

# St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

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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)

## *Heirs of God*

Whosoever fears God and keeps His commandments, is the servant of God. And in this service is not perfection, but the righteousness which leads to adoption. For this cause the prophets also and the apostles, the holy band whom God chose, entrusting to them the apostolic preaching, by the goodness of God the Father became prisoners in Christ Jesus. For Paul says, "Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle" (Eph 3: 1; Rom 1: 1): so that the written law works with us in a good servitude, until we are able to master every passion, and to become perfect in the good ministry of virtue through this apostolic state.

For if a man draws near to grace, then Jesus will say to him, "I will no longer call you servants, but I will call you my friends and my brothers: for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (Jn 15: 15). For those who have drawn near, and have been taught by the Holy Spirit, have known themselves according to their intellectual substance. And in their

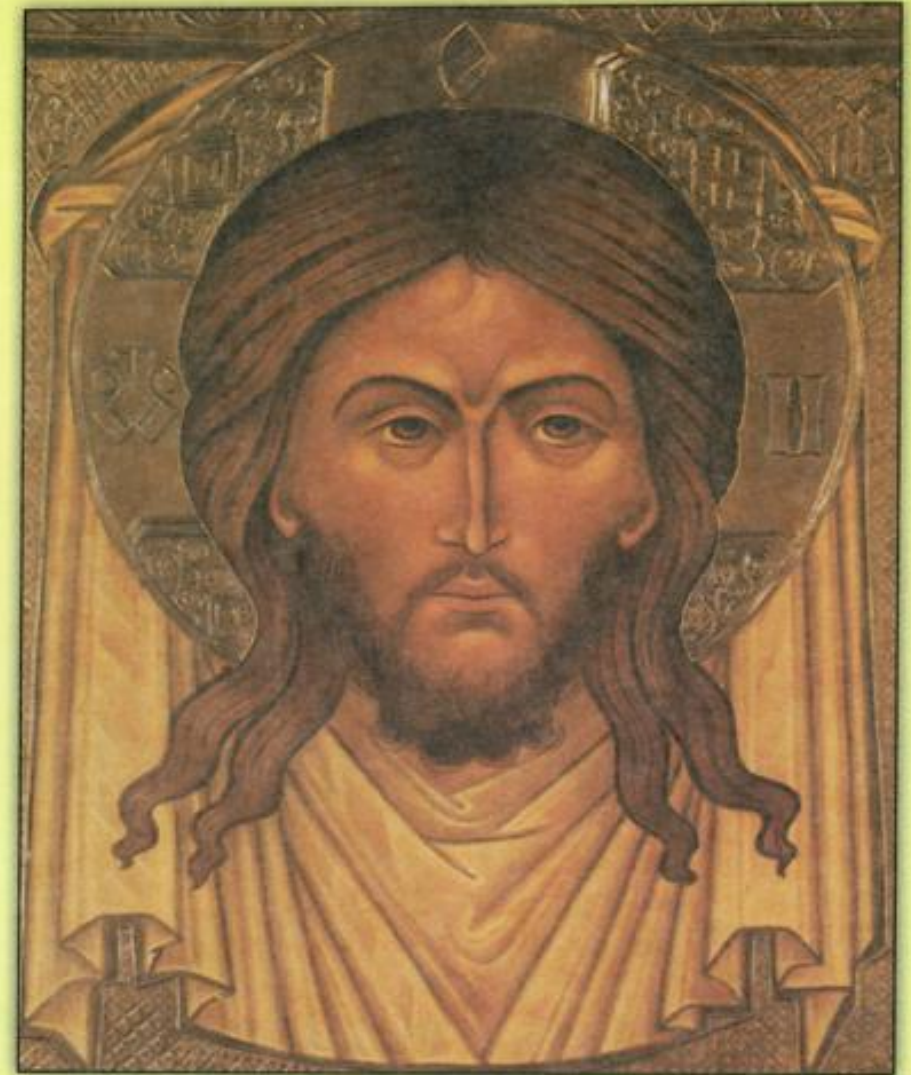
knowledge of themselves they have cried out and said, "For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but the spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom 8: 15): that we may know what God has given us - "If we are sons, then are we heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with the saints" (Rom 8: 17).

My dear brothers and sisters, and joint heirs with the saints, not foreign to you are all the virtues, but they are yours, if you are not under guilt from this fleshly life, but are manifest before God. For the Spirit enters not the soul of one whose heart is defiled, nor the body that sins; a holy power it is, removed from all deceit.

Truly, my beloved, I write to you as to reasonable people, who have been able to know yourselves. For he who knows himself, knows God: and he who knows God, is worthy to worship Him as is right.

