

# St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

5402 Acorn Street, Houston, Texas 77092

Pastor

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Confessions 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM Sundays or Upon Request

On the web: [www.stjohnchrysostom.com](http://www.stjohnchrysostom.com), on Facebook and Instagram

Live Streaming: [www.youtube.com/c/StJohnChrysostomByzantineCatholicHouston](http://www.youtube.com/c/StJohnChrysostomByzantineCatholicHouston)



## Altar Flowers

The flowers for the altar for today's Divine Liturgy are donated by SimplyBeautifulFlorist.com, 14520 Memorial Dr.

Call 281 558-0333 or email [Sbflowers101@gmail.com](mailto:Sbflowers101@gmail.com)

### *Condemn Ourselves for Our Sins, and to Forgive Others*

Two things therefore does He here require, both to condemn ourselves for our sins, and to forgive others; and the former for the sake of the latter, that this may become more easy (for he who considers his own sins is more indulgent to his fellow-servant); and not merely to forgive with the lips, but from the heart.

Let us not then thrust the sword into ourselves by being revengeful. For what grief has he who has grieved you inflicted upon you, like you will work unto yourself by keeping your anger in mind, and drawing upon yourself the sentence from God to condemn you? For if indeed you are watchful, and keepest yourself under control, the evil will come round upon his head, and it will be he that will suffer harm; but if you should continue indignant, and displeased, then yourself will undergo the harm not from him, but from yourself.

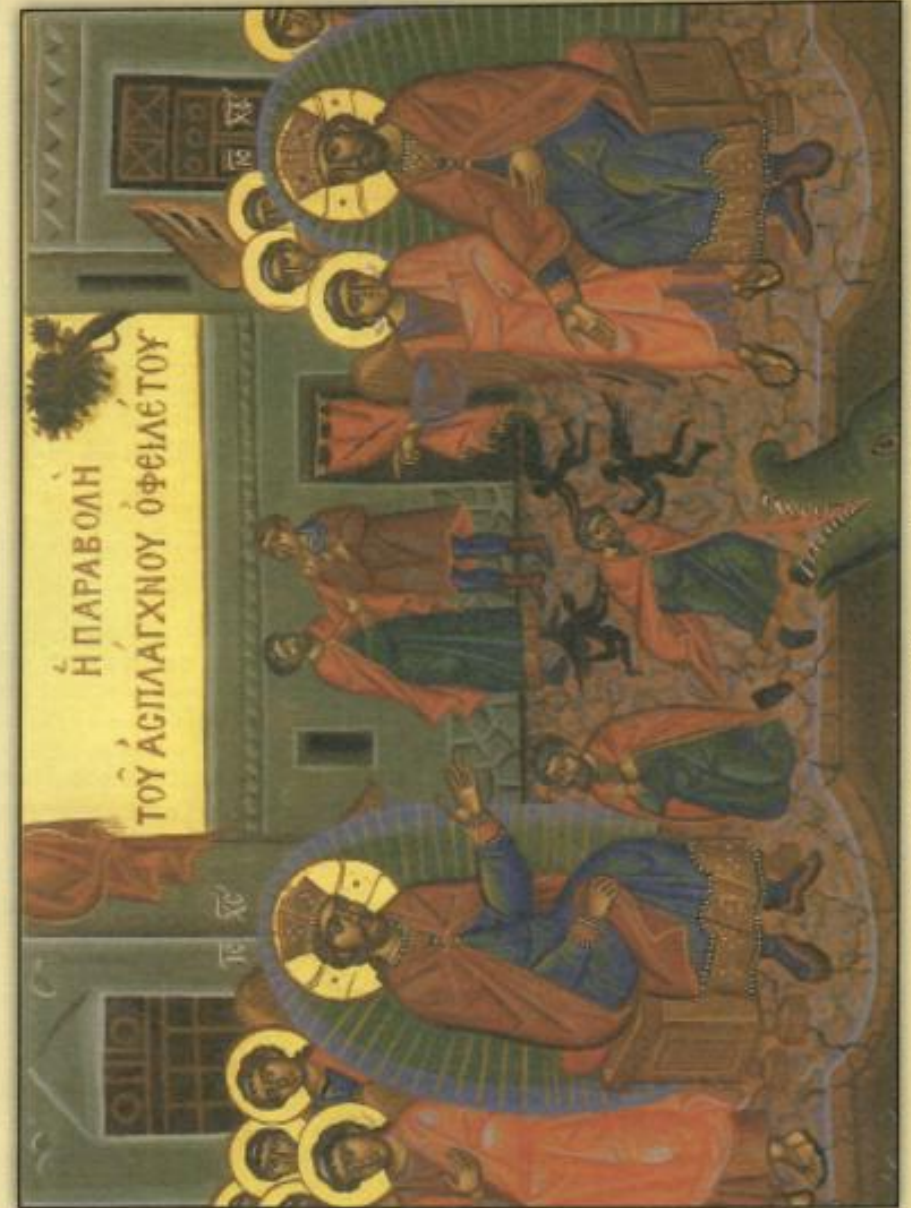
For if we be willing, no one shall be able to injure us, but even our enemies shall advantage us in the

