish him. Saint Peter also suggests another means, that Jesus did not need, but we do – vigilance. “Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pt 5:8). And Saint Paul says to us: “Give no opportunity to the devil” (Eph 4:27).

After Christ, on the cross, defeated forever the power of the “ruler of this world” (Jn 12:31), a Father of the Church said, “the devil is bound, like a dog on a chain; he cannot bite anyone except those who, defying the danger, go near him... He can bark, he can urge, but he can bite only those who want” [1]. If you are a fool and you go to the devil and say, “Ah, how are you?”, and everything, it ruins you. The devil – distance. One does not converse with the devil. One banishes him. Distance. And all of us, everyone, we have experience of how the devil approaches with some temptation. The temptation of the ten commandments: when we feel this, stop, keep your distance: do not approach the chained dog.

Modern technology, for example, besides the many positive resources that are to be appreciated, offers also countless means to “give an opportunity to the devil”, and many fall in the trap. Think of online pornography, behind which there is a flourishing market: we all know this. It is the devil at work, there. And this is a very widespread phenomenon, which Christians should beware of and strongly reject. Because any smartphone has access to this brutality, to this language of the devil: online pornography.

Awareness of the action of the devil in history should not discourage us. The final thought must be, also in this case, of trust and security: “I am with the Lord, be gone”. Christ overcame the devil and gave us the Holy Spirit to make His victory our own. The very action of the enemy can turn to our advantage, if with God's help we make it serve our purification. Let us therefore ask the Holy Spirit, in the words of the hymn Veni Creator:

Drive far away our wily Foe,
And Thine abiding peace bestow;
If Thou be our protecting Guide,
No evil can our steps betide”.

Beware, the devil is astute – but we Christians, with God's grace, are more astute than him.

Pope Francis, 9/25/2024



Midwest Marian Pilgrimage Oct. 2-4, 2026

For those who are burdened, come take rest under the veil of the Protection of the Mother of God.

A three-day pilgrimage for the whole family to grow in faith and fellowship with Bishop Robert Pipta of Parma, Ohio, at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church. Come pray at the main shrines of the Protection of the Mother of God and Mother of God Searcher for the Lost, as well as many smaller shrines dedicated to Mary. Admission is



[More Info & Registration Here](#)





Meals are \$10 per person. Children under age 5 eat free. Please register.

Eparchial Assembly 2026

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



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
Brian	Shannon	Williams					DeClue	Intentions

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.