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Holy Napkin*

## Bulletin for August 16<sup>th</sup> & August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026

|                                                                                    |                                         |                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, August 16 <sup>th</sup><br>12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost         | 1 Cor 15:1-11; Mt<br>19:16-26; Tone 3   | Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM<br>+Margaret Hays<br>by Paul Kucsma                                                           |
| Sunday, August 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost         | 1 Cor 16:13-24; Mt<br>21:33-42; Tone 4  | Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM<br>Camilla O'Shea<br>Health & Happiness<br>By Marcella Colbert                                |
| Sunday, August 30 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost         | 2 Cor 1:21-2:4; Mt<br>22:1-14; Tone 5   | Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM<br>+Margaret Hays by Mary &<br>Susan Hays. Panachida to<br>follow, & reception in social hall |
| Sunday, September 6 <sup>th</sup><br>15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost       | 2 Cor 4:6-15; Mt<br>22:35-46; Tone 6    | Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM<br>Camilla O'Shea<br>Health & Happiness<br>By Marcella Colbert                                |
| <b>Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup></b><br>Birth of the Theotokos                 | Phil 2:5-11; Lk 10:38-<br>42 & 11:27-28 | <b>Divine Liturgy 6 PM</b><br>+William Hospodar by<br>Hospodar Family                                                      |
| Sunday, September 13 <sup>th</sup><br>Sunday Before the Exaltation<br>of the Cross | Gal 6:11-18; Jn 3:13-<br>17; Tone 7     | Divine Liturgy (S, H), 10 AM<br>Camilla O'Shea<br>Health & Happiness<br>By Marcella Colbert                                |

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

### Pray for our Sick & Homebound

Barbara Veres, Bill Torma, Leslie Bohannon, Kathryn Kowalik,  
Marianne Oprisko, Malak Bakkal, Sr. Sandy Atha,  
Ted Bojczuk, 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

A Feast Day RECIPE from ByziMom.com for  
August 18

## Sts. Florus & Laurus Carrot

## Horseshoe Cookies



Florus and Laurus were twin brothers who were Christians, born in second-century Byzantium. They later moved to Croatia where they were stonemasons. They were hired to build a pagan temple and after healing the son of the pagan priest who was injured on the job site, they converted many to Christ. Once the building project was completed, they gathered all their converts there, smashed all of the pagan idols, and held a prayer vigil to the One True God at the site instead. For this, they were arrested and sentenced to be thrown down a well and were buried there. Some years later, the people in their village noticed their horses were becoming very sick. They began to pray against this plague when someone noticed that the horses who drank from a particular spring were cured! Further investigation of the site of the spring revealed it was the well where Sts. Florus and Laurus were martyred. When they dug up the well they found the incorrupt remains of the saints which are venerated in Constantinople to this day. For this reason, these saints are considered the patron saints of horses and on this day in many countries horses are pampered with a day free of work, special treats, and grooming! Here is a recipe for some carrot treats for this special day...for horses, yes, but for people too!

### Ingredients

- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 ½ cup rolled oats
- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup applesauce
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Frosting

- 2 cups powdered sugar sifted
- 2 Tablespoons milk
- 1 Tablespoon honey
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 375.

In a medium bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking powder, brown sugar, and salt and set aside. Mix the applesauce, egg, and vanilla together in a large mixing bowl. Add the carrots, oats, and flour mixture to the large bowl and mix everything well.

Take two large baking sheets and line them with parchment paper. Place a spoonful of cookie dough onto the sheet and work it with a spoon into a horseshoe shape. Make more horseshoe cookies with the remaining dough being careful to leave an inch between each one. Bake 15 minutes, then let cool completely on the baking sheet..

To make the frosting, mix the ingredients together in a bowl. Put the frosting in a plastic bag. Once your cookies are completely cold, you may cut off the corner of the bag and frost the cookies as desired. You may opt to put sprinkles on them, or raisins to look like nails in your horseshoes!

### Tip

Unfrosted versions of these cookies are fun not only for you but for horses too! If you have a horse or know someone who does, you may wish to whip up a batch as a treat for them on their feast today!

[www.byzimom.com/byzikids-magazine-extras](http://www.byzimom.com/byzikids-magazine-extras)

The Dormition of the Mother of God (08/15)

“Tradition relates that the Mother of God died in Jerusalem, after a visit with all of Christ’s apostles. They carried her coffin to the Garden of Gethsemane where it was placed into a tomb. The apostle Thomas came late, and asked that the tomb might be opened so that he could reverence her body. When opened, the tomb was found empty except for the winding sheet.” The following beautiful lyrics are sung at Vespers on this Liturgical Day.