greatest degree. And why do I speak of men? For what can be more wicked than the devil; yet nevertheless, even hence have we a great opportunity of approving ourselves; and Job shows it. But if the devil has become a cause of crowns, why are you afraid of a man as an enemy?

See then how much you gain, bearing meekly the spiteful acts of your enemies. First and greatest, deliverance from sins; secondly, fortitude and patience; thirdly, mildness and benevolence; for he that knows not how to be angry with them that grieve him, much more will he be ready to serve them that love him. Fourthly, to be free from anger continually, to which nothing can be equal. For of him that is free from anger, it is quite clear that he is delivered also from the despondency hence arising, and will not spend his life on vain labors and sorrows.

*St. John Chrysostom*

### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:23-25)*



## Bulletin for August 17<sup>th</sup> & August 24<sup>th</sup> 2025

<b>Friday</b> , August 15 <sup>th</sup> Dormition of the Theotokos	Phil 2:5-11; Lk 10-38-24 & 11:27-28 Tone 8	Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm +Nicholas Mankovic By Rita Irani
Sunday, August 17 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	1 Cor 4:9-16; Mt 17:14-23; Tone 1	Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM Madeline Minor, Health & Happiness by Fr. Tom & Pani Mary
Sunday, August 24 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	1 Cor 9:2-12; Mt 18:23-35; Tone 2	Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM
Sunday, August 31 <sup>st</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	1 Cor 15:1-11; Mt 19:16-26; Tone 3	Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM
Sunday, September 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross	Gal 6:11-18; Jn 3:13-17; Tone 4	Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM
<b>Monday</b> , September 8 <sup>th</sup> Birth of the Theotokos	Gal 6:11-18; Jn 3:13-17, Tone 4	Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm
Sunday, September 14 <sup>th</sup> Exaltation of the Holy Cross	1 Cor 1:18-24; Jn 19:6-11.13-21.25-27.30-35; Tone 5	Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM
Sunday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross	Gal 2:16-20; Mk 8:34-9:1; Tone 6	Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM

(S) Streamed. (O) Obligation. (H) Third Hour at 9:30 AM (M) Matins 9:00 AM

### Pray for our Sick & Homebound

Barbara Veres, Bill Torma, Elizabeth Van Den Heuvel, Leslie Bohannon, Kathryn Kowalik, Marianne Oprisko, Malak Bakkal, Sr. Sandy Atha, Ted & Pat Bojczuk, Margaret Hays, Winnie Pizzitola, Michael & Brenda Rosko

### New to St. John?

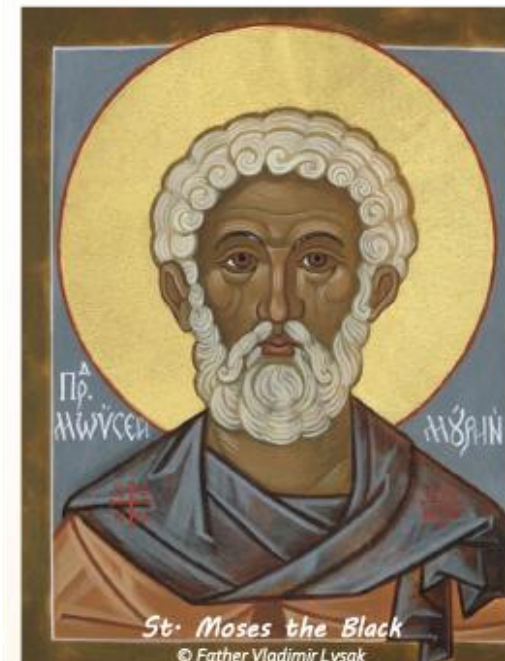
Please go to [www.stjohnchrysostom.com](http://www.stjohnchrysostom.com) & click *Register*.  
We will keep you informed of events in the life of the parish.

### Welcome to our Guests and Visitors!

A warm welcome to our guests and visitors. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the social hall after Divine Liturgy today.



By Kh. Jocelyn Abyad



This month's icon features St. Moses the Black, a 4th Century saint who lived in Egypt. His heritage was Ethiopian and his skin was very dark, hence the nickname St. Moses the Black. While he died a martyr and well respected Desert Father, his journey towards sainthood was a long and difficult one!

St. Moses was tall, muscular and wild in his youth. He towered over the people around him and his presence was intimidating. As a young man, he fell into a sinful lifestyle. He became the leader of a band of robbers, stealing from many people and even killing some of the people he robbed. This band of robbers worshiped a sun god and it is said that St. Moses used to pray, "O Sun!! If you are God, let me know it." But he would follow this prayer with, "And you O God whom I do not know, let me know you." After repeating these prayers

many times, God answered him! St. Moses heard a voice that told him "The monks of Wadi El-Natroun know the real God. Go to them and they will tell you." As soon as St. Moses heard this, he dropped his sword and ran to the desert dwelling monks and asked to be admitted into the monastery.

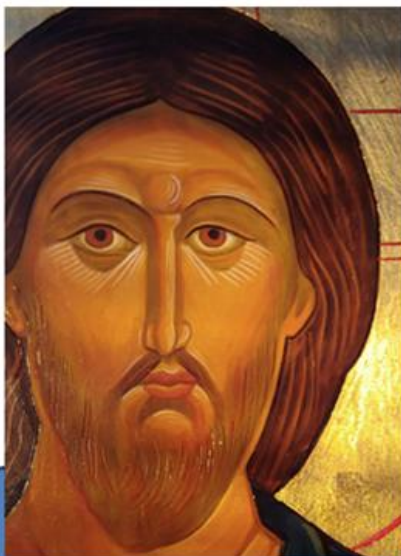
The monks were terrified and unsure of St. Moses' true intentions. But after many days of tears and pleading from the saint, he was accepted. St. Isidore the priest became his spiritual father and helped him to fight the many temptations of his past sinful life that still plagued him. St. Moses was very repentant of the life he had lived with the robbers and began to live a life of strict fasting and prayer. He withdrew into the desert even further from the monastery to live a solitary life.

Despite his aestheticism, St. Moses remained a physically powerful man. It is said that one day, four robbers came to his cell intending to do him harm. St. Moses overpowered and tied up all four men, but not wishing to harm them and fall back into his sinful ways, he carried them back to the monastery to his spiritual father and asked what to do with them. Seeing the former murderer and thief turned monk treat them with kindness, the four robbers were converted and joined St. Moses in the monastery.

Near the end of his life, St. Moses visited St. Macarius along with several other monks. At that time, St. Macarius prophesied that one of the men among them would soon be martyred. St. Moses responded that it would likely be him, because those who live by the sword often die by the sword as well. St. Moses was proven right not long after this conversation. His monastery was invaded and he was killed in the attack.