*“O what a wonder! \* The Source of Life is placed in a tomb; \* the grave becomes a ladder to heaven. \* Rejoice, Gethsemane, holy chamber of the Theotokos! \* As for us, O faithful, \* let us cry out with Gabriel, the prince of angels: \* Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you, \* the Lord, who because of you, \* bestows great mercy upon the world. (three times)*

*O Lady, marvelous are your mysteries. \* You have become the throne of the Most High, \* and today you are taken from earth to heaven. \* Your glory shines forth with the radiance of divine grace \* and surpasses every other splendor. \* Rise up to the heavens, all you virgins, \* together with the Mother of our King, and cry out: \* Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you, \* the Lord, who because of you, \* bestows great mercy upon the world.” (three times)*

*-the above is adapted from the Metropolitan Cantor Institute website. You can read more here:*  
<https://mci.archpitt.org/menaion/08-15.html>

Iconoramas on Display

On Sunday, September 6 following Divine Liturgy, several dioramas will be on display in the Social Hall. Hand crafted by Leslie Bohannon, these “iconoramas” tell the story of a Saint, based on authentic iconographical symbolism. The display is an extension of the “Cloud of Witnesses” series, in art form, and will open with a brief presentation by the crafter. Brightly colored with attention to detail, these “Saints in miniature” will appeal to all ages. Be sure to stop by!

The display runs each Sunday in September: 6, 13, 20, 27.

Events Calendar

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun<br>09/06  | <b>Sunday School Begins!</b> Immediately after the 10 AM Liturgy. Refreshments in the school building for the children. Registration is required. No “drop-ins” permitted.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Tues<br>09/08 | <b>Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos</b> – Divine Liturgy at 6 PM. Solemn. All are encouraged to attend. Most gracious Lady, the Theotokos, we beg you, listen to those who pray to you from the depths of their hearts, for you have been revealed as more honorable than anyone on earth and more exalted than any creature either see or unseen (Ambon Prayer, 45). |
| Sun<br>09/13  | <b>Sunday School</b> Immediately after the 10 AM Liturgy. Refreshments in the school building for the children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Sun<br>09/20  | <b>Catechetical Sunday</b> Catechist Commissioning and Blessing, Blessing of Children at the 10 AM Liturgy. Sunday School to follow, as usual, immediately after the Liturgy.                                                                                                                                                                                            |

Registration for Eastern Christian Formation (ECF)

Registration for ECF (Sunday School for kids ages 4 – 18) began August 2<sup>nd</sup> with classes starting Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. You can register online here:  
<https://stjohnchrysostom.com/online-registration-1>

Scriptural Inspiration for the Week

*“Now with you is Wisdom, who knows your works and was present when you made the world; Who understands what is pleasing in your eyes and what is conformable with your commands. Send her forth from your holy heavens and from your glorious throne dispatch her that she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is pleasing to you. For she knows and understands all things, and will guide me prudently in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory”*

Wisdom 9:9-11

Sunday Collection

Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$5,499; Aug 9<sup>th</sup>: \$2,382

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## A Moment with the Catechism – Prayer Services

### *The Akathist Hymn*

524 Among the most widely celebrated services of worship in our Church, outside the daily cycle, is the *Akathist Hymn*. The word *akathistos* is a Greek term meaning literally *non-sitting (hymn)*. It designates a special type of song of praise in honour of Christ, the Mother of God, or the saints, the solemnity of which is stressed by the standing prayer posture. Akathists can be celebrated communally in church or privately. Traditionally akathists are composed of twelve songs that comprise twenty-four strophes. This number corresponds to the twenty-four letters of the Greek alphabet. Each letter begins a new strophe, forming an acrostic, that is, a phrase derived from the first letters of each verse. This phrase conveys the akathist's contents.

525 Each of the songs of the akathist consists of (i) a kontakion, which announces the theme of the prayer and concludes with “Alleluia;” and (ii) an oikos, which elaborates on the announced theme. The entire akathist ends with a repetition of the oikos and kontakion of the first song. In this way, the uninterrupted duration of Christian prayer— where the “end” becomes a new “beginning”—is expressed.

526 The most ancient among the known akathists is that dedicated to the most holy Mother of God. It is sung at Matins on the fifth Saturday of Great Lent, but it is chanted on other days of the liturgical year. Following the model of this akathist, other akathists were composed to the Most Holy Trinity, to Jesus Christ, to the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of Christ, and to the angels and saints. There are also akathists in honour of wonder-working icons and even for spiritual needs (for the deceased, in preparation before Communion, and others).

## Prayers and Devotions

### *A Prayer for Hope*

*Dear Lord,*

*Without hope, where would we be?*

*Without hope in You, we would be lost in a storm without refuge.*

*Without hope in tomorrow, how could we face today?*

*Our strength lies in You. Help us to believe that hope is possible in every situation, no matter how dire or difficult.*

*When we are weary, give us strength.*

*When the way seems too dark, help us to see Your light.*

*Remind us, Lord, that with You beside us, we are never without hope.*

*Amen*

## Evangelization Corner

*Evangelization* /ĩ-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.

*“The cross  
is the  
school of love.”*

**St. Maximilian Kolbe**

## Quote of the Week – *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

O sacred head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down.  
Now scornfully surrounded, with thorns thine only crown.  
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn.  
How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered, as all for sinners' gain.  
Oh mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior, 'Tis I deserve thy place.  
Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow, to thank thee, dearest Friend.  
For this, thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be.  
Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love to thee.

**- Lyrics to “*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*”**

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