The monks of the monastery at Scetis buried St. Moses next to his spiritual father, St. Isidore and they remain there to this day. One of his most famous quotes is, "You fast, but Satan does not eat. You labor fervently, but Satan never sleeps. The only dimension with which you can outperform Satan is by acquiring humility, for Satan has no humility." May we all strive to attain humility and serve God as St. Moses did!





*Go into all the world  
and preach the gospel  
to every creature.*

*(Mk 16:15)*

## Adult Catechesis

**Begins Saturday  
September 27th  
10:30AM - 12:15 PM**

- ✓ Monthly Classes on Saturday Morning
- ✓ All Handouts & Materials Provided
- ✓ Catechism Available for Purchase
- ✓ Snacks During Breaks & Free Lunch

**Saint John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church**  
5402 Acorn Street, Houston, Texas 77092

Adult Catechesis is free, but you must register to attend



**Register Online:** [www.stjohnchrysostom.com/adult-catechesis](http://www.stjohnchrysostom.com/adult-catechesis)  
Or call 713 681-3580  
You may also email: [ECF@StJohnChrysostom.com](mailto:ECF@StJohnChrysostom.com)

→ For a complete schedule and list of 2025-2026 topics, visit  
<https://www.stjohnchrysostom.com/adult-education-parish>



## Events Calendar

Aug 17	<b>Dedication &amp; Blessing of Shrine/Icons to Our Martyred Hierarchs:</b> Bl. Theodore Romzha; Bl. Paul Peter Gojdich, Bl. Basil Hopko; Servant of God Alexander Chira
Sept 7	<b>Sunday School Begins!</b> Immediately after the 10 AM Liturgy. Refreshments in the school building for the children. Registration is required. <b>No “drop-ins” permitted.</b> Online registration is here: <a href="https://www.stjohnchrysostom.com/online-registration-1">https://www.stjohnchrysostom.com/online-registration-1</a>
Sept 14	<b>Sunday School.</b> Immediately after the 10 AM Liturgy. Refreshments in the school building for the children. Registration is required.
Sept 21	<b>Catechetical Sunday – Catechist Commissioning &amp; Blessing of Children</b> at 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy. Sunday School to follow, as usual.
Sept 27	<b>Adult Catechesis Class</b> 10:30am -12:15pm. Deep in the human heart is a profound longing for happiness. But what is happiness and why do we long for it? Can we attain happiness? For more information see the flyer in this Sunday’s bulletin.
Sept 28	<b>Sunday School.</b> Immediately after the 10 AM Liturgy <b>Parish-Wide Meeting.</b> In Social Hall after the 10 AM Liturgy

**How to sign up for FORMED:** FORMED brings beautiful and faithful Catholic content to parishes, families, and individuals. There is something for everyone here: award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kids' programming. Led by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press, and in collaboration with over 100 content providers, this site reaches more than one million subscribers worldwide and over 5,000 parishes in 180 dioceses. There is even a FORMED app for your phone. There is so much to see on FORMED, over 4,000 titles. I am sure there is something on FORMED that you will find helpful and entertaining. **Getting access to our parish subscription is easy.** Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and type in “St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church” and select the parish with our address—5402 Acorn Street Houston, TX and follow the rest of the instructions.

*Please Remember to Support Your Parish this Summer!*

During the summer, collections tend to go down while people are away for vacation. Expenses are often higher in summer as the electrical bill increases for cooling.

## Sunday Collection

August 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$2,426; August 10<sup>th</sup>: \$2,553

*Thank you for your generosity!*

# A Moment with the Catechism

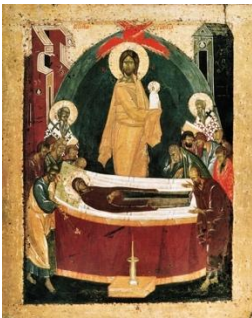
## The Holy Mystery of Chrismation

**424 The Gift of Pentecost** As the Paschal mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ finds its completion in the sending of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, so our rebirth in Christ is sealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Chrismation is the seal of the gift that we received in Baptism. It manifests that every baptized person receives the coming of the Holy Spirit, as did the apostles at Pentecost. This anointing by the Holy Spirit indicates that every Christian is born to new life in Christ and becomes a child of the Father in order to take part in the royal, priestly, and prophetic ministry of Christ for the salvation of the world. This is emphasized in the prayer of consecration of Holy Chrism on Great and Holy Thursday:

*Send, O Lord, your Most Holy Spirit upon this Chrism and make of it a royal anointing, a spiritual anointing by which kings, high-priests, and prophets had been anointed, and all of their successors—bishops and presbyters and all who until this day have received rebirth in the font of regeneration ... Make this Chrism to be the Descent of the Holy Spirit.*

**425 The Royal, Priestly, and Prophetic Ministry** Receiving the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Christian becomes a member of a “chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that [they] may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called [them] out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pt 2:9). All who are reborn in Christ are made kings by the sign of the Cross. And the anointing with the Holy Spirit consecrates them priests, so that besides this special ministry all Christians—filled with the Spirit and knowledge—would acknowledge themselves to be members of this royal nation and participants in priestly ministry. For what is more royal for the soul than to be able to discipline one’s body, to subject it to God? And what is more priestly than to sacrifice to the Lord a clean conscience and to offer on the altar of one’s heart the pure sacrifices of a godly life? The prophetic ministry of the faithful is fulfilled in at least three ways: the unwavering confession of their faith, the deepening of their understanding of the faith, and witnessing to Christ in the world. This is why the Church prays for the newly-baptized during Chrismation with these words: “That he (or she) may become firm, strong, and steady in the orthodox faith, and in love and hope; and that he (or she) might always desire to confess the name of Christ our God boldly before everyone, without fear and without timidity.

## Prayers and Devotions



### Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos

In the act of begetting, Thou didst preserve virginity;  
In the Dormition, Thou didst not forsake the world,  
O Mother of God.

Thou didst change over to life, being the Mother of Life, and by  
Thy prayers ransoming our souls from death. Amen

## Evangelization Corner

*Evangelization* /ĭ-văn’jə-līz- ā’shən”/:  
The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel (Greek: *evangelion*) by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ’s command.

“For a book from which to learn how to grow in the love of God, there is no better book than Jesus Christ crucified”

**St. Maximillian Kolbe**

## Storm Damage – Update

- Rectory skylights replacement (leaks) – COMPLETE
- Lightning Arresting System on Dome – COMPLETE
- Minor repairs to school/rectory roof – COMPLETE

Thank you to all who have contributed to cover what is not covered by insurance. If you would like to contribute to the repairs, you may do so online (<https://stjohnchrysostom.com/donate>) by selecting, “Special Collections”. You may also put your repair donation in the collection. Mark your check, “For Repairs”.

## Quote of the Week – The Refiner

“Refiners throw pieces of gold into the furnace to be tested and purified by the fire. In the same way, God allows human souls to be tested by troubles until they become pure, transparent, and have profited greatly from the process. Therefore, this is the greatest advantage we have. So then, we shouldn’t be disturbed or discouraged when trials happen to us. For if refiners know how long to leave a piece of gold in the furnace, and when to draw it out, if they don’t allow it to remain in the fire until it is burnt up and destroyed, how much better does God understand this process! When He sees that we have become purer, He frees us from our trials so that we won’t be crushed and defeated by them. Therefore, we shouldn’t retreat or lose heart when unexpected things happen to us. Instead, we should submit to the One who knows best and who will test our hearts by fire as long as He likes. He does this for a reason and for the good of those who are tried.”

- *Homily on the Paralytic Let Down from the Roof* by St. John Chrysostom

Bulletin Questions, Comments, Suggestions: [Bulletin@stjohnchrysostom.com](mailto:Bulletin@stjohnchrysostom.com)